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The Leader.

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

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1853.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

THE last form of the intelligence from Turkey is, that the Russians have mustered in increased strength; have concentrated upon the chief posts, especially Oltenitza, occupied by the Turks on the Danube, and have driven the army of the Sultan back across the river. This report was immediately preceded by another which represented the Turks as victorious everywhere. They crossed the Danube at Widin, Giurgevo, Oltenitza, Kalarache, and Hirsova, having thus cut off the Russians from Moldavia; they had advanced to Bucharest, and driven the enemy towards the Austrian frontier. This report came with as much authentication through Vienna as the new report does, and when we remember that the Austrian Government is at the mercy of many stockjobbing schemes on account of its own necessities, and that the Austrian capital has been the focus for many of the most contradictory rumours throughout the whole of these Turkish affairs, we may learn to receive telegraphic despatches by that route with the greatest distrust. The well ascertained fact appears to be, that the Turks have crossed the Danube, whether they have recrossed it or not; that they have met the Russians, and have achieved some victories, if they have sustained defeat; and while the Russians boast of having driven the Turks back, the Turks may boast that they have left the deepest mark upon the Russians, the slaughter on that side being very great, especially amongst the officers. We have no report of slaughter on the other side; but whatever it may have been, it is manifest that the Mussulmans have behaved with their usual gallantry and headlong dash.

The state of affairs before we come to this decisive chapter was such as to have no transitory effect. The Turks have now made their capacity and condition better understood, and the most distinguished of the journals recently employed in decrying the empire, its men, and its policy, is now daily endeavouring to impart the impression produced by the facts. The fortifications which Omer Pasha constructed at Varna were criticised as too extensive, and he was blamed for attempting so much with instruments so feeble: he has now shown that he could design combinations still more extensive, and that he possessed instru-

ments to attempt them at least with probable success. His operations embraced the whole line of the Danube, from Widin to Kalarache, if not to Galatz. He attempted a crossing in several places, and with general success. At Oltenitza the success was the more remarkable from the fierce ordeal to which it was put. He effected a landing in spite of resistance; on a second day he sustained a second attack, and was enabled to push further on into the country; on the third day the Russian general advanced with a strong reinforcement—a second army added to his own, and was disgracefully driven from the field, leaving 600 men, and a large proportion of superior officers. These officers had been picked off by Minié rifles with conical balls, an improvement adopted by the "barbarians," though we hear nothing of it on the side of the civilized Russians. The force which crossed at Kalarat seems to have encountered General Fischback, who was repulsed. It does not appear that the Russian soldiers refuse to fight; but it does appear that their Generals were out-manœuvred, and were unequal to their situation. They had despised their enemy, and they found themselves suddenly attacked by him, while their army was enfeebled by sickness, crippled by a disgraceful commissariat, undermined by a mutinous spirit amongst the Poles, and other non-Russians forcibly enlisted in the ranks. The Russians had forcibly enlisted Wallachians, and the Wallachians enrolled themselves in guerilla bands: a force which had probably been formed also in Hungary. In short, Russian arrogance had not been supported by the supposed Russian ability.

In other quarters the position of Russia was not more favourable. In Georgia, Prince Woronzoff was last reported at the head of an army in a very uncomfortable situation. On his left lay the Caucasus, which he had come to "turn," and by which he expected a reinforcement; but the Circassians appeared instead of the reinforcement, which they have perhaps cut off; having taken possession of the military approaches. On Woronzoff's right lay a Persian army,—purpose unknown, but probably hostile to Russia. At his back lay the Black Sea, whence he expected reinforcements from Bessarabia; but they were countermanded, in fear, it is supposed, of cruisers, Turkish, French, or English. And while he was waiting for his reinforcements, arrived a Turkish reinforcement at Batoum; so that it looks very

much as if the Emperor Nicholas will have to say good bye to the faithful Woronzoff!

It was announced that Prince Paskiewich would supersede Prince Gortschakoff; but the veteran has not gone; and it is now said that he reports Poland to be in a condition which would render it unsafe to send reinforcements from Warsaw for the Principalities!

Our own intelligence from India has some relation to the Russo-Turkish affairs. From Afghanistan come two reports, exactly contradictory. One is that Dost Mohammed has been in negotiation with the Persians, recommending them to attack Russia; and the other, that he has recommended them to aid Russia and attack Turkey. However that may be, the impression prevails in North Western India, that Russia is pursuing her customary intrigues, probably as a diversion against English support of Turkey. And while the state of the North West Provinces, and of Peshawur in particular, coupled with the now undisguised treachery of Burmah, attracts a natural attention in the direction of Russia, Lord Dalhousie has at all events thought it necessary to remain in person in the capital. The Burmese have evidently continued the war against the British, their soldiers acting under the guise of "robbers"—robbers, however, of such distinction that a Prince, brother and heir presumptive to the King, habitually rides with the principal leader.

The banquet given to Lord Elphinstone, as a farewell compliment on his departure to assume the Government of Bombay, is more than a formal ceremony, since it afforded the opportunity for important declarations on the part of the new Governor. He enjoys a high repute amongst those who are well acquainted with public men; although he is not so generally known to the public in this country. While he was President of Madras, we believe he obtained some reputation as a "saint," by encouraging conversions to Christianity; but we do not understand that Lord Elphinstone is accused of neglecting other duties to indulge in that particular recreation. His intercourse with the natives was certainly not of a proselytising kind alone. It was remarked that when he was riding out, he did not avoid objects of compassion, and that he usually was provided with some rupees in his purse; by these and other kinds of accessibility, Lord Elphinstone obtained some practical information for himself upon the condition of the natives, and their state

of mind; and he has proved that he can use his information. When the Government of India Bill was passed, the friends of Ministers always said that the legislation and administration within India would be a supplement to the bill more important than the bill itself, and evidently the conduct of that supplement depended in a great degree upon the selection of the chief administrators. The appointment of Mr. Thomason to the Presidency of Madras, had shown their disposition, and the appointment of Lord Elphinstone to Bombay proves that their selection of the Madras President was not the exceptional case. So much for the selection of instruments; and now for Lord Elphinstone's construction of his own duty. He declares the duty of a Governor of India is to give his attention especially to three things,—namely, first, the development of the resources of the country; secondly, the sound and practical secular education of the natives; and, thirdly, to advance and promote, as opportunities might offer, those natives who qualified themselves for the public service to situations of trust. If the natives gird themselves up, and help such a Governor, in giving them as much as they can get out of him, with an unbroken good will on both sides, we firmly believe that the Hindoo is on the high road to be a British citizen.

We have, indeed, at home, some further evidence that sound opinion is making way, especially on the matter of education and practical science—Positivism. The address delivered on the annual distribution of prizes, at Queen's College, in Cork, is another evidence of this improvement. Sir Robert Kane states that some 150 young men have, in each of the four years since the College was founded, been trained in gentlemanly feeling, moral conduct and education, specially directed to fit them for scientifically promoting the industrial prosperity of their country. No fact can be more interesting than that of the success of these colleges. We know how they were attacked, by the English, in Parliament, as "godless" institutions, the Orangemen caught up the cry, the M'Hales re-echoed it; priests were forbidden to administer to the cure of the youth, and the colleges were held up to public odium, as the practical provocatives of the famine and pestilence which ravaged Ireland. Nevertheless they have survived the pestilence; students have continued to attend, priests have administered to their youthful charges, and, in the fourth year, after an infancy of unexampled difficulty, Sir Robert Kane declares the new institutions to be fairly established as schools for a scientific and industrial training of Irish youth, in the higher branches of knowledge. The west of Ireland, therefore, reflects the idea to which Prince Albert gave so marked an impulse in his memorable speech upon industrial science.

The strike in the north continues, at least so far as Preston is concerned, but there have been striking defections. Most of the colliers of Wigan have gone in, and although they do not form, properly speaking, a part of the cotton strike, they have materially supported the weavers of Wigan. One fact has come out, of considerable importance. Although the production of cotton goods has fallen off one-sixth, there has been no rise of price. This is a state of things entirely opposed to that in the wool trade, where the consumption of a comparatively expensive article, checked by the high price of food and other difficulties, has not occasioned any corresponding fall of prices, and the check operates in a partial and temporary manner on the briskness of the trade. It is evident from these comparative effects that the cotton trade is not in circumstances to yield a larger wages fund; but every fact connected with this strike tends to confirm what we have so often said as to the want of exact information, and as to the judicious use to which the working classes would put such information if they had it.

On a public occasion, Lord Palmerston invited communications from everybody who felt inclined to address him on any subject, and the committee at Preston have taken advantage of that invitation to lay before him an historical statement of their case. The document is written with great ability: it narrates the course of events very reasonably in the working-man's view. It states how, in 1847, the masters in Preston made an abatement, promising to restore the amount abated when improved trade should justify it; and the men now point to the fact that trade has been generally declared to be good; they tell

how they have sought accommodation, and how the masters have repelled them. They give proof throughout the whole document of their rational dispositions. The reply may be anticipated, that although trade in general has been prosperous, the cotton trade in particular has not been so, and although the men may have sought accommodation, it may be fairly answered that the masters are not bound to accept it. There is a great distinction between a manufacturer and a landlord. The landlord holds a portion of the surface of the earth to which all human beings are born, and in permitting him to hold that property, the State usually recognises that he holds it in trust—every human being having a right to get at the soil in order to make a livelihood out of it. The manufacturer is not at all in that position. He has a certain quantity of money which is his own; he opens a shop for goods or for work, and all who please may enter it or stay away, he having a perfect right morally and legally to fix his own terms. The true check upon any unfair conduct in him would lie in a combined agreement amongst the men not to accept terms injurious to their order. The master has a right to do exactly as he pleases; and the correlative right of the men is, to combine; but they must look to themselves and not to the master, and they cannot expect even the Home Secretary to coerce the master in acquiescing; nor is it likely that Lord Palmerston will do so. But he may do another thing. It is generally expected that he will reply to the men; and his answer is anticipated with great interest from the clearness of his understanding, and, as an Italian would say, the sculptured distinctness of his expressions.

The inquiry into the London Corporation has now gone over a greater variety of evidence, and while the most industrious accuser has been able to establish some points of his charge, of a comparatively trivial kind, the general tendency of the evidence is to establish the fact, that total abolition is not the creed of discreet citizens. The notions as to the particular details of reform vary almost with the number of the witnesses, but an idea common to most of the suggestions, is some kind of alliance between the municipality of the city and that of the other metropolitan districts. A municipal constitution for our "Empire City" is a grand idea; we only doubt whether our public men are up to it.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE following is
COUNT NESSELRODE'S CIRCULAR.

"St. Petersburg, Oct. 19 (Oct 31 N.S.)

"Sir,—The efforts which we have not ceased to make for the last eight months for the arrangement of our differences with the Ottoman Porte have, unfortunately, been without effect to the present day. Nay more, the situation seems to become more aggravated each day. Whilst the Emperor offered during his interview with his intimate friend and ally, the Emperor Francis Joseph, fresh facilities to the Austrian Cabinet to explain the misunderstanding which attaches to the motives stated by us for rejecting the modifications which the Porte desired to introduce in the Note drawn up at Vienna, the Porte, yielding notwithstanding the counsels of the European representatives at Constantinople, to the warlike ideas and the fanaticism of the Mussulmans, has, as you will have learned, formally declared war against us. That rash step has, however, in no wise changed the pacific disposition of the Emperor. We still do not abandon, on that account, the resolutions announced from the beginning in our Circular of the 20th of June. At that period his Imperial Majesty declared that in occupying provisionally the Principalities as a material security for the satisfaction he demands, he was unwilling to carry any further the measures of coercion, but rather to avoid an offensive war, so long as his dignity and his interests permitted him to do so. At the present moment, and notwithstanding the fresh provocation offered to him, the intentions of my august master remain the same. In possession of the material pledge which the occupation of the Principalities gives us, though still ready, in fulfilment of our promise, to evacuate them the moment that we obtain satisfaction, we shall content ourselves with maintaining our position there, remaining on the defensive so long as we are not forced to abandon the limits within which we desire to confine our action. We will await the attack of the Turks without taking the initiative of hostilities. It will then entirely depend on other powers not to widen the limits of the war, if the Turks persist in waging it against us, and not to give to it any other character than that which we mean to leave to it. That situation of expectancy does not place any obstacle to the carrying on of negotiations. After the declaration of war, it is not to Russia that it belongs to seek for new expedients, nor to take the initiative in overtures of conciliation. But if, when better enlightened as to its interests, the Porte will manifest a disposition to propose or to receive similar overtures, it is not the Emperor who will place any obstacles to their being taken into consideration. Such, Monsieur, is all that, for the moment, it is permitted me to inform you of, in the

uncertainty we are as to whether the Ottoman Porte will give immediate effect to the warlike project it has just adopted. Inform the Cabinet to which you are accredited of our eventual intentions. They furnish an additional proof of the desire of our august master to limit as much as possible the circle of hostilities, if they should, unhappily, take place, and to spare the consequences of them to the rest of Europe. "Receive, &c., "NESSELRODE."

The war on the Danube attracts the attention of all men, and quite absorbs matters of less interest. We have throughout the week received the most contradictory reports by the electric telegraph, now informing us that the Turks were carrying everything before them, now that they had been driven back across the Danube. As we have no means of testing the accuracy of the reports, we state them as we find them, according to the different degrees of their alleged authenticity.

Surveying the Turkish operations, we find that Omar Pasha sent bodies of troops across the Danube, at four or more points, notably at Kalafat, Oltenitza, and Kalarache, probably at Hirsova, and tentatively at Giurgevo. The troops in Lesser Wallachia passed almost without firing a shot, and all that we have heard of them since that exploit is that their numbers have been augmented up to 24,000 men, and that they had thrown forward their vanguard to the town of Crajowa. This would enable them to operate upon the right wing of the Russians, which must either have retreated before them, their line of retreat trending nearly due east, or have held their position and fought it out. We have heard nothing of a battle, and must therefore conclude that the Russians fell back upon head quarters. The next object of the Turkish plan was to capture Giurgevo, rather a strong post, or fortress, opposite Rustchuck, the key of the direct road to Bucharest, and bravely defended by the Russians. It would seem that contests for this post have been going on since the 1st of the month; that the Turks have had some successes and some reverses; that, in fact, it is at Giurgevo that the plan of the Turkish commander has failed, if it has failed at all. Obviously it was necessary that he should take the fort, and so operate convergently upon Bucharest. More successful, at Oltenitza, the Turks stood a three days' encounter with the Russians. Powerfully covered by their batteries on the right bank, they dashed across, repulsed three attacks of the Russians, and settled the last action with the bayonet. Here they are reported to have entrenched themselves. We know nothing certain of the operations lower down the river. Now the success of the Turkish plan would depend upon the simultaneous advance of five, or at least four, bodies of troops; and if the corps at Kalafat pressed back the right wing, while those at Oltenitza bore back the centre, and the troops on the Lower Danube operated on the roads leading to Galatz and Reinineck, it is easy to understand a report of Wednesday, that the Turks had passed Bucharest, leaving it on fire in three places, and the Russians were retreating on Kronstadt, in Transylvania. But, lo! this pretty story, of the end of the campaign is suddenly dissipated by the news that the Turks had been driven back from Oltenitza upon and over the Danube, to escape the Russians, who enveloped them with 45,000 men. To us this is inexplicable, unless it refer to Giurgevo, and not to Oltenitza. But such is the "latest" news.

The Russians had certainly had not less than 3,000 wounded alone in the various encounters up to the 4th instant.

In Asia, we have the details of the Russian defeat at Orclle by Selim Pasha, and the storming of Cherhedy. The Russians have not in the least bettered their position in Georgia, and every post brings news of fresh risings among the mountain tribes.

The Sultan has announced that he will take the command of the troops at Adrianople in the spring, in person. The British and French fleets have anchored in the Bosphorus; and a Turkish squadron had gone into the Black Sea.

The Sultan having decided on going to Adrianople next spring, and making that city the Imperial head-quarters, his Highness went in person to the Porte and officially announced his resolution to the Grand Council in the following terms:—

"My faithful Visir,—I cannot sufficiently applaud the zeal and enthusiasm of my troops, as well as the devotedness and fidelity which all my functionaries and my subjects, in general, have constantly testified on the occasion of the preparations which have been made since the day when it became probable that the difference which had arisen between my Government and the Court of Russia would end in war. The state of war being now a certain fact, I doubt not that every one will for the future lend his co-operation with still greater eagerness, and fulfil his duty. The real cause of this war consisting only in the laudable resolution of preserving the sacred rights and the independence of my empire, supported by the Almighty power of the Most High, and invoking the Holy Spirit of our Prophet, I have decided, with God's assistance, to be present at the accomplishment of such a duty in the earliest days of spring. It will consequently be proper to commence immediately the preparations necessary for my imperial cortege; and as my headquarters will be first fixed at Adrianople, it is important that everything necessary for the men who will be under my command be arranged beforehand. You will, therefore, in accord with my other ministers, hasten to carry all the necessary measures into execution. May the Most High, through love for the Holy Prophet, render our empire victorious, and may all those who shall contribute to the success of this task obtain happiness in this world and in the next."

After the departure of the Sultan from the Sublime Porte, the ministers signed an address congratulating his Highness on his resolution.

We read in the *Univers*.—"A letter from Bucharest of the 31st ult. gives us information of facts of which we can

guarantee the authenticity. At the time of the publication of the first manifesto of the Emperor Nicholas, which ended with the words 'We will march in the defence of the orthodox faith,' two Poles in a regiment in Bessarabia went to their colonel, and said to him, 'We have just read the manifesto of the Emperor, and as we wish to act as good soldiers, we come to demand from you our discharge, because, as Catholics, we cannot fight for the Greek religion.' The colonel demanded instructions from St. Petersburg, and received orders to have them both shot. Four others presented themselves, and made a similar request, and they were also shot in Moldavia."

Letters from St. Petersburg, of the 3rd instant, announce that a new levy of troops, in the proportion of seven men to every thousand inhabitants, has been commenced throughout the entire of the eastern part of the Russian empire.

A letter from St. Petersburg of the 8th says, that all the troops in the vicinity of the capital have been ordered to keep themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice. On the 3rd the Emperor reviewed the regiments of the Imperial Guard, 18 battalions of infantry, 20 squadrons of cavalry, and 6 batteries of artillery.

Namik Pasha, charged to negotiate the Turkish loan in Paris and London, has arrived in France by the *Mentor* steamer. The despatches brought by the *Mentor* confirm the Turkish successes in Asia.

A serious conflict has arisen between Church and State in the Grand Duchy of Baden. The Government appointed a special commissioner, without whose countersign no act of the Archbishop of Friburg should be valid in the Grand Duchy. The Archbishop has pronounced a decree of excommunication against the superior members of the Catholic Ecclesiastical Council appointed by the Government, and also against the Government commissioner. The Regent has forbidden the clergy to publish any such act, and is preparing to take further measures against the Archbishop.

At the opening of the session of the Germanic Diet on the 10th, M. de Prokesch d'Osten, the Austrian federal commissioner and President of the Diet, made a communication on the Eastern question, and expressed a hope, in the name of Austria, that peace would be maintained. After this the Minister of Prussia declared that his Government had resolved to reserve to itself full liberty of action, in order to be able to act in the interest of Germany, and for the maintenance of the peace of Europe.

On the 14th inst. the Piedmontese Parliament met for the despatch of business, having been prorogued from the 13th of July last. It is understood that, among the most important measures to be introduced by Ministers, will be one on the subject of church reform, and another relating to religious toleration.

The Pope has been astonishing the natives of the Holy City, unaccustomed of late to public speaking of that paternal description, by a sermon on the Forum, in which he rebuked, with great energy of language and gesticulation, the immorality of his subjects. The Holy Father appears to improve on his new regime of billiards.

Austria having permitted the exportation of wheat from Lombardy into the Grisons by virtue of the concordat of 1848, has refused the same favour to Ticino, on account of the blockade of that Canton, and has demanded of the Federal Council an effective control over the refugees residing in the frontier cantons without the consent of the Austrian authorities. This demand has been distinctly refused.

A letter from Lugano, of the 10th inst., announces the arrest of an Austrian spy in the canton of Ticino—a circumstance which had caused a considerable sensation. He arrived at Lugano on the 1st inst., when he commenced making inquiries respecting the refugees suspected of carrying on political intrigues. He was arrested on his way to Milan. It is expected that the Austrian Government will claim him, and that the differences existing between Austria and the Swiss Cantons may become more envenomed.

The 24th of April next is said to be the day fixed for the nuptials of the Emperor of Austria with the Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria.

General Navarez, on his return to Madrid from honourable banishment, was received far from graciously by the Queen of Spain. On his thanking her Majesty for permitting him to return, she replied, "I am glad to find your health so good: I had known it, I should have insisted on your proceeding to Vienna." General Navarez felt the force of this reception so keenly there, he lost no time in leaving the capital and repairing to Aranguez.

The Bank of France, contrary to expectation, has not raised its rate of discount; but it has determined to limit its loans on railway shares from 60 millions of francs to 50 millions.

An official report of the French Government states that the yield of the last harvest is about 10,000,000 hectolitres below the average yield, and that up to the present time 3,000,000 hectolitres of corn have been imported into France.

The interdiction on the exportation of corn by the Viceroy of Egypt has encountered a determined opposition from the Councils-general of France and England, who have refused to be satisfied with the delay accorded till the 30th of November. It is probable that the interdiction will be removed.

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

LETTER XCIX.

Paris, Thursday Evening, Nov. 17, 1853.

BONAPARTE is hunting at Fontainebleau with all his Court. The Russian Ambassador, M. de Kisseleff, had been invited to the hunting party, and had ordered a splendid costume *Louis XV.*, with the intention of figuring in the *fêtes* with distinction. But on Tuesday last, the day fixed for his departure for

Fontainebleau, M. de Kisseleff was seized with a sudden indisposition, which has confined him to his hotel. This occasioned all sorts of rumours in Paris; among others, that the Emperor Nicholas had addressed a menacing note to the Cabinets of France and England, demanding the instant return of the combined fleets to the Bay of Besika, under pain of an immediate declaration of war. This was rumoured to be the actual cause of the sudden indisposition of M. de Kisseleff. The Bourse, you may imagine, was alarmed, and the funds were sensibly affected. For the last week there has been a continuous, though very gradual fall. It is again reported that the rate of discount will be raised by the Bank of France. The financial crisis has been again a principal topic of consideration. You may remember that, in September last, I told you that the resources of the budget (1700 millions of francs, 68,000,000*l.*) were already exhausted, and that great efforts were being made by the collectors to get the taxes of next year paid in advance. This state of things has only grown worse. The appeal was not accepted, and the Government has been forced to dip its hands deep into the coffers of the Bank. Hence the difficulties of that establishment—hence its want of specie. In other words, to avoid a Governmental financial crisis, Bonaparte will treat his friends of the Bank, and in trade, to a nice little commercial crisis. Warn your countrymen in good time to look to their credits on France, or the "smashes" in France may find their rebound in England.

Arrests are still going on in the provinces. The number of the arrested is so considerable that the prisoners cannot be brought to Paris, and an examining magistrate has been sent to Orleans, the centre of the ramifications of the conspiracy in the Loire in the Delescluze affair. At Orleans he was joined by the examining magistrate from Tours. This excites some apprehensions. Delescluze, you are aware, was the confidential friend of Ledru Rollin, from whom he held all the threads of the middle-class republican organization. It is feared that this arrest of Delescluze may compromise what remains of the republican bourgeoisie in the departments. I say nothing, you observe, of the operatives, who form the real republican party, and comprise an organization apart. It must be confessed that the middle-class republicans are severely threatened in the provinces. Their disappearance would make so many rallying centres, so many leaderships the less for the people when their day arrives. It is thus that their loss is a misfortune to the cause.

The Opera Comique trials are over. The prosecution began by itself abandoning the count which involved the punishment of death; it contented itself with demanding of the jury a verdict of guilty of a plot against the person of the Chief of the State, and against the surety of the State. This indulgence on the part of the prosecution confirmed a great many people in the belief that the real chiefs of the conspiracy were not before the Court, for the simple reason that they had been disposed of as soon as taken. Proofs were almost wanting against the prisoners, but simple inductions sufficed. Persons altogether unconnected with the plot, in whose houses pistols or copying presses had accidentally been found, were implicated in the affair. The trials lasted nine days. The President, M. Jangiacomini, a Corsican, displayed revolting partiality. Whenever the accused seemed to manifest any energy, any firmness, M. Jangiacomini cut them short with the exclamation, "What is all this? You are not here to attitudinize. The dock of the Assize Court is not a pedestal on which you are to be permitted to drape yourselves as you pass before the crowd." Jules Favre, who endeavoured to speak for the defence, met the same rebuff as the accused. But he could not be prevented from letting fly a volley point blank at the whole tribunal. He had just pronounced the word "republic" when he was interrupted by the presiding judge. "Oh!" replied Jules Favre, "I know well enough that it is good taste now-a-days to speak ill of a government at whose feet I have seen many prostrate who are now before me." "That is not the question," rejoined M. Jangiacomini, incensed at the allusion. "Not to-day, perhaps," replied Jules Favre again, "but to-morrow!" The verdict was as follows:—Ruaut, Lux, Gérard, de Méren, Mariet, Gabrat, sentenced to deportation; Folliet, Decroix, and *Aliz*, to eight years' exile. The students, with the exception of Langardière, were acquitted, as also Bratiano, the Wallachian, whose only crime was to have had a press at his house. Martin, the Dominican, the man who goes to confession—Martin, who, without being arrested, denounced himself and his associates—was acquitted.

To-day is, I believe the final decision on another affair—that of the foreign correspondents, and of the violation of the secrecy of letters. The Court of Cassation declared that the police had no right to open letters. The Court of Rouen having affirmed, in appeal, that in this special case the police had properly acted in opening letters, the Supreme Court, in a full bench of all the judges, is now to give a definitive decision in the last resort. It is said that MM. Dupin and Dufaure are to argue the point.

We are in receipt of news from the seat of war in the east of Europe, up to the 11th inst. That day the

Turkish army had advanced to within four leagues of Bucharest, and had fought a second battle with the Russians, of which the result was not known; but as the Russians had not sent to Vienna any bulletin announcing their own victory, it is presumed that they were defeated. In that case they would be reduced to evacuate Wallachia altogether. It is certain that the Turks crossed the Danube on the 4th, at a new point, at Giurgevo, opposite to Routschouk; they attacked the Russians in Giurgevo, and routed them at the point of the bayonet. Some details are known about the battle of Oltenitza of the 3rd inst. The Russians had 3000 men killed or wounded. The majority of the general officers were wounded. It was the *Carabines de Vincennes*, carrying from 1000 to 1200 yards, which did the mischief. The two battalions of Turkish tirailleurs, armed with these carabines and drilled à la Française, bore off all the honours of the day. Whatever may have been asserted to the contrary, it is positive that Gortschakoff has in Wallachia the fourth and fifth corps, 120,000 men, commanded by the generals Dannenberg and Luders. Of these 120,000 men, Luders has kept 30,000 with him at Galatz, and on the Lower Danube. The remaining 90,000 are with Gortschakoff to hold Omer Pasha in check. If, as it is asserted, Gortschakoff has concentrated all his forces at Bucharest, nothing is yet settled, nothing is decisively concluded, and we shall have to wait some time yet for a solution. If, on the contrary, he has scattered his forces for the purpose of guarding all the points of the passage of the Danube, Omer Pasha, if he have but a moderate share of military genius may, by falling like lightning on the Russian detachments, utterly annihilate the armies of the Czar in a fortnight. However this may be, rest assured the piece is only begun. The last acts may yet have to be played out in Paris, or in Moscow.

THE STATE OF ASIA.

THE Overland Mail arrived on Saturday afternoon, bringing full accounts from India, Burmah, and China, up to the 14th of October, the 19th and the 27th of September.

From the north-west provinces we have news of trouble and agitation. The murder of Colonel Mackeson, at Peshawar, by an Affghan, had caused the greatest excitement, and had been followed by the wildest rumours. An Affghan invasion was expected, although there had been no intelligence to justify it; forces from Rawel Pindee were instantly marched down to Peshawar, and the ruinous old fort at the latter place was armed, and the guns pointed at the town. The assassin of Colonel Mackeson was hung in front of his victim's house; a large force, accompanied by artillery, with lighted matches, being present on the occasion. An additional regiment had been ordered to the north-west from a frontier post in Goozerat; and Lord Dalhousie's visit to Rangoon had been put off in consequence of these north-western disturbances.

Meantime, Mr. Thomasen, the able governor of the north-west, had died at Agra. He was a man of administrative ability, far above the average, and his death is a great loss indeed.

[It will be remembered that the Court of Directors had just appointed him Governor of Madras.]

Rumours had reached Bombay from many quarters of the activity of Russia among the tribes on the north-west frontier. It was commonly reported that Dost Mahomed, the Affghan chief, had formed an alliance with Russia; that Russian emissaries were at Kohat and Cabool; and it seems certain that the Khan of Khiva and the King of Bokhara had gone forth at the head of their armies to repel a Russian invasion. The Shah of Persia still kept his army in the field at Sultanich; and, it is remarked, in defiance of treaties with Russia, which forbid the assembling of troops in that place. Hence it is inferred that the Persians will fall upon the Turks in Asia.

The news from Burmah is still more exciting. The eastern side of the Irrawaddy had been ravaged by the so-called robber chiefs, and only two towns, Prome and Shweydoung, had escaped destruction. Frequent raids were made on the western bank, in defiance of the Sepoy garrisons. The heir-apparent of the throne of Burmah openly sided with the rebels, British authority was set at naught, and the unfortunate peasants were the victims of every atrocity; Rangoon itself, poorly garrisoned by 800 men, was threatened with an attack. The Burmese guerilla were resolved to make Pegu a desert before they yielded it to us.

The rebels in China continue their triumphant course. Shanghai was captured on the morning of the 7th, by a band of Kwantung and Fokien men of the Triad Society, mixed with Singapore men and with some of the low class of Shanghai. The place was taken by surprise, with little resistance, the Imperial troops, chiefly Triad men, deserting their authorities. The second magistrate was killed and the prisons thrown open. Two other Mandarins escaped, and the Taoutao, Samqua, the well-known Hong merchant at Canton, deserted by his guards, presented himself unprotected in his official robes and honours to the multitude, who being at the moment chiefly Canton men, his life was spared, and he ultimately made his escape, and placed himself under the protection of the American Minister. There was little loss of life, the main

object of the low characters being the plunder of the public money and demolition of the public offices; and, as might be expected, there was great dissensions about the division of the spoil, and some fighting. The foreign settlements were protected by men from the ships there. The chief of the rebels manifestly desired to be on friendly terms with the "outer barbarians," his brethren.

THE GREEK AND THE MAHOMEDAN. (From the Daily News.)

THE laborious attempts made just now to obtain support for Russia on the ground of sympathy for the Christians in the East, are abundantly surprising to many people; but to none perhaps so much as to those who have travelled far enough to see the Mosque and the Greek Church side by side. Some scholars who have never travelled—men of deep and extensive erudition—do not need, it is true, to travel in order to understand that the most religious of Englishmen may and must prefer the worship of the Mosque to that of the Byzantine Church, in the form in which both appear in Syria and Turkey at this day. The scholar, travelled or untravelled, remembers the old feuds between the two faiths in the twelfth century, when the Greek Churchmen were taught in their catechism to anathematise the God of Mahomet, because he was "solid and globular," and therefore no fit object of worship, before it was discovered by Manuel Comnenus that there was a slight mistake in the statement, through a misunderstanding of an Arabic word, which meant "eternal"—the "globular" being only a figurative sense. The same temper belonged to Byzantine orthodoxy then as now, to judge by the behaviour of the wise men of the day. They refused to remove the anathema, but substituted, as the object of it, Mahomet, for his Deity. This sort of warfare is very like what the traveller may see now, when all the aggression, and most of the superstition, seems to be on the side of the Greek Church. One may travel all over Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, and find Greek churches by the wayside; but one might go a long way through Russia without meeting with a Mosque; and as for the character of the worship, there is probably not a Christian man in England who would not, on the spot, prefer the Mahometan faith and worship to that of the Greek Church, as it appears in Arabia, and at Smyrna, Damascus, and Constantinople. There was a time when it was forbidden by the Patriarch to paint any representation of the first person of the Trinity; so the "Russian Christians" made paintings of an old man with white curling hair, who was called Christ; but it was not long before this figure was grouped with that of the more usual representation of Christ and of the Holy Ghost; and now the offensive spectacle of that kind of picture is seen in almost every Greek Church the traveller enters. It is not the only offensive kind of picture that the visitor is compelled to see. Paintings of monkish stories—daubs which remind one of Mexican idolatry—are objects of obeisance to kneeling worshippers. Let any one look at the gilding, the shrines, the priests' frippery, the series of gestures of the worshippers, and then say whether there could have been anything in the ritual of old Egypt that could have been more repugnant to all his ideas and feelings. At Mount Sinai there is the Burning Bush, shown in two places within the convent walls; under the altar in its own chapel, where the monk reverently removes the silver plate which covers its root; and in one of the convent courts, where the Bush itself flourishes, a monk furnishes sprays to every passing traveller who is permitted to see the shrub that has flourished for three thousand years, and will certainly never die. At Bethlehem, there is the Greek department of the Empress Helena's Church, like nothing but a gigantic baby-house, with its dolls and other gauds; and below are the crypts and caves, with their offensive and childish legends—legends too offensive and childish to be reproduced in English. At Jerusalem one encounters the feuds between the Greeks and the Latins, in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre—in that church where the rival priests used to tug at the altar cover and come to blows for the privilege of removing it; and where the Greek fire used to burst forth in red and green flames from apertures on each side the altar, till so many devotees were trampled to death in rushing towards it that the sacred kindling now goes on by means of a torch carried round. The only cure for the feud has been found to be the appointment of a Mahometan Governor of Jerusalem to remove the contested altar-cloth. On festival days Turkish guards are necessary to preserve the peace, and none but the Governor, with his Mahometan impartiality, can keep the rival Christians from tearing one another's throats. At Damascus the full truth is seen of the inferiority, in every sense, of the Greek Christians to the worshippers of the Prophet. In knowledge, in intelligence, in temper, in social standing, the Christians are there, quite inevitably, an inferior class. They have a chapel and new church, with a carved and gilded screen, as fine as could be desired; and a grey-headed patriarch, who is borne on the shoulders of his followers when he goes round his diocese, and comes back unmolested and inflated with vanity; but he and his flock appear nothing better than idolaters in the presence of the Mahometans, who worship one God, in reality, and without metaphysical

subterfuge, and who are not burdened with a priesthood, like the Russo-Greek priesthood, nor severed from their object of worship by such an intervention. Going forwards towards the Lebanon, one comes upon the traces of the Greeks again at Baalbec, where in the most exquisite of the smaller temples, the doorposts and the inner walls are daubed with their barbarous and repulsive paintings. And so on, wherever the Mosque and the Church are found together; and, indeed, where they are no longer found together. At Mount Sinai, the Christians abolished the Mosque which once rightfully stood there; whereas there appears to be no attempt of the Mahometans anywhere to get rid of the Christian churches.

It will not be supposed that Englishmen have any leaning to Mahometanism; but we doubt whether there is any British traveller or resident who is not conscious of the superiority, architectural, moral, and spiritual, of the Mosque over the Greek Church. No obtrusive priesthood is there—no mummery—no noise—no obvious superstition. The structure is beautiful; the courts are spacious, cool, simple, and silent. There is the reservoir in the midst, for ablution; and within there may be some venerated copy of the Koran, some valuable lamps, and traces of decoration on the walls; but the utmost possible remoteness from image worship. The houseless poor may sleep on the matting of the Mosque; the aged may retire there for quiet; and even children may play in the marble courts. It is the home of the spirit, where every one may come to steep himself in spiritual influences, without hindrance or intervention, and where a sweeter incense of charity is for ever floating round than ever arose from the gold and silver censers of the Greek worship. If it is objected that the worship of the Mosques is not Christian, the next question is,—what, then, is the worship of the Greek Church? We hear every day at home that the Romish worship is not Christian; and from the very men who want to subordinate the Turkish to the Russian faith. But let it be fairly ascertained what each church has done to entitle it to honour for its operation on human welfare, and its claim to the highest title we can give. Despite the many errors and sins that have brought about its fall, there can be no question of the bygone services of the Latin Church—of its faith and polity—in enlightening, humanising, and civilising the most advanced portion of the human race. Western Europe, the vanguard of humanity, owes very much to it, and should remember this the more, the faster the ancient faith decays. Mahometanism is, in its best influences, far more like Christianity than home-staying Protestants could easily be made to believe. But really, as to the Greek church—the more nearly it is approached, and the more closely it is studied, the more barbarous and intrinsically idolatrous it is found to be. The Turks are, at all events, no more idolaters than Jews are. The Greek Christians are as truly idolaters, under every definition of the term, as the old Egyptians or the existing Hindoos. Before Englishmen propose to build them up into an empire, and to erect the Greek church on the ruins of the Mosque, they really ought to go into the East, and see what it is that they propose. Till they have done so, nothing that they say can be worth attending to.

BANQUET TO LORD ELPHINSTONE.

THE recently appointed governor of Bombay has received the festive honours usual on the eve of the departure of a high Indian dignitary. The Court of Directors gave a splendid dinner to him at the London Tavern, on Saturday. Mr. Russell Ellice, chairman of the board of directors, was in the chair, having Lord Elphinstone, the guest of the evening, on his right hand. There were also present, on the right—Earl Granville, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Canning, Lord Hardinge, Sir Charles Wood, Mr. Wigram, Lord Campbell, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Sir James Graham, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Cardwell, Sir James Hogg, Vice-Chancellor Page Wood, &c. On the left of the chairman there were—The Lord Mayor, the Deputy-Chairman of the Company, the Earl of Elgin, the Earl of Bessborough, the Earl of Shelburne, Lord Sydney, Mr. Lock, Lord Ernest Bruce, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Mr. S. Lushington, Mr. Hayter, Mr. Baines, Lord Justice Turner, Vice-Chancellors Kindersley and Stuart, and the Solicitor-General; and among the company there were also present—Sir Willoughby Cotton, Sir George Pollock, Mr. Mills, Colonel Sir Colin Campbell, Hon. Leslie Melville, Sir C. Pasley, Mr. Masterman, M.P., Sir H. Wheeler, Sir Henry Willock, Mr. Lowe, M.P., and Mr. James Wilson, M.P.

The speech-making on this occasion was performed by Sir James Graham, who uttered the usual compliments on the happy combination of the Queen's service and the Company's marine in many a brilliant action; Lord Granville, who spoke for Ministers; Sir Charles Wood, Lord Hardinge, Lord Lansdowne, and Lord Elphinstone himself. His speech had the merit of brevity and fitness.

"This," he said, "was not the first time that he had stood in the position of returning thanks for an honour conferred upon him of a similar nature; but he must confess he did not find that at all lightened the difficulty of finding words in which to express his thanks to them. He did

not go out to India an untried man, but in going he felt the full responsibilities of the situation he was about to undertake. And he must also add that he would be ungrateful, indeed, if he did not also remember the assistance and the support which he had received when he was Governor of Madras, both from the directors of the East India Company and their various servants in India, and without which assistance he felt he should not have been equal to the situation. But it was the peculiar good fortune of the Indian Government to possess a body of servants, both in the civil and the military departments, which he believed to be altogether unequalled for their zeal and ability—men of tried experience, who had been educated and brought up in the service of the company; and, with their assistance, he did not despair of accomplishing the objects for which he had been sent out." (Applause.) It was unnecessary for him to dwell at any length on what he conceived were the principal objects of an Indian governor. He would only say that the principal objects which he proposed to himself in his government were three—first, to develop the resources of the country; second, to promote the sound and practical secular education of the natives—(applause); and third, to advance and promote, as opportunities might offer, those natives who might qualify themselves for situations of trust in the public service. (Great applause.) In all these objects he relied with perfect confidence on the countenance and support of the Court of Directors. He was convinced, from all he had seen, that it was the wish of the people of this country that the natives of India should have their full share in the advantages and privileges of British rule; and it was a great comfort to him that upon this subject his feelings and views should be in entire unison with the views of the Court of Directors and of her Majesty's Government. (Applause.) He would only say, in conclusion, that if he were in any degree enabled to promote these views and objects, he should feel that he had not gone to India in vain. Next to the approbation of his own conscience, his greatest pride would ever be to receive the approbation of the honourable the Court of Directors, and of her Majesty's Government. (Applause.)

Sir Charles Wood thus referred to the relations between the Board of Control and the Company:—

"It was not more than six months since he had had the honour of addressing the friends and members of the company in that room on a former occasion, and he was glad to find that whatever alterations had taken place in the government of India, no alteration had taken place in the magnificent hospitality of the company. Since that time great changes had taken place in the government of India both at home and abroad. He could not suppose that all the propositions he had made should have met the cordial approbation of all whom he had now the honour to address, but of this he could assure them, that in all he had proposed he was actuated by the belief that they would conduce to the good government of India. In spite of much opposition, and of numerous attacks, they had succeeded in preserving entire the home government of India and the independence of the Court of Directors. They had been told that constant altercations and differences of opinion were going on between the Government and the Court of Directors; but he had early expressed his opinion that the two bodies would cordially co-operate together in all those great purposes for which they were called upon to act together; and he was bound now to declare that the result had more than fulfilled all his expectations. He had, both from the late and the present Chairman of the Company, without the slightest exception, received the most cordial and undeviating support."

Sir Charles also promised Lord Elphinstone the support of the Home Government, in carrying out those objects which he had stated to them.

In the course of his speech Lord Hardinge affirmed that the British army are at present in a high state of discipline; and he was convinced that if ever their services should unfortunately be required, in whatever quarter, they would prove that they had in no degree degenerated from their old renown. All the speakers heartily concurred in Lord Elphinstone's appointment, and bore testimony to his ability and high character.

ADMIRAL NAPIER AND MR. URQUHART AT MANCHESTER.

MANCHESTER has spoken out its sympathy for Turkey. At a meeting held in the Corn Exchange, on Wednesday, attended by 2000 persons, Sir Charles Napier, Mr. Absalom Watkin, Mr. Urquhart, Dr. Vaughan, and other gentlemen, made speeches. The resolutions declared the act of Russia to be a violation of the law of nations.

Mr. Absalom Watkin, the chairman, said, that up to the last moment it had been hoped that some one of those wealthy men who in Manchester were the advocates of liberal opinions, progressive social advancement, national independence, and free trade, would have appeared on this occasion to sanction the proceedings of the meeting. (Hear, hear.) It had been hoped that at least one of those who hailed the advent of the ex-Governor of Hungary with such rapturous applause, who listened to his eloquent denunciations of tyranny and assertions of national independence with such delight, who pressed his hand with so much affection that at length their repeated pressures became positively inconvenient,—it had been hoped that some one at least of those would have appeared to take the chair on this occasion. (Hear.) But he did not mean to say that he considered it not to be his duty to preside over this meeting, for, as a citizen and as a magistrate of this great community, he felt that they had done him honour in appointing him to that office. (Cheers.)

Mr. Isaac Gregory moved the first resolution, as follows:—

"That the occupation of the Danubian provinces by the Emperor of Russia, for the purpose of enforcing upon Turkey concessions inconsistent with her independence as a nation, is a violation of the law of nations, against which it is the duty of all free States to protest; and that this meeting desires to express its admiration of the dignified conduct of the Sultan, and of the patriotic ardour with which the people of the Ottoman empire have taken up arms to resist the invasion of a barbarous and hypocritical enemy."

Mr. T. Schunck seconded the resolution.

Sir C. Napier was received with repeated rounds of the most hearty and enthusiastic cheering. He said—

"I beg to thank you most sincerely for this very flattering reception. It is not the first time that I have been in Manchester. On a former occasion I had the honour of being entertained here after the settlement of the last Eastern question, and I little expected then that I should be upon this platform to denounce Russia for an infamous attack upon Turkey. Having referred to the attacks made on Turkey since 1815, the gallant Admiral went on to say with respect to the last—I had the honour of partaking in the expeditions at that time, and it is a singular thing in the history of Turkey that the combined fleets and armies were commanded by a British Admiral, that the Turkish fleet was also commanded by a Christian—an English Admiral; and I, a Christian Admiral, had the honour of commanding the army. (Cheers.) I will not at the present moment accuse Turkey of being a great fool, but she did not show that attention to the remonstrances of her allies, did not accord to the Christians that peace and quietness which she had promised in her adversity. I hope, however, after the lesson she has had, after she has succeeded in driving Russia from her territory, she will pay all due attention to her Christian subjects, and take from Russia every pretence for again interfering on that ground. In 1839 the Sultan granted to Turkey by a hattı scheriff her Magna Charta. I don't mean to say that that has been precisely carried out as it ought to have been, but there can be no doubt that the Turkish Government has done a great deal. She recruited her army, improved her navy and finances, and had she been left tranquilly to go on, I believe there is no doubt she would have re-established herself on a solid and respectable footing; but, unfortunately Russia and Austria, who are constantly on the watch, found great fault with her for exercising her hospitality, as she had a right to do, only imitating our example, by giving protection to the unfortunate Hungarian refugees. (Cheers.) This naturally excited remonstrances from Austria and Russia. Lord Palmerston came forward again and told them to be quiet. (Cheers and laughter.) A fleet was then again sent to Besika Bay, at the entrance of the Dardanelles, and had the effect of compelling Russia and Austria to take the hint. (Cheers.) This leads me to the present question—to pass over some small affairs such as the rebellion of the Montegrins, which, I believe, was excited a great deal by the instigation of Russia, who came forward and insisted that it was a free country, and under her protection. The Ottoman Government submitted again to Austria and Russia, and thought by that means at all events to have peace and tranquillity. But when people are determined to quarrel with a neighbour it is excessively easy to do so. Russia and Austria sent missions to Constantinople again under various pretexts. Prince Menschikoff was to be put at the head of the Russian mission, and Prince Leiningen at the head of the Austrian. Prince Menschikoff fell ill of the gout, and it is a pity it did not get to his head or his stomach. (Cheers and laughter.) But the Austrian commissioner was more successful, and went to Constantinople, and succeeded in everything he proposed. Then comes Prince Menschikoff, having recovered from his fit of the gout, to Constantinople; and, I believe, Europe at large does not produce one single instance of such an insolent embassy as that sent by the Czar of Russia to intimidate a weaker Power. Prince Menschikoff was Minister of Marine; but not satisfied with that, they sent an admiral who commanded the Russian fleet at Sebastopol, and the general who commanded the army of the frontier; as much as to say—"If you don't submit, I have an army and a fleet ready to come down upon you." Well, the Minister at Constantinople at the time, becoming alarmed, asked our fleet, as usual, to come to Besika Bay, but the Admiral who commanded our fleet at Malta wisely and properly did not accede to his request. The Baltic would be open in a month, where Russia had a fleet of twenty-seven sail of the line, and the Peace Society (laughter) had reduced our fleet to nothing in 1849. In that case, it was perfectly impossible to provoke Russia by sending our fleet to the Dardanelles, when we had not the means of sending one to the Baltic. Now, I don't blame the Government for that, but the Peace Society (hear, hear); and it is a dangerous point, that, to touch upon in their capital ("hear, hear," and laughter); but, nevertheless, it is quite true that, in defiance of the Duke of Wellington's letter, in 1848, wherein he pointed out the nakedness of the land, and showed that we could be invaded by a powerful nation with an army of 400,000 or 600,000 men, and that we could not produce 20,000 men in England, while we had very few ships to contend against an enemy—the Whig Government—and it was a Whig Government, I am sorry to say, at the time—obeyed the call of the Peace Society, and reduced the army 5000 men, and also the fleet five sail of the line! I have no hesitation in saying that, if we had had the fleet that we have now, with a small addition to it, and when Russia first menaced Turkey, we could have said to Russia, "If you cross the Pruth, the Mediterranean fleet goes to Constantinople; and the British home fleet, instead of reviewing at Spithead, will hold her review in the Baltic." (Cheers, and laughter.) I wish it to be clearly understood that I am not blaming the Government for not acting with more vigour in time, because it was not in their power; but I

would let them entirely escape either, because after they had got their fleet up and paraded it at Spithead, they neglected to send it a little further on. It is true the season was far advanced, and you all know perfectly well that the occupation of the Baltic during winter is perfectly impossible, for the simple reason that you can't float there for the ice. I said that Russia had sent a most insolent mission to Constantinople. Then Count Nesselrode issued a still more impertinent manifesto, and I dare say you have read the declaration of war of Russia, which is more impudent still. There never was such infamous conduct, such insolent language, used in declaring war by one nation on another. Let us consider what will be the consequence to Europe if Russia remains in the Principalities. I believe 60 years ago there was a distance of nearly 200 miles between the frontier of Austria and the frontier of Russia. If you look at the map, you will find now that they run alongside of each other for nearly 500 miles; and if Russia remains in possession of the Principalities, that distance will be nearly doubled, and on the Danube her frontier, instead of being 80 miles, will be 300 or 400 miles. Now, let Russia be once established in those Principalities, and judging by her conduct for many years past,—her cautious conduct—because she is very cautious, always at the end of every war acquiring more territory and more power,—will any man in this meeting believe for one single moment that if the Powers of Europe allow Russia to possess these Principalities she will stay there content? ("No, no.") It is contrary to human nature, it is contrary to what has taken place since the creation of the world. On she will go till she gets to Constantinople, and then what a pretty position Europe will be in! (Hear, hear.) She will have the Baltic to the north, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles to the south, and she will stretch her brawny arms and hug all Europe in her hideous embrace. (Hear, hear.) Do you think she will stop there? ("No, no.") We have seen that Mehemet Ali, a servant, I may almost say, of the Sultan, succeeded in marching from Alexandria across the Taurus, defeating and destroying the Turkish army, and coming upon the very banks of the Bosphorus. If the Egyptians could do that, and if the Russians get to Constantinople, may I ask you what is to hinder them from marching from there to Egypt, and then what becomes of your passage to India, I should like to know? (Hear, hear.) How will your trade be carried on? How will your communications be carried on, and how will all your manufacturers send their goods to India? You will have to return to the Cape of Good Hope. But, instead of that, you have now a free passage across the Isthmus of Suez, which will be blocked up by Russia. Will she be satisfied with that? We hear already that she is intriguing in India with many of the discontented kings and governors, or whatever you call them, for really I forget all their names, there are so many of them, and at some future day India will be destroyed. I therefore think it is our bounden duty, and not only our duty, but the duty of France, and Austria, and Prussia, to come forward and insist that Russia immediately evacuate the Principalities. (Hear, hear.) Now I have shown you what England has done and what she has not done. France has gone with us up to the present moment, but there is even danger there. (Hear, hear.) In the last eastern question Louis Philippe threw us overboard, and that very nearly brought on a war with France. (Hear, hear.) It is left to Louis Napoleon now to come forward and assist England to keep up the balance of power in Europe; but suppose things go wrong, and suppose France sees that Russia will get to Constantinople, has France no eye at all upon Egypt herself; and has France no eye either upon the Rhine? All these things may take place, and confusion may arise by the success of Russia. Things may be deranged; there's no knowing how all the Powers will go—every one perhaps will look out for himself; and I very much fear—and I am sorry to say it—that we shall not get the lion's share this time. Our navy has been so reduced and so lowered; so little attention has been paid during the peace of 37 years to man it, that when we want men they are not to be had. The late Government voted 5000 men, and they deserve great credit for so doing; they are no friends of mine (cheers and laughter), nor the Whigs either (laughter); but, nevertheless, the Tory Government, seeing our danger, not from Russia at that time, but from France, came down to Parliament and asked for an addition of 5000 soldiers and 500 seamen, which were granted to them by acclamation. Even Mr. Cobden himself acknowledged in the House of Commons that he did not resist it, because if they asked for 20,000 men it would be granted by acclamation. That showed that the people of England did not wish to expose their wives and families to be destroyed by foreigners, and they felt that any Power almost, even a secondary Power, in the state we were in, could have invaded this country. (A Voice—"No, no!") Somebody calls "No." Let me ask how we could prevent them? (Hear.) France, for instance, has 500,000 men, and we have 20,000; and is there no means of crossing the Channel? The country was not safe; thank God it is safe now, and I take some credit to myself for driving them to make it safe. (Cheers.) I did not get much thanks for it; but you have it now, and you are all willing to pay for it. Is there anybody here who grudges to pay a half per cent. more of his capital to insure safety and tranquillity to his hearth and his wife and family? ("No, no.") I dare say you have all read Lord Aberdeen's speech the other day, when he was feasting at the Mansion-house, after eating turtle soup. (Laughter.) After being well entertained there, he said, and said properly, that the policy of the Government was peace; that he would maintain peace as long as he possibly could; that he was reluctant to go to war; but if war was demanded—mark you—and plainly demanded, if consistent with the honour and interest of this country, he would go to war. (Hear, hear.) Well, what he meant by that is, if England demands that we shall go to war, he is ready to go; but England will not demand war unless she sees it is absolutely necessary for the honour and interest

of the country. You are all prosperous now, all making money as fast as you can, particularly in Manchester; but you are not quite sure you will make that money if you are at war. Therefore there cannot be a doubt that this meeting, and every meeting throughout Great Britain, if they do follow this that takes place, will desire peace, and will not drive the Ministry into war unless it is absolutely necessary. Now, I am just as fond of peace as any of you, and am almost too old to go to war; but, nevertheless, if the honour and interest of this country demands it, I am perfectly ready to come forward and shed the last drop of my blood for the honour and credit of the British people. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. S. B. Johnson moved the second resolution:—

"That the avowed policy of Russia, and her insidious encroachments upon all neighbouring States, are at variance with the common interests of other countries, and ought to be resisted by the united efforts of all civilized nations."

Mr. H. Fletcher seconded the resolution.

Mr. D. Urquhart rose to support the motion, and was received with loud cheers. He expressed the apprehensions with which he had heard the intelligence that the Russians, in their retreat, had diverged to the left, so as to take refuge in the Austrian territory. He dissented from some of the statements made by the gallant admiral, and at some length urged on the meeting the necessity of putting down, not only the system which existed, fatal to the interests of this country, with reference to the east, but their own ignorance on such subjects.

Dr. Vaughan also addressed the meeting. He had thought the Government laggards, believing that it was their duty, when the Russians first crossed the Pruth, to send our fleet into the Black Sea directly; but he could not make that a ground for a vote of no confidence in Ministers. He moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting rejoices in the determination of the British Government to uphold the independence of the Ottoman Empire, even, if necessary, by force of arms."

Mr. P. Royle seconded the resolution.

Thanks having been voted to Sir C. Napier, Mr. Urquhart, and the chairman, the proceedings terminated.

A requisition is in course of signature to the Mayor of Liverpool, praying him to convene a meeting in that city.

THE CITY COMMISSION.

NUMEROUS witnesses have given evidence before the City Commission this week, the chief among whom have been Mr. Elliott and Mr. Bennock, two common councilmen, and Mr. Wallis, the sheriff. The character of the evidence has been chiefly speculative, and varied statements have been made as to what kind of reforms are requisite. At present, there has been a preponderance of evidence in favour of abolishing the aldermen as unpaid magistrates, and of appointing two or four stipendiaries in their place. The two common councilmen above mentioned, consider the aldermen as a great city abuse, which ought to be abolished. The police also, it seems to be generally agreed, would be less expensive, and quite as efficient, under the control of the Metropolitan Commissioners. Competent witnesses, Mr. Powles and Mr. Cattley, agree in thinking that the harbour masters of the Thames efficiently perform their duty; they also agree in describing the navigation committee, composed of forty persons, as utterly unqualified by previous training for their duties; and they suggest a mixed committee, comprising delegates from mercantile associations, so that the committee might act as a Chamber of Commerce, in protecting merchants from grievances, or in representing them to Government. Some of the witnesses would enlarge the constituency—one proposition going so far as to abolish the livery, and place the City under the provisions of the Municipal Act of 1836. The coal tax found a defender in Mr. Elliott, who thinks the revenue has been well spent, and puts forward the startling argument, that coals would become too cheap, and too common, and too many would be consumed if the tax were removed! Among the separate grievances is the shrievalty. One gentleman, Mr. Remington Mills, attended to show that he had been elected sheriff without his knowledge, and made to pay 600*l.* fine for refusing to serve, after he had ceased to reside in the county of Middlesex. Mr. Wallis also conceives that the sheriff should be an *ex-officio* member of the Common Council.

With respect to bribery, Mr. Wallis says, that he has known 15,000*l.* spent on both sides for a mayoralty, 10,000*l.* for the chamberlainship, and 1500*l.* for an alderman's gown; and he alleges, as a reason why the elections for common councillors are pure, that "the matter at stake is not so much." But Mr. Bennock throws the greatest flash of light on the corruptions of the corporation.

The mode in which the committees of the Common Council are appointed is very faulty. There are about sixteen of these paid committees in the year; they are paid about 2000*l.* The money is disposed of for the purposes of conviviality. If a balance should remain over it is sometimes applied to the presenting the chairman with a piece of plate. I have been a member of more unpaid than paid committees, and I believe that the former have been attended by more intelligent men. I believe the committee men might appropriate the money to themselves if they pleased. If a man appeared to be *au fait* on a particular

subject it would be a reason rather for his exclusion than appointment, because the corporation were very suspicious of others who showed any special knowledge and interest on a subject. I don't think if some of the mercantile body were united with the members of the Common Council in the navigation committee, that they would work a week together; their modes of thought and habits of business are so very different. Besides, this committee would have to report to the Common Council as a body, and they might reject any suggestions that would be offered in that report. The conservancy of the Thames is a matter of great importance to the metropolis generally, and the Common Council is an exclusively City body. I would give the entire management of the river and bridges to a general central committee. The money for the committees was placed in the hands of the chamberlain, and the chairman of the committees gave an order to the hall-keeper to draw it. I would suggest to the commission to call on the hall-keeper to give an account of every item for which he paid money; also on Mr. Scott, the deputy-chamberlain, for the purpose of ascertaining the money so paid into the hands of the hall-keeper for each committee; and also on each committee for an account of the money received and expended by them for the last ten years, otherwise it will be impossible to account for the expenditure of the corporation. I have gone over the accounts with one of the most intelligent men in the City, and we have discovered things that will, I think, startle and astonish the commission and the world. Sometimes a loose resolution was passed, and under that resolution a great deal of money was spent. There is an instance in the case of the Smithfield Market Removal committee. Large sums of money were given for newspapers when they contained articles favourable to Smithfield market, and these newspapers were distributed freely; but when an article appeared against the corporation not one copy of that newspaper was purchased. When the returns to which I alluded are made, I believe you will find that large sums of money were expended in various ways; some on dinners, to which members of Parliament were invited. You will find that several members attended those dinners. I have heard it said that 1000*l.* was appropriated to conducting the opposition to the Smithfield Cattle Removal Bill. Articles have been sent to newspapers with sums of money. These articles were to appear as paragraphs and not as advertisements. I believe that this is the case, and that I will be able to prove it, but I was not on the committee myself.

Mr. Lewis.—Has this been done through a committee?

Witness.—Through a committee, I have no doubt, or its officer.

The Chairman.—You are aware that a statement has been made in the corporation to the effect that only 150*l.* was spent on the purchase of newspapers. Do you believe that?

Witness.—I believe that to be perfectly true. What I am speaking of is quite a distinct thing. I called for an account of the expenditure, but could not get it. I believe that in 99 cases out of 100 there is no disposition to withhold information; but, in certain cases, you cannot get the information. This is an anomalous state of things, which requires to be altered. I have no doubt that money has been spent in getting up petitions against the removal of Smithfield market; but Mr. Acland knows more about that than I do, as he was professionally engaged at that time in opposition to the Government, and the generally expressed views of the public on the subject. I have no knowledge on the subject myself, and you can only obtain the requisite information by the returns which I have suggested.

Mr. Keeling and Mr. Hales showed that the excessive charges of the City for metage and portage were injurious to trade and a hardship to traders; but Mr. Hales, a corn-merchant, thinks that metage for foreign corn is very beneficial.

Mr. Hankey, late Governor of the Bank of England, supported the general testimony, that the magisterial duties, the dinners, the pageantry, and the life-holding of the office of alderman, operate to prevent merchants from accepting civic posts. Mr. Hankey would "extend the corporation over the whole of the metropolis." He contends that a Chamber of Commerce in London would be useless.

PROFESSOR MAURICE.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr. Maurice to the Council of King's College, and was laid before them at their meeting last Friday:—

"To the Council of King's College.

"21, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, Nov. 7, 1853.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,—I have received from the secretary of King's College a copy of certain resolutions respecting me, which were adopted at the last meeting of the Council.

"Under ordinary circumstances, it would be my duty at once to resign offices which the legislative body of the college has declared that I cannot hold without serious detriment to its usefulness. But the Council is aware, and the public is now also aware, that certain definite charges have been brought against me by the Principal, upon the strength of which he asked that I should be excluded from my professorship. These charges amounted to a declaration that I had departed from the orthodox faith. He alleged, as his reasons for this grave charge, that I did not accept a meaning of the word 'eternal' which he considered to be the only right one, and that I refused to draw certain consequences from that meaning, or to pronounce an opinion upon a subject on which the Articles of the Church of England have not pronounced one.

"The decision of the Council, as it avowedly takes cognizance of the opinions which I expressed on this subject in my *Theological Essays* and in my correspondence with the Principal, can be understood to amount to nothing

less than a condemnation of me upon the grounds which are expressed in the Principal's letter. The Council must be deemed to have accepted the propositions in that letter, and to require that all its professors should accept them likewise. The Principal evidently shares in this opinion. When I wrote to inquire whether my lectures were to be continued till my successors were appointed, he answered that I had better discontinue them from the day on which the resolutions of the Council were passed. He pronounced this decision though he had officially commanded me to be present at the opening of the term, and to commence my usual courses, retracting an unofficial letter in which he had recommended me to ask for leave of absence. I submit that a person ordinarily so courteous to the professors of the college, and so tender of the interests of the students, would not have thus summarily suspended a teacher whom, with a full knowledge of his opinions, he had invited to be a lecturer in the theological department, and who had served the college in the other department for thirteen years—that he would not have interrupted the studies of the term, and forced me to break an implicit engagement with those who are taking part in them—if he had not believed that he was executing an ecclesiastical sentence upon a convicted heretic.

"I cannot, my lords and gentlemen, believe that, great as are the privileges which the right reverend bench has conceded to the Principal of King's College, their lordships the bishops ever intended to give him an authority superior to their own, superior to that of the Articles by which they are bound; I cannot think that they wished to constitute him and the Council arbiters of the theology of the English Church. Such a claim would be as alarming, I apprehend, to the public as to our ecclesiastical rulers. If some parents have been suspicious of the influence which I might exercise over their sons, I believe that there are few parents in England who will not complain that the college has departed from its original principle, when it gives such a scope to the private judgment of its chief officer, or even to the judgment of the body which manages its affairs.

"I think it due, then, to my own character as a clergyman, to the interests of the college, and to the liberties of the English Church, that I should call upon the Council, if they pronounce a theological sentence upon me at all, to declare what Article of our faith condemns my teaching. I conjure them not to use any phrases in condemning me which they would reject as loose and vague if the property or the life of a fellow-citizen were in question. Whether I have unsettled the faith of my pupils, by giving an interpretation of the word 'eternal' which I had maintained to be true (and especially important for students in divinity) before I was asked to join the theological department, the after lives of those pupils must determine. But if I have violated any law of the Church, that law can be at once pointed out—the nature of the transgression can be defined, without any reference to possible tendencies and results. It is this justice, and not any personal favour, my lords and gentlemen, which I now request at your hands.—I have the honour to be, my lords and gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. D. MAURICE.

"P.S.—I have requested the secretary to lay before the Council some copies of my letter to the Principal, to which I have added some notes. I would respectfully call the attention of the Council to Note B, page 31, of the pamphlet."

After reading this letter, the Council decided that they did not think it necessary to enter further into the subject; and declared the two chairs held by Mr. Maurice in the college to be vacant.

SLAVERY IN CUBA.

THE Havannah correspondent of the *Daily News* gives some interesting particulars relating to the future intentions of Spain with respect to the slave trade:—

"The new system of apprenticeship, or voluntary labour, which it is generally understood will be adopted for Cuba, will be a legalized slavery, which, once established, neither the philanthropy of England and France, nor the combined civilization of the world, will be able to soften or control. The restrictions which were brought to bear upon the planters of the British West Indies will not be practicable or effective in Cuba. The violence, the fraud, the murders which now reign, will be continued, and probably be a thousand times multiplied; for there will certainly be no 'voluntary' emigration for the privilege of toil without hope and without reward. The same offers have heretofore been made to Asiatic emigrants. They are to come to an Australia or California—a land of gold, flowing 'with milk and honey,' and to have cabins and land of their own. They come and find the fulfilment of the promise in being sold like other chattels without any guarantee of protection after the lapse of seven years' servitude. The desire to get their 'money's worth' for the limited period causes the master to make but scant provision for the wants of the labourer, while his task is increased to the utmost extent of possible human endurance, and if not performed, stripes and blows are administered *ad libitum*. If death ensues in consequence of this treatment, as has been the case already in several instances, the charge of mutinous conduct against the dead covers the sin of the living murderer. Slavery as it exists here now can be mitigated and restricted by energetic British action at Madrid—but with slavery as it will be, under the new name, there will be no power to reach and check the abuse of the system. It is said this secret convention between England, France, and Spain, for the freedom of Cuban negroes and other concurrent interests, is to be approved and in operation in the month of February next. Already large preparations are making for bringing natives from Africa. One individual has obtained a license from Madrid, which has been approved by France and England, to bring 30,000 'voluntary' apprentices from the coast of Africa. Smaller operators for, in all, 35,000 more, are at work, not waiting for the formal announcement of the governments. And this is but as a drop to

the ocean, in proportion to the anticipated action of the speculators. Facts will speak for themselves, and it is well now to see what has been done in slavery here since 1849, and compare with that what is to mature in the few coming months, according to present indications and present pledges:—

Arrived in Cuba in	Negroes known.
1849, by 20 vessels	6575
1850, " 7 ditto	2325
1851, " 7 ditto	3687
1852 and 1853 to August 1, 1853	14,500
Omitted in previous report by the brig <i>Hanover</i> at Sierra Morena	650
At Baracoa	400
At Ensenada de Brou, south side, near Trinidad, in Sept., per brig <i>Amante</i> (Spanish)	630
At Ensenada de Cochinas, Oct., per schooner <i>Maria Juana</i> (Spanish), subsequently burned	180
At Ensenada de Carmelo (name of vessel not given), in October	280
At La Paloma, Oct. 15	320
Total	29,497
Add one-third more, which will not cover the number that escape British investigation	9832
Add also for losses in pursuit, and kidnapping; for deaths on the passage; for want of air, food, and water	4200

And there will be a grand total of 43,529 human beings that have been dragged from their African homes during a period somewhat less than five years. The number of apprentices already intended to be brought to Cuba is 65,000. To this must also be added for loss of life in pursuit, capture, and transportation, an estimated number of 8966, making in all 71,966 persons, and representing an aggregate of human misery, unequalled in the history of the past, to be consumed under British and French protection! Such are my views, justified by long and familiar acquaintance with the subject, and by association with the Spanish and Creole planters for many years."

An interesting correspondence has passed between Mr. Corbin, an American gentleman at Paris, and Lord Howden, our ambassador in Spain, which we subjoin:—

"Paris, Nov. 14.

"DEAR LORD HOWDEN.—I have been ruminating upon some of the topics of our conversation yesterday evening on American affairs, not 'chewing the cud' of any 'bitter fancy,' for of that ingredient not a scruple ever escaped your lips during all our long and friendly intercourse, when my countrymen, or country and its institutions, were the theme. One of the subjects to which I allude, and with reference to which your Lordship spoke so frankly, is the suspected coquetry (I will not say intrigue) which England is said to be practising with Spain in order to control the ulterior 'destiny' of the Island of Cuba; and, meantime, to regulate its internal government, and change its social economy in at least one pregnant sense of the latter expression. On this head some of the leading, and from their relations to the Federal Government, most authoritative journals in the United States, have in my belief, as erroneously as too hastily imputed to Downing-street, and to your Lordship specifically, under inspirations from that far-famed locality, the design of 'Africanizing' the 'Queen of the Antilles.' As the most efficient auxiliary to this end, she is not only to be allowed to import *ad libitum*, but to be incontinently aided in importing the aboriginal sons and daughters of Ham in masses 'innumerable by numbers that have a name,' thereby rendering her not only, as is supposed, a dangerous neighbour, but an unenviable possession in the paulo-post future for the 'insatiate archers' on her northern flank. Now, the whole range and precise *modus operandi* of this portentous scheme I pretend not to comprehend even darkly, much less to indicate the ways and means, open or subdolous, by which it is to be carried into effect. I cannot do more, therefore, to enlighten you on the subject, than to commend to your attention two or three articles, with the commentaries thereon, contained in some of the Washington and other papers, herewith sent, and which I just received. Among them are the *National Intelligencer* and the *Union*—journals of repute, and conducted with sagacity; and both, it is believed, incapable of inventing or perverting facts upon any subject; and, least of all, upon one of so much 'pith and moment' in a national, not a party point of view. Whence the information was derived, or how transmitted, upon which their several speculations or previsions are founded, it is not now important to your Lordship, any more than it is to the object of this note, to inquire. That it has a *cis-Atlantic* origin is next to certain, and therefore the sooner it is, in the interest of truth, and of both countries, nullified by an authentic contradiction, the better. You will perceive that the American papers are discussing the subject under different points of view, as best suits party purposes; but they nearly all deprecate, and with notable vivacity of expression, the project which England is said to have over and anon in her 'mind's eye,' of trying to effect the early manumission of the slaves of Cuba. To this end the poor African is to be rescued from his thirsty deserts and the pursuit of his man-eating *compatriotes*, and consigned, with exquisite humanity, to a servitude under the name of 'probationary apprenticeship' of ten years. At the expiration of that period, if he be reported alive, and hard-working captains-general do not, for the sake of their pockets, extend the term to that of his natural life, he is to be set free from his friends, and no more cared for by them—the 'world all before him, and Providence his guide.' Now, my Lord, it is hardly necessary for me to assure you that my faith is not facile enough to credit the existence, or the proximate contemplation, on the part of your Government of any such bold and bootless experiment—profitless, because its results

would be mischievous to the poor negro himself. In addressing you this letter, I build largely, but I hope not too boldly, upon the genial dispositions which, for long years, you have manifested towards myself, and, if possible, still more upon the friendly sentiments and lofty, unprejudiced, views, which you have always entertained towards the United States. But as the subject is a delicate one for you in your official position to treat further than a correction of the statements here referred to, I would have you dispose of it as you deem 'wisest, discreetest, best.'

"Meantime, as always, I remain, my Lord, very faithfully and sincerely yours,

"F. P. CORBIN, of Virginia.

"To Lord Howden, &c."

"Paris, Nov. 14.

"MY DEAR CORBIN,—I have this moment received your letter of yesterday, and I can assure you that it has not in the least embarrassed me. Our long friendship gives you a perfect right to ask me any questions that in a public situation I can answer with propriety, and your tact will have told you that in the present case I must be fully as anxious to impart the truth as you can be to know it. I have read the strange statements you have sent me about England wishing to 'Africanize' Cuba, and about the arrangements which I have been making at Madrid to that effect. I give you, in the most solemn manner such laughable (though wicked) fabrications allow, my unqualified contradiction of the whole matter. I have not the slightest hesitation in telling you what have been, during the last three years my negotiations with the Spanish Government respecting Cuba, and you will see whether there is even the slightest foundation for rumours which seem to have been most sedulously spread abroad in the United States. First, I have been making unceasing representations at the number of slaves annually imported into the island, and complaints of the almost open manner in which the traffic was carried on under the very noses of the captains-general, always excepting the excellent General Concha. Secondly, I have been making fruitless attempts to get the Spanish Government to declare the abominable traffic in men piracy,—that is to say, to follow the example of the United States in this particular. Thirdly, I passed my time in anxious solicitations to obtain the ultimate and complete freedom of those Negroes called 'Emancipados,' who have been fraudulently detained in bondage since the year 1817, in disregard of treaties. I rejoice to say that the Spanish Government has listened to the dictates of justice and humanity, and has granted me this boon. Fourthly, I have been endeavouring to procure an abrogation of that intolerant and immoral law, by which foreigners, wishing to settle in Cuba, are obliged to change their religion, on the somewhat startling principle (not understood elsewhere) that becoming bad men is a satisfactory preliminary to becoming good subjects. To these official negotiations, I have added, at various times, friendly and officious exhortations to improve the internal system of the island, by facilitating the administration of justice, and by liberalizing the nominations to office and employment among the natives of the island. You will see what I really have done, or rather attempted to do, is very different from what I am said to have done in your papers. When the true state of the case is known, and ignorance or malevolence dispelled, I can reckon upon the good-wishes of your countrymen in the success of the measures I ask, so consonant with your own laws and institutions. In all that I have here told you with entire candour, the United States can only see the natural working of England's declared and unchanging policy in a cause which is dear to her, and Spain herself must feel that, in days like these, unless she executes her engagements, and modifies her intolerance, she can never hope to enter again, and as she ought to do, into the hierarchy of nations.

"Believe me, my dear Corbin, with great regard, yours, sincerely,

"F. Corbin, Esq., Paris.

"HOWDEN."

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

MR. HARRY CHESTER, chairman of the council of the Society of Arts, inaugurated the opening of its hundredth session, on Wednesday, at the Society's Rooms in the Adelphi, with a long speech. In this he traced the previous history of the Society, from its suggestion by William Shipley, in 1753, up to the present time—from the presidency of Lord Folkestone to that of Prince Albert. He showed that it had encouraged not only the fine arts, but commerce and manufactures, and had usefully directed attention, before 1793, to various improvements in agricultural processes and machinery. At the close of his speech, referring to the present and the future, Mr. Chester made some apt remarks on the education of the working classes:

"The 'strikes' which afflict the manufacturing districts are regarded by the council with deep regret. The Society feels an equal interest in the well-being of the masters and men. Experience of the past evils of former strikes is found insufficient to prevent their recurrence. Its sad lessons must be again and again learned; but it may be hoped that, when we have a real education of the people, these lamentable spectacles may be no more seen; and it is worth conjecturing whether, when education is improved, an amendment of the law of unlimited liability, and the introduction of partnerships *en commandite*, by placing the men in the position of masters in such partnerships, might not have some effect towards restraining workmen from taking up, as such, a position which is inconsistent with the essential conditions of mastership, and has an inevitable tendency to destroy the means of employment. You have seen that in its first century the Society of Arts has been an active promoter of education—I hope, that, in this respect, our second century will be no discredit to its older brother. The council is thoroughly convinced that an improved education for the whole people, rich and poor, adult and child, is the first requisite for the improvement

of manufactures, commerce, and arts; that a liberal measure of science must enter into that education; and that it is the duty of this Society to promote vigorously this great object. We shall not involve the Society in any religious or political controversies; but we shall lend a helping hand to make education industrial, scientific, and practical. (Applause.) In the pursuit of this purpose, we ought to be powerfully aided by the associated institutes. We rely on them for cordial, energetic, and continuous aid. It is important that they should continue to do what they do at present; but they might do it better and do more. They generally lament that they are unable to maintain in efficiency their classes for systematic instruction. The council is of opinion that the mechanic, artisan, or labourer has at present no sufficiently obvious inducement to pursue continuous studies in his local institute. His previous education has not prepared him for it. There are little or no emulations to incite him, no examination to test his progress, no certificates or diplomas to record it, no present and tangible rewards for his success. Wanting such encouragements, the youth who, after his daily work, purely for the love of knowledge, pursues it in regular attendance at his institute, is a hero of no mean order, and such youths are not abundant in any class of society. It is hoped that during the present session the council may be able to establish a system whereby examinations may be held in several districts, and certificates of progress and attainments, and possibly prizes, may be awarded to the class-students of the institutions in union with the Society of Arts—it is hoped, also, that an exhibition of educational apparatus, foreign as well as British, may be opened when the present very interesting exhibition of 'useful inventions' is closed.

There was a goodly company present, and much interest was shown in the examination of the various articles exhibited in the rooms.

WESTMINSTER FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY.

A PUBLIC meeting of the Westminster Freehold Land Society was held at Caldwell's Rooms, Dean-street, Soho, on Thursday. Mr. J. George, churchwarden of St. Ann's, in the chair. The chairman opened the proceedings of the evening by a reference to the merits of the Westminster Freehold Land Society, which, he said, by this time were pretty well understood. There was one thing which tended greatly to advance the progress of these societies, which was that they were always open to every possible inquiry, and the more the Society was inquired into the more would the working classes and the public see the benefit derivable from it. Since its formation it had received in subscription from shareholders the sum of 22,187l. 12s., and, according to the last report, they were now in possession of no fewer than eight estates—namely, East Moulsey (West Surrey), Reigate, and Long Ditton, both in East Surrey, Holmsdale, Kent Town, Kilburn, and Brixton. The amount of the subscription for this year was 6,677l. 7s. 4d., and at the present time they had added to the elective franchise of the country 112 voters; persons who had received their votes by small weekly subscriptions of about eightpence, and had already obtained possession of the qualifications on account of their paid up shares. The advantages of this society might be understood, when it is stated that some of the allotments which had cost only 30l., had been sold again for 60l., on account of the desired privilege of being early put in possession of a plot of freehold land, and this too on a 30l. share. As a means of saving money, it was far before savings banks, where a man could only get three per cent. for his money, besides a limitation being placed as to the amount of capital to be held. Persons taking shares, and not desiring an allotment, could easily realize from 10 to 12 per cent., without any risk or trouble whatever. They could not benefit themselves more than by joining a society of this description. Some of the allotments in this society had been obtained as low as 20l. or 25l. For the small sum of eightpence a week a member might be put in possession of an allotment so far as to be receiving rent from the property, and by the end of six or seven years, it was very likely that if he had not got full possession of his allotment, he would at the least be receiving a rent equivalent to his subscription until the share was paid up. The secret of it was that land was purchased at the wholesale price, and retailed so to the members. Sewerage, road-making, and, in fact, everything, was done by contract, even to the legal conveyance of the property. Why, the mere investigation into the title of a small estate had cost nearly 30l., while in this society a man's allotment was conveyed to him for a few shillings.

Mr. Huggett, the secretary, adverted to the political influence of land societies. It had been found that, although these societies had professed not to be political machines, yet they had exercised great political influence in counties where such influence was most desirable. The persons who had become voters through the instrumentality of the societies, were persons who were dependent on their own exertions, and were not the dependents upon a squire in one quarter or an aristocratic customer in another. The Westminster Society was the first established in London. It had never introduced the system of lotteries, which had been adopted by other societies, as being bad in principle and dangerous in practice. Repudiating the lottery principle, he believed the average time at which a person entering the society would receive his allotment would not exceed two years. He said that on the Kilburn estate, by the time some of the members had paid 15l. towards their allotments, they were offered as much as 26l. premium for their privilege, but which they steadily declined. He further explained the safety and security of investment in land, which, the more it was known, the more it would be appreciated. Having referred the meeting to the last annual report, a great number of questions were put relative to the management of the society, all of which were most satisfactorily answered.

A vote of thanks was unanimously awarded to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

OUR SANITARY STATE.

It will be seen from the subjoined report of the Registrar-General that there were fewer deaths last week than in the previous week. The correspondence between elevation and mortality is again illustrated.

"The deaths registered in the metropolis in the week that ended on Saturday rose to 1192, having been in the previous week 1112. In the ten weeks corresponding to last week of the years 1843-52 the average number was 1028, which, if raised in proportion to the increase of population, becomes 1131. Hence it appears that the actual mortality of last week was in excess of the calculated amount by 61.

The deaths in the present return show an increase on the weekly numbers of October, arising apparently from greater coldness of the weather, and also in part from cholera. Bronchitis grows more fatal. The rate of mortality from cholera has been nearly stationary during the last three weeks; the number of fatal cases last week was 98. Of these, 16 occurred in the west districts, 15 in the north, 22 in the east, and 45 on the south side of the river. None occurred in the central districts.

Cholera continues to be most fatal in the lower parts of the London basin. In conformity with the law which, it was found, regulated the mortality of cholera in 1848-49, the mortality in the present epidemic, although the numbers are few, is nearly in the inverse ratio of the elevation of the ground on which the dwellings of the inhabitants stand.

The mortality from cholera in the districts at an average elevation of less than 20 feet above Trinity high-water mark has been 38 in 100,000 inhabitants; in the districts of an average elevation of 20 and below 40 feet (20-40 feet) the mortality has been 20 in 100,000; at an elevation of 40-60 feet the mortality has been 13 in 100,000; at 60 feet of elevation and under 120 the mortality has been 8 in 100,000. At Hampstead, where the elevation may be put at 350 feet, there has hitherto been no death from cholera."

The total number of deaths from cholera in the metropolis have been 657, while in 1848, they were, in the corresponding period, only 377.

In the provinces and Scotland we have no new outbreaks to record, nor any material mortality in the old quarters.

NEW ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

At the opening session of the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday, Captain Inglefield and Lieutenant Cresswell gave accounts of the discoveries of Captain McClure, and the former suggested a new expedition.

It was unanimously agreed that the chairman, Sir Roderick Murchison, should solicit the Admiralty to send out another expedition to the Arctic regions, in the summer of 1854. None of the solicitations of the society have hitherto been made in vain. It is not intended at present to send out any more expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin and his missing companions in a north-west direction, although further supplies will, if found requisite, be sent to Beechey Island for Sir Edward Belcher's expedition. The new Arctic expedition is intended to proceed in quite a contrary direction to any of those previously sent out from this country in search of Sir John Franklin and the officers and crews of the *Erebus* and *Terror* discovery ships, now upwards of eight years absent from England. The *Phoenix* screw-steam sloop will be again commissioned by Captain Edward Inglefield, F.R.S., who was presented with a gold medal by the Geographical Society at the last meeting, and he will proceed to the Arctic regions in her, and endeavour to make a passage into the Polar Sea to the north-east of Spitzbergen. In addition to the English bottles found some time ago on the coast of Siberia, and forwarded to England by the Russian Government, intelligence has been received that several deer had been found at Spitzbergen with their ears cut, a proof that they had been in the hands of persons who had adopted that English mode of marking them.

The Admiralty have liberally granted 50l. to each of the gunroom officers, and 35l. to each of the other officers of the *Phoenix* screw steam sloop, as compensation for the expenses they incurred in providing for their mess for a longer period than their recent four months' voyage would have warranted for so short a period, and as they had prepared their stocks to last for the winter had they been frozen up during their progress. The Admiralty also appear desirous of securing the services of several of the officers who served in the last voyage made by the *Phoenix*. Mr. Staunton, recently master of that vessel, having been appointed to the *Dawntless*, at Portsmouth, as that frigate is to be kept for service at a home port. Mr. Richards, recently serving as clerk in the *Phoenix*, is appointed to the Edinburgh gunnery ship, at Devonport; and both these officers are desirous of again serving in any Arctic Expedition that may be fitted out under the command of Captain Inglefield. Mr. Staunton, although appointed to the *Dawntless*, has obtained permission to remain at Woolwich for some time to completely work out the observations he was engaged upon,—first at Greenwich, and afterwards in the Arctic Regions, and now in the Observatory of the Compass Department at Woolwich.

BYRON'S ESTATE.

An administration suit, in reference to the estate of Lord Byron, is pending before Vice-Chancellor Kendersley. The only questions discussed were as to the

rights of certain persons who claimed against the parties entitled to the residue, and chiefly as to interest and costs. The interesting feature in the case was a letter, which was in evidence, from the poet Lord Byron, written to Mr. Leigh Hunt, disclaiming a legacy of 2000*l.*; bequeathed to his lordship by Percy Bysshe Shelley. This document had only come to the knowledge of the executors of Lord Byron since the commencement of the proceedings. The letter was dated June 28, 1823. The earlier part of it related to private matters, after alluding to which his lordship proceeded as follows:—

"I am sure there is no such intention on my part, nor ever was, in anything which had passed between us, although there are circumstances so plausible, and scoundrels so ready in every corner of the earth to give a colour of their own to everything. The last observation is dictated by what you told me to-day, to my utter astonishment; it will for ever teach me to know my company better, or not at all. And now, pray do not apply, or misapply, directly or indirectly, to yourself any of these observations. I knew you long before Mr. S. knew either you or me, and you and two more of his friends are the only ones whom I can at all reflect upon as men whose acquaintance was honourable and agreeable. I have one thing more to state, which is, that from this moment I must decline the office of acting as his executor in any respect, and also all further connexion with his family in any of its branches, now or hereafter. There was something about a legacy of 2000*l.* which he had left me; this of course I decline, and the more so that I hear his will is admitted valid, and I state this distinctly, that in case of anything happening to me my heirs may be instructed not to claim it.—Yours, ever and truly, N. B."

The question of costs and interest was under argument on Wednesday, when the Court rose.

THE STRIKES.

MEMORIAL TO LORD PALMERSTON.

Preston, Nov. 17.

The annexed memorial, adopted at a general delegate meeting, was to be forwarded to its destination this day:—

"To the Right Hon. Lord Palmerston, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department."

"My Lord,—We, the powerloom weavers of Preston and its neighbourhood, beg to memorialize your Lordship and solicit your consideration of the causes which have brought about the unhappy dispute between the employers of factory labour and their workpeople in this district. We beg likewise to call your attention to the means we have adopted to avert a general lock-up, and the different proposals we have made with a view to an amicable arrangement. We presume, my Lord, to address you at this time, because, independent of your well-known sympathies for suffering humanity in whatever part of the world it may exist, we understand that your Lordship is desirous of being made acquainted with anything and everything that may affect the peace and harmony of these realms."

"We consider that nothing can be more detrimental to the manufacturing and commercial interests of this country than the anxiety, agitation, and confusion which at present pervade these districts. They destroy that harmony and equilibrium so necessary for the peaceful progress and development of the skill and ingenuity for which we, as a people, are proverbial; and we feel, my Lord, that a serious responsibility is attached to those who, by a disregard of reason and justice, have brought about this state of things."

"In order that you may fully comprehend our view of this matter—and we assure you that it is based upon incontrovertible facts—we beg your careful consideration of the following digest taken from the public documents of our body:—

"We presume that labour has its rights as well as duties, and that capital has its duties as well as rights; and we have yet to learn that it is antagonistic to these principles peaceably and at a proper time to endeavour to get a better remuneration for our labour."

"My Lord, you will remember the depressed state of the cotton trade about the year 1847. At that time the manufacturers of Preston and neighbourhood made a serious reduction in our wages, but they promised that they would restore it as soon as an improvement justified it."

"On the 1st day of June, 1853, a meeting of weavers took place, and it was agreed that a memorial be sent to each master, respectfully soliciting an advance of 10 per cent. on all fabrics of cloth. The memorial said,—'We would beg to impress upon you that a few years ago, when trade was in a depressed state, we submitted to a serious reduction in our wages, in the confident hope that, when it revived, it would honourably be put on again. We have patiently waited to see our expectations realized. We find that trade is in a most flourishing condition, that the demand for manufactured goods is on the increase, and we submit for your consideration whether we are not justified in wishing to participate in good trade. If we are to receive none of the benefits of a flourishing trade, but are to have our wages continually reduced when every depression takes place, our position will ultimately be deplorable.' When the hands waited upon their employers for a reply, some treated them with courtesy and respect, but a great majority with insult and contempt; and many who thus waited upon them were discharged and cast upon the world as marked men and women. My Lord, up to this time we had no thought of combination or union; it has been called into existence by the natural sympathy that always has and will exist among men if they believe their fellow-creatures suffering in a righteous cause. We have had no reasons yet shown that our demands were unreasonable; therefore, this has caused us to throw around our suffering brethren the shield of protection, and to act

in union and concert against future acts of despotism. This is the real cause of our organization which at present exists—not formed to dictate, but to assist by pecuniary aid those who have been thrown out of employment for soliciting their just claims, and we now appeal to and fall back upon public opinion for protection."

"But, my Lord, we may be asked what grounds we had to suppose that our masters were in a position to redeem their promises. So strongly did we feel upon the subject—so desirous were we not to act unjustly by being deceived by appearances, that a manifesto was agreed to at a large public meeting of our body on the 14th of July, 1853, in which we made the following proposals:—

"If, on the other hand, we look around us at the present time, and at the state of trade for the last five years, we find the current prices for goods far superior to what they were at the former period. We find hands scarce, and mills and workshops springing up, mushroom-like, on every hand. We see evidence of accumulated wealth in every form and shape, testifying to the prosperity which exists. The press sings its praises, and your orators make it the theme of every discourse. It has formed a paragraph in every Royal speech, and both Houses of Parliament, by their divisions, have attested to its truth. Yet the great body of masters, with a few honourable exceptions, declare that they are unable to let us taste of this general prosperity by an honourable adherence to their word."

And again—

"We have no desire to be parties to keep up the present antagonism and excitement without good cause. Our labour is our only wealth, and the miserable wages we receive for it our only reward. But we here publicly and solemnly declare that if we were not convinced that our masters are able to give the required advance we would be the last to request it. If we are labouring under a misconception, we wish to have our minds disabused; if we are in error, let it be proved by plain facts. We wish to see peace and concord reign throughout the empire among all classes of the community, consistently with our own rights and duties, and, to accomplish this object, we propose, for the consideration of the masters of Preston—First, that if they will prove that the same necessity which caused them to reduce our wages still exists, and prevents them raising our wages at the present time, and that it is incompatible with the state of trade to give us an advance; or, secondly, if they will rather prove before a jury of disinterested gentlemen, of respectability and experience, that they are in as bad a position now as when the reduction took place in 1847, we will abandon our claims to a more favourable time."

"My Lord, in these proposals you will perceive that we had placed ourselves entirely at the disposal of our employers, if they were really unable to give an advance; but we were treated with nothing but silence and contempt. In the meantime two of the manufacturers had given the advance; and, about the middle of August, advances had been made of full 10 per cent. at Stockport, Blackburn, and other places throughout the manufacturing districts."

"Preston has been proverbial for paying a low rate of wages, much less than other towns in Lancashire; but, it appears, our masters were stimulated by the example of other places, and they simultaneously offered an advance, with a few exceptions—some less than 10 per cent.; some more; but four firms refused altogether, and the consequence was that disputes and strikes arose between them and their workpeople. Strikes took place at two firms where the masters had offered an advance, but not equal to what the hands anticipated; and, as much stress is laid upon these two disputes, as the cause of the masters closing their mills, we beg to state that, if an inquiry was properly made, it would be found that it was not the fractional dispute it has been represented, but it was the way in which that advance was given which caused that irritation and ill-feeling which induced the hands to resent what they considered to be studied imposition. At those mills where the advance was given everything was settling down satisfactorily and harmoniously, but it was an understood thing that if all the masters did not give an advance the others would be obliged to take it off again; and we were naturally led to appeal to the public to support those on strike in order to retain the general advance. But on the 15th of September a bill appeared on the wall, signed by 35 firms, giving notice to close their mills in one month, unless those now on strike are prepared to resume their work, and a better understanding is established between the employer and employed. In order that no justifiable grounds for inflicting such a calamity as now threatened should exist, deputations of the operatives of three of those mills where disputes existed, waited upon their respective employers, and were prepared, if possible, to have brought things to an arrangement. Now, mark you, at Messrs. Birley Brothers, they were told that it could only be settled by the committee. At Messrs. Taylors, they were driven from the work; and at Messrs. Swainson Brothers, they pretended not to know them, and would not hear them speak."

"We presume, my Lord, that it would take a wise people to fathom the mysterious proceedings of these gentlemen; but when every channel appeared cut off whereby the operatives on strike might resume work and prevent the innocent from suffering, the committee then undertook, on behalf of the whole body of weavers, to address a letter to Mr. T. Miller and Mr. W. Ainsworth, both Justices of the Peace, and acting as president and secretary to the Associated Millowners, in which we proposed the following:—'1st. That a deputation of employers meet a deputation of their workpeople for the purpose of discussing and arranging the differences; or, if this be objectionable, we propose, secondly, that the matter in dispute be referred to arbitration, each party to appoint an equal number of experienced men, unconnected with the strike, and that Mr. R. T. Parker, M.P., be the umpire. If this does not meet your views, we respectfully request you to make a proposal, if you desire to come to an honourable arrangement, and if based on equity we pledge ourselves to accept it.' To

these proposals the answer we received was, 'The Masters Association could not receive those who sent them.'

"We beg, my Lord, to inform you that though it has been said that the combination of workpeople had forced the masters into combination for mutual protection, long before a meeting took place in this town the employers had an association, and that weekly meetings of their body had taken place, and appeared in the public journals. But other parties of great respectability and influence have endeavoured to approach our masters for the purpose of arranging the dispute, and they received the following answer:—'At a meeting of the Committee of the Masters' Association, held on Wednesday, the 15th October, at the Winckley Club, Preston, Mr. Thomas Miller in the chair, it was resolved—

"That acting on the principle that has hitherto guided the associated masters, this committee, with a due appreciation of the benevolent motives by which the gentlemen named as a deputation are influenced, is unanimously of opinion that any such interview as that suggested by the St. Paul's School Committee is, in the present temper of the operatives, undesirable."

"THOMAS MILLER, Chairman."

"WILLIAM AINSWORTH, Hon. Sec."

"My Lord, we appeal to you whether the temper we have displayed in this unfortunate dispute has not been such as became men and women desiring to effect a mutual arrangement. We have never been publicly informed what reason our employers have to pursue the course they are pursuing. The present Masters' Association has borne testimony that we are the best workpeople in Lancashire; and, further, nearly one-fourth of the firms in the town are working their mills quietly—a noble protest against the injustice of the number of firms now closed. Some thousands of the hands have had no dispute with their masters—have not given a shadow of cause to be treated with the cruelty they are treated. As one instance, there is a mill where not one hand has contributed a farthing to the support of the strikes. They dared not do it. It would have cost them their daily bread. They have never had one word of ill-feeling with their employers, and they too have been turned into the streets. There are other cases as bad as this, and the only conclusion we can reasonably come to is, that they are determined to reduce us to the lowest depths of misery and starvation, if possible. And for what purpose? If they open their mills to-morrow morning, we are prepared to recommence work, as we ceased on the 15th of October; and if they keep them closed for twelve months, it can only be the same, unless they have some ulterior object in view which they care not for shame to mention."

"My Lord, we have entered largely into this unfortunate affair, because with an idle and discontented people—discontented because they are deprived unjustly of the means of existence,—it is not impossible that the peace of the district may be disturbed. Hitherto we have each and all used our influence and calmed down our feelings, in order to prevent scenes such as have occurred in a neighbouring town; but how long this good feeling may exist is uncertain. An accidental spark may lead to serious results; and we submit for your consideration whether your Lordship can adopt any measures calculated to lead to an arrangement. We feel that at present the responsibility does not rest with us. If we have been unfortunate and called meetings and formed organizations, who set us the example? If we have appealed to public opinion and enlisted its sympathy, who showed us the value of it when it could be used for their own peculiar purposes? If we have collected among ourselves some few hundred pounds in a week, who used to give their thousands? If we were so foolish as to believe that trade was good, who told us so? Or if we wished to enjoy its blessings, who told us that we were certain to participate in them? Why, my Lord, the very men who are now punishing us for following their example, and placing credit in their honour and their word."

"My Lord, we beg to assure you, in conclusion, that though we cannot boast of the education and attainments that our employers are possessed of, you will find us always prepared to adopt any reasonable course calculated to promote the peace of the country, and the happiness and social wellbeing of its inhabitants."

The memorial was signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting.

We have little to record beyond the above memorial. Preston still holds out; but the colliers at Wigan have in the main given in and gone to work. In the other towns there is a disposition to return to work at the masters' terms.

JOURNAL OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

We are compelled to resume this form of reporting the recent "accidents" which are again becoming sufficiently numerous to make it convenient.

Monday.—A railway-train, running along the line near the Plymouth breakwater, suddenly went over, into the sea, drowning two breaksmen. The train was laden with stone. The driver and stoker saw that some planks, in advance, had given way, and they leaped into the sea, thus saving their lives.

Tuesday.—Two accidents occurred this day. The first was on the Midland Railway. A goods train coming on from Derby towards Long Eaton, enveloped in a fog, saw a signal to stop when close upon it. The breaks were put on, but in vain. The goods train smashed into a coal train from Codnor Park to Rugby, crossing the line. The shock threw the engine across the line, and the traffic was suspended. No one hurt.

On the same day, during the fog, a man was killed in attempting to cross the rails a little beyond the King's Cross station.

Wednesday.—On this day an accident occurred on the Great Northern Railway, five miles from Doncaster. The night fast goods train, a few minutes behind time, reached

the Rossington station, when an axletree of one of the trucks broke, and threw the truck across the down line. The express came up at the instant, punctually to its time, and dashed into the broken train at full speed. The engine-driver, stoker, and three passengers were seriously injured, neither fatally.

Another illustration of the carelessness of railway officials has occurred on the Bristol and Birmingham line. About a mile from the Cheltenham station there is a coal depot. A coal train was shunted across the rails at the moment a passenger train from Cheltenham was due; fog prevailing at the time! A collision of course ensued, and several passengers were bruised.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE Queen holds her Court still at Windsor, and continues the theatrical performances begun last week. The second dramatic performance took place on Thursday evening. The pieces selected upon this occasion were a Comedy, in three acts, by Mr. Slingsby Lawrence, entitled the *Game of Speculation*, and a Comic Drama, in one act, by Mr. Charles Matthews, entitled *Little Tiddlers*.

A Special Court of the Corporation of the Trinity-house was held on Wednesday, for the purpose of swearing in the Earl of Aberdeen as an elder brother. Prince Albert, Master of the Corporation, presided on the occasion, and was supported by Sir J. Graham, First Lord of the Admiralty, Captain Shepherd, Deputy-Master, and the other elder brethren.

The Duke and Duchess of Brabant have been on a visit to Plymouth and Torquay, this week; there inspecting the wonders of our arsenal, shipping, and the breakwater.

Lord Fullerton, one of the Scotch judges, has resigned his post, in consequence of ill-health.

Salford has now a new building for its Mechanics' Institution. It was opened on Monday, and, at the evening gathering, Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Hindley, Mr. Bayley, and other local gentlemen of note attended.

A meeting of British residents in Paris has been held at Maurice's Hotel, to honour the memory of Lieutenant Bellot; and it has been resolved to erect a tablet, in an appropriate place, with a suitable inscription.

Lord Seaford is the new representative peer for Scotland, in the room of the late Lord Saltoun.

The Count Walewski, the French Ambassador at this Court, has been summoned to France, to attend his Imperial master, but will return in a few days.—*Times*.

It is reported at Sunderland that on the meeting of Parliament Mr. Hudson will apply for the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds. The Conservatives speak of Mr. Duncan Dunbar as his successor.—*Tory Paper*.

Before he was recalled, Canedo, the Captain General of Cuba, prohibited the entry of the *Daily News* into the island. The reason for this was that the British journal has censured the authorities for conniving at the slave trade. Canedo says it is "calumny."

Lord Minto is at Florence, his hotel watched by the spies of the police!

The Tynemouth Bribery Commission opened its sittings on Wednesday.

The contest, at Salisbury, ended abruptly, on Wednesday, by the resignation of the "independent" candidate, Captain Julius Roberts. At two o'clock the Captain had only obtained 88 votes, while his opponent, General Buckley, Liberal-Conservative, had polled 255. The mob pelted the General, and would not hear him.

On Monday evening last the working men of Hull presented silver tankards to their late members, Lord Goderich and Mr. Clay, who were unseated last session. The ex-Mayor, Mr. Blundell, presided on the occasion. The meeting was large, and Mr. Clay and Lord Goderich made ample speeches.

Birmingham has again bestirred itself on behalf of the repeal of taxes on knowledge. A public meeting was held this week at the Public Office, Birmingham, Mr. Boodle, of the *Birmingham Journal*, in the chair; the purpose being to take into consideration the best means of aiding the removal of the two remaining taxes upon the use of paper and on a free press. After a statement had been made by Mr. Dodson Collet in reference to the general business of the meeting, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. George Moir, that a further effort be made in Birmingham to assist the exertions of the Central Association; and Mr. Scholefield, M.P., and the Mayor, were respectively appointed president and treasurer of the association.

Aylesbury has refused Church Rate. At a vestry meeting, on Friday week, a proposed rate of 7d. in the pound met with so much opposition that it was withdrawn. The sum required for re-paving the church is proposed to be raised as follows:—900*l.* by allotting 400 of the new seats to subscribers, 220*l.* by donation from the Incorporated Church Building Society, and 370*l.* by voluntary contributions.

An important preliminary committee meeting was held on Saturday last, at Birmingham, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Sir J. S. Pakington, Bart., attended by Mr. C. B. Adderley, M.P., Mr. C. H. Brucebridge, Sir F. E. Scott, Bart., Rev. Sydney Turner, the town clerk, and other gentlemen; when the form of an invitation to the Conference on Juvenile Delinquency proposed to be held at Dec's Hotel, Birmingham, on Tuesday, December 20, was adopted, and arrangements made for ensuring that it should be generally circulated, with a view to a large attendance. It was announced that several noblemen and gentlemen of the House of Commons, in addition to the Mayor of Birmingham, and gentlemen throughout the country who have distinguished themselves for their interest in the question, have already indicated their intention to attend the Conference; by some of whom it will be convened, including Sir John Pakington and Mr. Adderley, who, it will be remembered, brought into Parliament the last Bill on the subject; the Mayor and the Recorder of Birmingham

the Bishop of Worcester; Lord Denbigh, Lord Calthorpe, and Lord Lyttelton; to whom we have also to add the Lord Mayor of London; and other distinguished individuals.

A vestry meeting of the parish of St. Mary, Lambeth, was held on Thursday, in the new vestry-hall, Kennington-green. With reference to the Commissioners of Sewers, resolutions were adopted in favour of appointing a deputation to impress on Lord Palmerston the necessity of protecting the interests of the ratepayers by introducing a representative system, and inviting the rector and churchwardens to take into their serious consideration the present state of the dwellings of the poor, and to confer with the parochial officers, with the members for the borough, and with owners of property in the parish, as to the best means of remedying the evil. Mr. Williams and Mr. Wilkinson, the members for the borough, were present.

Sir Robert Kane distributed the prizes at the Queen's College, Cork, on Saturday. Mr. Fagan and Mr. Beamish, the city members, were present. After the distribution of the prizes, the President delivered an address, in which, after bearing testimony to the uniform excellent conduct of the students since the opening of the College, he said,—“We have had, pursuing their studies together in this college, in each year, some 150 young men, of various social conditions, of various degrees of intellectual capacity, and of various forms of belief, and there has not occurred among those masses of students a single instance of controversy or collision; not in a single case has it been necessary to apply those rules of discipline wisely provided by our statutes for the repression of serious irregularity of conduct; and in the higher responsibilities of morality and religion, I believe I may appeal to the reverend gentlemen, who being officially connected with this college have favoured me with the expression of their views, and who consider the conduct of the students in those regards to merit their full approval.”

Mlle. Sophie Cruvelli, on Saturday last, signed an engagement with the Opera for two years, at a salary of 4000*l.* sterling a-year. She is to choose her own parts, to play only twice a week, and to have four months' vacation in each year. In case she is called upon to sing three times a week, the extra night is to be paid 60*l.* A separate engagement is entered into for two months of her *congé*, during the Universal Exhibition of 1855, at the rate of 1000*l.* per month, so that the salary for the second year will, in fact, be 6000*l.*—*Galignani*.

On reading the quotation which closes the manifesto just issued by the Emperor of Russia, the Sultan relieved his mind in Turkish verse, of which the following is a literal translation:—

“Setting off on your wars, you sing a *Te Deum*,
As if you'd already made *triumph* of meum;
Just now you prefer the accusative case,
But the nominative soon will appear in its place:
For (not to observe that this terrible fuss
Will certainly prove in the end *Te-di-ous*),
Those who chant out *Te Deum* at matins must, later,
At vespers sing small *Deus miseratur*.”

—*Morning Chronicle*.

It appears that there is a Dutch fleet in the Mediterranean. The *Prins Van Orange*, frigate, bearing the flag of Admiral Bouriciers, was at Smyrna on the 29th of October, on which day the *Balembang*, frigate, was despatched to Malta, arrived there on the 5th of November, and was to sail on the 8th for the Texel. The *Zeebond*, brig of war, was also at Smyrna, about to proceed to Nauplia. The *Makassar*, schooner of war, was on the 7th of November hourly looked for at Malta from the Texel.

A significant fact was mentioned at Portsmouth, on Tuesday, in reference to the relations existing at present between this country and Russia. A gentleman, formerly in the dockyard there, who had accepted a situation in the Russian dockyard at Cronstadt with a very handsome salary, had returned there that day, reporting that all the English artisans in the service of Russia have been discharged. Their number was very considerable.

Ten gunners and drivers have been added to each of the field batteries of the Royal Artillery, making the present strength of gunners and drivers in each battery 128 men. The strength of the batteries during the last war was 120 gunners to each battery; but at that time there was a corps of drivers exclusively attached to the horses and not included in the 120 for serving and working the guns. The men and horses of the batteries are at present in excellent condition, and have on every occasion, when the weather is favourable, plenty of exercise.

The Russian Church affects toleration. Of the vast population of fully 60,000,000, only about 45,000,000 are members of the regular Church; 350,000 are dissenters or heretics to that Church itself; 3,500,000 Roman Catholics are found throughout the wide domains of the Czar; and fully 250,000 Armenians. The Protestants of the Augsburg Confession of Faith amount to 2,000,000; those of the Reformed Church to 54,000. There are 10,000 Moravians, while no less than 2,500,000 belong to the Mahometan creed. The Jews are 600,000 in number, and the followers of that mysterious potentate, the Grand Lama of Thibet, amount to no less than half that amount. But there are creeds still more extraordinary throughout the enormous tract of territory which constitutes the Russian empire; 170,000 are open idolaters, and no less than 600,000 are addicted to the disgusting practice of Fetichism, worshipping bats, cows, and every uncouth specimen of brute, as representative of the divinity of heaven.—*Parker's National Miscellany*.

We omit our usual criminal record under that title, because the cases this week have been of quite an ordinary character. There has been one case of bigamy, one of deserting a wife and family, two of assaults on the police, and the ordinary run of petty thefts and frauds.

Jones, a prisoner, charged with stealing a watch, at the Middlesex Sessions, told an extraordinary story. In extenuation of his offence, he said that in January last he left the Westminster Bridewell, where he had been for 12 months, with the best of characters and a suit of clothes and half-a-crown. He then got work at a house in the

course of erection near the prison, and remained there, giving great satisfaction, until a boy who had known him in prison, and happened to be assisting the workmen, told them that he (Jones) was a convicted thief. The workmen told the foreman, and he was in consequence discharged. He then obtained work at the Queen's Palace, which was being repaired. It was there found out again that he had been in prison, and was turned away. He afterwards got some work in Old-street, and a policeman came and told his master the old story that he was a convicted thief, and he was for the third time turned away. He had wished to have gained an honest living, but he found this was impossible, as, wherever he worked, as soon as it was found out, by people informing against him, that he had been in prison, he was at once turned away. A policeman threw great discredit on the story, and the judge ordered an inquiry.

Sarah Clarke, walking along Oxford-street, fancied Emma Jones insulted her, and thereupon, saying, “What do you look at me for?” thrust her umbrella in the eye of Miss Jones. She was very properly fined 5*l.* or six weeks in gaol.

James Hanna, a policeman, had a butter-tub and lost it. He met an old woman, named Webb, carrying it along the street. Hanna declared the tub was his, and hurried the woman to the station-house, having previously beat and kicked her. He was fined 40*s.*, or a month's imprisonment.

Mr. Boddy, a surgeon, lost his daughter. She was missing a fortnight. He suspected, at length, what was the fact—she had become a Catholic. Applying to the Lambeth magistrate for aid to recover her from the Clapham nunnery, where he believed she was, Mr. Elliott advised him to apply to Dr. Grant, “Bishop of Southwark.” Dr. Grant gave Mr. Boddy a note to the lady at the convent, and she referred them to the Servants' Home. Here Mrs. Boddy found her daughter. The girl cried very much, said she was perfectly at liberty there, and expressed her fear that she would not be allowed to attend the church of her adoption. She was taken home.

The horrid murder of the little girl at Dunster, Somersetshire, seems to have been brought home to the stone-cutter, Bailey. When he was arrested, a knife was found upon him; his trousers were bloodstained; and in the barn where the body of the poor little victim was found, there was a buckle-strap identified as belonging to Bailey.

The Court of Common Pleas has decided an important case bearing on freehold land societies. It came before the Court on an appeal from the decision of the revising-barrister of North Lancashire. The appellants were the owners of undivided shares in freehold property in Preston. A portion of this property was let under agreement that the tenant should pay 40*s.* a-year for it to the landlords, on the terms that they should pay the poor-rates, water-rate, and local board of health-rate. The revising-barrister held that the annual value did not amount to 40*s.* a-year, but that the real annual value was 40*s.* minus the rates. On this decision a number of votes now depended, and the joint owners appealed from it. The Court were of opinion that the tenant's rates, being paid by the landlord, must be deducted. All the landlord got was 40*s.* for the land and for an agreement to pay the rates, which was the same thing as though he had agreed to pay for the tenant's beer. He did not receive 40*s.* a-year for his land. The revising-barrister had no very difficult task in deciding on this question; and that moderately difficult task he had performed very well, and had come to a right conclusion.

Andrews, a tailor in Cork-street, Bond-street, sued Mr. Douglas Jerrold in the Sheriff's Court for a debt of 19*l.* 6*s.*, “for clothes delivered at his request to Mr. Henry Mayhew.” This was a case of contradictory testimony. Andrews contended that Mr. Jerrold had told him to “make the clothes ordered, and no more.” Mr. Jerrold, on the contrary, said he had told Andrews that Mr. Mayhew “was good for 10*l.*” In answer to a question, Mr. Jerrold said Mr. Mayhew was eight years younger than he was.

Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell facetiously remarked that that answer was rather avoiding the question, which was as to Mr. Mayhew's age.

Mr. Jerrold.—I am fifty.

Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell.—I hope that is not considered “elderly.” (Laughter.)

Mr. Hawkins.—He is no chicken, then.

Mr. Jerrold.—Oh, no, he is no chicken. (Laughter.)

The jury believed the evidence of Mr. Jerrold, and gave a verdict for him.

A singular case of breach of promise of marriage came before the Bail Court on Thursday. Hard, a retired serjeant, courted a young widow and jeweller by trade. Hard urged his suit with such warmth upon Chalfont, the father, that he consented to the match. Here is his dramatic account of the conclusion of the bargain:—“Some days after this the defendant and my daughter came to my house together. He was very uneasy for marriage, and wished to be married. I said, ‘May I understand Mr. Hard wishes to marry you? Do you think you can love Mr. Hard, and make him a good wife?’ She said, ‘I can, father.’ He sprang forward, and put out his right hand, and my daughter runs up and puts her hand smack into his. I presses ‘em together like that, as hard as I could squeeze them both together. I said, ‘I see you are now both happy and pleased, and I hope you will remain so, and, virtually speaking, I consider you are now really married.’ I saw there was a little move made, and a bottle produced, and some wine and water was made. I took a little drop neat. He urged very much for Monday, this being Friday. I was the only person who overruled it, for he was so very obstinate. He told me he had bought a license, and it would be carried out on Monday. I told him there was not time to draw the deed up—the marriage covenant. The Thursday following was then fixed for the marriage. They remained about two hours, and went away together.” Hard bought a ring, and gave it to “May,” but he afterwards altered his mind, and “went and married somebody else.” Damages 50*l.*

The Piedmontese Bandit Stella was killed in an encounter with the Royal Carabinieri, near Castino, in the night of the 10th inst.

The Nun Patrocinio, who for political reasons was sent from Madrid, and conducted to the frontier under escort, has arrived at Toledo.

A prizefighter, known as "Rory Gill," was killed on Thursday week, at a fight near Liverpool, by a pugilist named Donnelly. A *post mortem* examination proved that he had received a fracture of the lower jaw, and had been so punished on the left side of the neck as to cause erysipelas inflammation, extending to and through the globus to the windpipe, and which was the ultimate cause of death. A verdict of "Manslaughter against Frank Donnelly and his abettors" was returned, but neither the principal nor his seconds, "Nobby Clark" and "Newcastle Jack," are in custody.

The Manchester Athenæum had a narrow escape from destruction by fire on Wednesday afternoon. The fire in a large stove in the news-room had ignited the floor, but some boards having been torn up, the flames were fortunately discovered in time to check their progress.

Postscript.

SATURDAY, November 19.

YESTERDAY morning came the news, brief and unexplained, that the Turks had recrossed the Danube at Oltenitza. It was so expressed as to imply that the Turks had been forced back upon Bulgaria. Prince Gortschakoff's account of the affair, sent on to Vienna, says that his strategetic combinations around Oltenitza obliged the Turks to recross the river. The truth is supplied this morning. The *Patrie* of yesterday announced that the Turks, being retarded in their advance on Bucharest by the inundation of the Danube, have decided on arresting their onward movement. After having destroyed the quarantine building and the works at Oltenitza, they have repassed the Danube without being molested by the enemy. That is, the Turks have left the Russians in possession of the swamps of Wallachia, taking themselves the high and healthy bank. All along, the operations of Omer Pasha depended upon fine weather; now the wet weather has set in before he could drive out the Russians, he is forced to retire, not before them, but before the elements.

It must be remembered that the Turks are still masters of a great part of Lesser Wallachia. Strong Russian reinforcements are marching on Bucharest from Moldavia.

From Constantinople we hear that the British vessels *Vengeance* and *Albion*, and the French vessels *Jupiter* and *Henri IV.*, and eight steam-frigates, are at Beikos, close to the entrance into the Black Sea. The Ottoman naval division, which is to cruise in those waters, consists of four frigates, two steamers, three corvettes, and two brigs. The vessel *Mujeddetic* and two frigates have lately joined the squadron.

Sir Henry Barkly opened the sitting of the Jamaica Assembly, on the 18th October, with an admirable speech, stating the measures proposed by the Imperial Government, for the relief of the colony. The address in reply from the Assembly is satisfactory. Sir Henry seems already to have gained the confidence of parties.

Birmingham has set an example in providing for the education of its artisans and others, which might be followed with profit. For some time there has been a project on foot to establish a Midland Institute at Birmingham, based on a remodelling of the Philosophical Institution, and adding to it a school of industrial science, especially embracing mines and metallurgy. The corporation have appropriated a site for the Institute worth 10,000*l.*; and, on Thursday, a public meeting in the Town Hall, attended by 6000 persons, ratified the project with its approval. The meeting was addressed by Sir Robert Peel, Sir Edward Scott, Mr. Henry Cole, the Reverend Mr. Gifford, head master of the Grammar School, and others.

Two deaths occurred on Thursday. The Duke of Beaufort expired on Thursday afternoon, at his seat at Badminton, Gloucestershire. He had for a long time been an invalid, having been subject to violent attacks of gout. He was in his 61st year. During the Peninsular war he served as aide-de-camp to the Duke of Wellington. The Marquis of Worcester, eldest son of the late Duke, succeeds to the title, and by his elevation to the Peerage a vacancy is created in the representation of the Eastern division of Gloucestershire, which it is expected will be contested.

The Princess Esterhazy died at Torquay on Thursday morning, shortly after five o'clock. She was eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Jersey, and was born on the 12th of August, 1822, and married the 8th February, 1842, Prince Nicholas Esterhazy, only son of Prince Paul Esterhazy, many years Ambassador from Austria at the Court of St. James. Her two eldest children, Prince Paul and Prince Rodolph, are staying with their father at Torquay.

There were two fires yesterday, one in Holborn, the other at Newington. In both a great deal of property was destroyed.

A tall mill was burnt down at Liverpool on Thursday. The blazing tower, nine stories high, was a magnificent spectacle. By its side a granary, five stories high, was also consumed.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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.

DIPLOMATIC BUNGLING OF THE EASTERN WAR.

IN Count Nesselrode's circular, issued on the 19th of October, by way of Russian comment on the Turkish declaration of war, there is this passage:—

"We will await the attack of the Turks, without taking the initiative of hostilities. It will then depend entirely on other Powers not to widen the limits of the war, if the Turks persist in waging it against us, and not to give to it any other character than that which we mean to leave to it."

The meaning of this passage, in the place where it occurs, is plain enough. It is a hint to Great Britain and France that it will depend upon them whether the war now begun shall go on as a mere incidental dispute between Russia and Turkey, to be fought out by the two parties in a friendly way, on the narrow arena of the Principalities, or whether it shall take a wider development, and become a question of the balance of power.

The events of the last three weeks have antiquated Count Nesselrode's circular, and it is now in the waste-paper basket. The passage we have quoted from it, however, ought still to be conned over. There is a meaning in it beyond what Count Nesselrode intended. If what Russia desired with respect to the present war was, that it should be regarded as an incidental quarrel between her and Turkey, to be fought out on the arena of the Principalities, without disturbing more general relations, the Governments of France and Great Britain have shown that they are disposed to "widen the war" beyond those limits. They have declared that they assign to the Principalities-question a figure so high as to make it a question of the balance of power. But, on the other hand, just as Count Nesselrode was anxious that the limits of the war should not be widened beyond certain limits, so there are certain other limits beyond which even the Governments of Britain and France would not like, on their parts, to see it widened. The development which the Governments of France, Great Britain, and some other Western States would like to give to the present war in the East is intermediate between that which Count Nesselrode says he desired to see given to it, and that which those most vitally interested, *the peoples*, desire to see given to it. Count Nesselrode, if we may believe his word, desired to cork the war into a very small bottle; the Governments of France and Great Britain desire to cork it into a somewhat larger bottle; there are others, however, who desire to see it corked into no bottle at all, but freely following the laws of fluid ex-patiation.

While the present Government holds office in Great Britain (and, alas! who are to take their places?) it is positively certain that all British policy with respect to the war, so long as it lasts, will be directed to the object of seeing it so conducted as to produce the minimum of what is called "democratic disturbance" throughout Europe. So with the Governments of France, Prussia, and Piedmont, to say nothing of Austria, which holds a position quite peculiar in the matter. To give some kind of rebuff to Russia, more or less courteous as the case may be—this will be the *positive* aim of these Governments with regard to the war. The necessities of the situation require this; for were the Turks the Pariahs of the world, and their case never so despicable and unreasonable, it would be impossible for these Governments, for their own sakes, to wish Russia to be the winner. But if the administration of some kind of check to Russia must of necessity figure as the *positive* aim of these Governments with regard to the war, this aim will be *negatively conditioned*, if we may use the philosopher's phrase, by another aim—

that of conducting the war so as to keep down the democracies.

That this will be the case with each of the Governments individually, who can doubt? We know what our Government is. Democracy in its dictionary is synonymous with Devil. It needs no conjuror, either, to know with what face Louis Napoleon and his Government would contemplate the prospect of a democratic rising. To Prussia, as all know, the mention of democracy conveys a prophetic twinge suggestive of a process vulgarly known as royal decapitation. Lastly, how anti-democratic is the Government of Piedmont, all who know anything of that Government's relations with the rest of Italy are well aware.

So much for these Governments, one by one. The important thing, however, is—and we beg our readers to attend to it—that these Governments are not to be taken one by one in this matter; but that there is good reason to believe that there is at this moment a distinct understanding, almost a diplomatic pact, between them, binding them to aid each other in so managing this war, in their respective circles of influence, as to permit the minimum of democratic uprising in connexion with it. The Constitutionalists, the Balance-of-Power people, have subscribed for all the shares of the war among themselves, so as to exclude disagreeable partners.

This might have been anticipated; but there are direct proofs of it.

Take Hungary, for example. If the diplomatists knew what they were about, if they had anything of that "large discourse" which seems to have been denied to all their kidney, Hungary ought by this time to have been in the field. Here was a ready-made magazine of power for the speedy solution of the war. A summons from Turkey—such a summons as France and England might have permitted with a wink—would have done the business. Yet what do we see? While, in Asia, Circassians, and all the whatnots of the Caucasus, are helping the Turks to hack and hew the Russians; while remote Affghans are nudging Persia that they may go together and help their co-religionists to beat the Slave; in Europe a huge Hungarian force of insurrection, separated but by a paper wall from the scene of the war, is lying idle and unemployed. Kossuth is still in London. How account for this? Clearly, the diplomatists want no help from that quarter; they want to conduct the war on genteel principles, to make it slide in a narrow groove, and would rather not have the foul company of a Hungarian democracy. Can it be true, as was reported, that the assisting Powers, through Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, exacted a promise from the Porte that they would conduct the war so as not to damage Austria, by creating Hungarian or Polish revolt in her dominions? The promise, if made, cannot, in the nature of things, be kept. If the war lasts, Hungary, whether invited or not, *must* take the field; Kossuth, whether a Sultan's letter comes to him or not, *must* go where the tones of his voice, heard over Hungarian churchyards, will call the very dead to arms. But why this delay, but that diplomacy has paralyzed a natural movement?

In Italy the case is even more plain, the facts even more glaring. Italy is farther off than Hungary from the scene of the war, but there is an underground connexion between them; and the natural result of the Wallachian war, if it lasts, is a sympathetic rising of Italian democracy. Diplomacy knows this, and what is it doing? Why, it is guarding against the contingency. It is paralyzing Italy beforehand. The Piedmontese Government is the immediate agent; France and Great Britain are conniving; France is also acting directly. For some months the Piedmontese Government has been carrying on a systematic persecution against the Mazzinians, or men of the national party, without any show of reason connected with its own security. Arrests and expatriations of men of this party, or of Republican sentiments, have been going on at an unexampled rate in Piedmont. The object undoubtedly is to disperse or disable the *personnel* of the national party, to eliminate its flower and strength, to cut off the poppy-heads, against the approaching period of action. The same thing is going on in the other parts of Italy, especially in the Roman States, where the arrests have been on an unusually large scale, and so exclusively among the eminent Mazzinians as to make it clear that a Piedmontese agency of denunciation

is at work, and a systematic process on foot for rooting out the Mazzinian leaders, and them only, over the entire Peninsula. Some curious information on this head is contained in the November number of the *Monthly Record of the Society of the Friends of Italy*, just published. Facts tending in the same direction are—the proposals of the French Government to strengthen their hold in the Roman States by increasing their army there; and the recent attempts of the French in Rome to gain popularity among the citizens. Clearly the meaning of it all is, that if the war extends to Italy the conduct of the war in that peninsula shall be left to the Piedmontese and French Governments, acting in concert, and unembarrassed by Mazzini and the real national patriotism. Nor is there wanting reason to believe that Downing-street knows all about this, and is quite on an understanding in the matter with Piedmont and France. It is said that among the most active of those who are secretly disseminating in the Papal States the notion of trusting the conduct of the future Italian war to the monarchy of Piedmont, and not to the native democracy, is one of our own British consular agents.

When we consider what is the real motive of all this, so far as our own Government is concerned, we find that, underlying the general and vague horror of democracy which afflicts our own and every other government, there is a more specific and palpable political reason. Examine all the speeches and all the antecedents of all our Ministers, and you will find that they are all infected to the very core with what we consider the most wretched political fallacy of our time—the notion that the conservation of Austria as a European power is necessary and desirable. The ruinous ingredient in the foreign policy of Great Britain is this paltry notion of the necessity of conserving Austria. Give us a statesman who places the phrase, *Delenda est Austria*, in the foreground of his policy, and we will pardon that statesman almost any crime, and pronounce him to be the man fittest for the Foreign Office. But no such man is forthcoming. On the contrary, there is no man among our present Ministers who will not get up and talk, to-morrow, the old everlasting rubbish, about the necessity of having Austria as a preponderant power in the map to balance against Russia. Are men blind? Austria to balance against Russia! Why, what is Austria? Austria is nothing in herself; she is no country, no nation. There is no mountain-range, no tract of wheat-plain or desert, no distinct fragment of humanity, which the God of the world has christened by the name of Austria. Russia is a country, France is a country, Spain is a country; but there is not such a thing, geographically or ethnographically, as Austria. What we call Austria is a factitious bureaucratic union of four or five nationalities, or fragments of nationalities, struggling to be asunder. Snap the bureaucratic strings, and the fragments will fly apart—what of German blood there is attaching itself to Germany, Lombardy rushing towards Italy, Hungary forming a power by itself, the Slavonian populations grouping themselves round their Polish, their Bohemian, and their Illyrian centres. And this is the power to balance against Russia! You have four or five dogs, strong mastiffs all, to keep off a robber from your house; and what you do is to spiggot them together, tie their legs with strings of red tape, and place the ends of the strings in the hands of the robber himself. Oh! that we had some political invention among us. Oh! that we had some man to see what is as plain as maps can make it, that what is necessary for that "balance of power," about which diplomatists talk so much, is nothing else than a rearrangement of the Eastern nations according to their natural tendencies—not an Austria requiring perpetual bolstering up and perpetual patches of sticking-plaster, but a self-sufficient Poland, a self-sufficient Hungary, and a Czeckish or Bohemian confederacy.

The desire to conserve Austria, we say, explains our own diplomatic bungling and secret conduct with a view to the war. It is desirable to preserve Austria; therefore we do not call Hungary into action. It is desirable to preserve Austria; therefore we are conniving with Piedmont and France to land over the impending Italian war to their guidance. While France pours her forces into the Papal States and Naples, so as to effect a French conquest of the south of Italy,

Piedmont, renewing the Carlo-Alberto game, will do the fighting against Austria in Lombardy and Tuscany, to prevent others from doing it, who might do it more dangerously for existing monarchical and bureaucratic interests. Then, at the end of the chapter, when the diplomatists make up their books, France will be allowed to keep her conquest of the South, and Piedmont will be obliged to disgorge the main part of her Lombard conquest, if she has made any, back to Austria, getting as her reward an Italian Duchy or some such extension of her territories. And so, if Diplomacy succeeds, the eternal vicious circle will move on repeating itself, and wars will never cease.

CONCERT IN THE COAL CELLAR.

"PATER-FAMILIAS" writes angry letters to the *Times*, demanding why the price of coals has advanced. Last year he was paying twenty-two shillings a ton, and now he cannot warm his fingers at less than thirty-two shillings for the same quantity. It is evident that "Pater-familias" has never been in the north of England, or that if he has he has come away and seen nothing. The position occupied by coalowners, the condition of the pitmen, the causes which regulate the price of coal, are a riddle to the unhappy Londoner, who can understand a rise in the price of bread, but is fairly baffled by an advance in the price of coal.

To the monks who were searching for a place in which they might deposit the body of St. Cuthbert, the neighbourhood of Durham offered irresistible attractions, and no one can quarrel with their choice. Now, as then, the City of Durham possesses remarkable advantages of position and scenery. But a strange contrast is presented by the surrounding country. Its beauties are confined to a few favoured spots, while the remaining portions have been freely sacrificed to coal. Coal is the great idol of the north. Its presence is felt everywhere. Travel where you will you cannot escape from it. The trains which intersect the northern district flash rapidly through a country black, hideous, and desolate by day, but which night converts into a range of fire-heaps. The houses are built from coal; the ships are laden with it; it forms the universal subject of conversation; it has changed Newcastle into the metropolis of the north, and is one great secret of the prosperity of the empire.

But it would be foolish to imagine that coalowners are always successful, and never fail to accumulate large fortunes. The history of coal-owning in the North of England is as full of tales of ruin and distress as the history of any other trade or speculation. At this moment, there are pits which cannot be worked, and pits which would be worked if capital were forthcoming. A few years ago, speculation in coal was synonymous with bankruptcy. None but those who had a supply of accumulated capital could survive a crisis which ruined thousands. The effects of that over-speculation still press heavily upon the coalowners. Time has not yet been allowed for recovery, and, in spite of the more favourable turn which affairs have taken, many years must elapse before the injury then inflicted can be repaired. Besides, the recent impulse which has been given to the coal trade has brought with it fresh demands from the pitmen, who seek to share in the prosperity of their masters. And never was there a race of men more difficult to deal with than the miners of the north. It is in their power to make enormous wages; but they prefer indolence to work when a less amount of labour will satisfy their demands. Five days in a fortnight is sometimes the whole extent of labour which the pitman will persuade himself to undergo. He is exposed to risks above those of men engaged in other occupations. He lives, during his hours of work, almost in the face of death, for a breath of wind may spread destruction in an instant over many miles of ground. The children are sent so early into the pit that the men grow up in greater barbarism than any other class of persons in the country. Nothing will persuade a pitman to work an hour longer than he chooses, in times when the value of labour to the master is incalculable. At this time, when "Pater-familias" is complaining of the price of coals, the owners are paying wages up to the advanced standard, and are unable to transport their coals for want of ships, and to produce them for want of labour. This is the

simple state of the case, and if "Pater-familias" would take a journey to the north, and see the actual condition of the coalowner, and the number of collieries which he might buy up, if he wished, he would probably cease to complain.

No doubt it is a very hard thing to pay thirty-two shillings a ton for coal; but who is to blame for it? It is quite as much a subject for discontent that coal should have cost twenty-two shillings a ton last year, as that it should now cost thirty-two shillings. The whole difficulty arises from an original want of concert between the coalowners and the Londoners. There is a huge bed of coal in the north of England, and some thousands of coal-cellars in the metropolis. Two processes are requisite: to bring the coal to the mouth of the pit, and convey it to the coal-cellars. In the performance of this second process there has been the greatest bungling conceivable, and hence the numerous complaints about the price of coal. First of all, there are no ships; gold has beaten coal out of the market, and our Australian emigrants have monopolized the merchant fleets of England. Railways are utterly useless; so much money has been spent on their construction, that directors are positively unable to make arrangements for the conveyance of goods, which, under other circumstances, would have paid shareholders, and conferred a benefit on the public. Again, fancy more than the necessity of trade has had the principal share in the selection of lines of country. We wanted a railway from Newcastle to London, and we have lines from Harrogate to Ripon, and an infinity of others of a similar description, which serve only to perpetuate the short-sighted folly of directors. When, therefore, we complain about the price of our coals, it is only fair to remember that we are paying the penalty of previous improvidence, and an obstinate refusal "to make both ends meet."

THE TRUTH ABOUT CUBA.

THE Government of Cuba is one of those that can't bear discussion, and accordingly; as the *Daily News* discusses Cuba, that journal is hateful to the local Government; which prohibits its admission to the island. With our contemporary we have differed strongly on the subjects that come uppermost in Cuba; but we cannot fail to recognise the great ability with which his journal is conducted, nor to express our sense that his exclusion from Cuba is a proof of the service which he has done in throwing light on the iniquitous government of that colony. When so many interests, great and small, are engaged in promoting a *bad* intelligence between England and America, it is not opinion that we want, but facts; and happily we have facts.

The *Daily News* supplies an important share of those facts. Our readers will remember the cock-and-bull story of English designs on Cuba—a project to Africanise the island, and then emancipate it, in order to render it a nuisance to the United States. Our own opinion on that story has already been expressed: it is a newspaper "canard," got up for effect at the moment; but mischievous men, who would like to embarrass General Pierce's Government, or to sow dissension between England and America, improve the opportunity. The first explanation is supplied from Cuba itself, in the correspondence of the *Daily News*, which states that the plan of freeing the Blacks by a form of apprenticeship is nothing better than one to continue slavery in a form as effective for the owner, while it may escape some of the attack which slavery undergoes when it is called by that name.

This is clear enough; but there is yet further explanation. One part of the story was, that the British Ambassador at Madrid was negotiating a conspiracy between France, England, and Spain, for the purpose mentioned above. A Virginian gentleman—Mr. Corbin—has taken a straight road to a knowledge of the truth, and asked Lord Howden himself how it stands. Lord Howden replies by a categorical explanation of what he has been doing—endeavouring to obtain performance of Spanish promises in declaring slave-trade piracy, in setting free those Negroes who have ludicrously been called *Emancipados*, and in otherwise honestly doing the exact reverse of what Spain has been doing. Lord Howden's letter will scarcely be needed by our own readers for their enlightenment, but it is satisfactory as a direct and authenticated contradiction of the idle tales so industriously circulated at Washington. Men may differ as to the expediency of

all that Lord Howden has been labouring to do, just as they may object to that blockading squadron which does not so much keep down the slave-trade in Africa or Cuba as serve to set down a King Kossoko and to set up a King Docemo in Africa, and to undergo the studied insults from the officers of her Majesty's ally in Cuba. But there can be no question that Lord Howden and his superiors are pursuing exactly that course which they have long been pursuing, and in which they have been countenanced by successive Governments of the United States.

The case is a good pendant to that of Mr. Hamilton and Lord Malmesbury, as an illustration of diplomacy. Certain stories are circulated in Washington, the very *belief* in which is injurious to the common interests of England and America. The ordinary rule would have been to take no notice of those tales, just as polite people look unmoved when some vulgar fellow blurts out indecorous language in company; and if by chance some busy man should point out the rumours to a diplomatist of the old stamp, he would receive a courteous, cutting reply, implying that none but idlers read newspapers. Lord Howden knows better. He is well aware that England and America are not likely to disagree if they really understand the facts between them, and, not content with answering Mr. Corbin's question, he puts the answer in a form as complete and explicit as possible, telling exactly what is and what is not the fact. Diplomacy has no friendships; but Lord Howden, being a hearty, straightforward man, does not think that the truth will be obscured in American or English sight, by letting it be seen that he is on terms of friendship with "my dear Corbin"—on terms of frank, unstudied familiarity. Diplomatic reserve is probably outraged at these direct proceedings, but to us it appears likely that England and America have gained additional security by this frank and unreserved declaration of the simple truth. Certainly no one fancies that Mr. Corbin or Lord Howden is the worse citizen; because both men have the faculty of speaking point-blank to each other, have a mutual esteem, and appreciate the force of the truth.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

NOTWITHSTANDING our self-grumbling we are really beginning to apply the precept for the physician to cure himself. Cholera has at last done something for sanitary reform; railway collisions have brought forth an official scheme for railway governance; proverbial confusion in law has induced an effort to set it in order; and agriculture has at last consented to assist in seeking some information about itself and its produce. Lord Ashburton has written to teach the new philosophers of Hampshire, that in seeking statistics Government seeks to impose no new tax; and Mr. Philip Pusey has written to Lord Ashburton to point out the expediency of rendering statistical returns uniform, year after year, in order that they may show the comparative increase of produce. It is probable that at last agriculture will begin to understand broadly all that it can do for itself, by higher labour, better machinery, and drainage commensurate with the want of drainage. A quarterly contemporary sees in the rain which has unceasingly brimmed our streams a proof for agriculturists, experimentally, of the impolicy of submitting in passive supineness to an occasional deluge without providing outlets for the waters. The necessity indeed was known, and the difficulties to be overcome are not all of an engineering kind. The difficulty lies in the "interests," and it is they that perplex calculation. As the *British Quarterly Review* says:—"When we come to the actual performance of the work, we meet a host of rights and interests conflicting upon the banks of our stream; mills mentioned in Domesday refuse to lose their water power; navigation or canal companies will not have their 'head' in any way lowered; irrigators of meadows demand our non-interference with their drains and 'carriers'; towns obstinately oppose our alteration of their strangulating bridges and wharves; and even a large portion of those lands we seek to benefit, persist in declaring their satisfaction with the present state of things, miserable as it is, and their disbelief in the ultimate profitableness of the expenditure to be incurred."

Nothing could have proved the want of drainage or illustrated the difficulty better than Ireland; where they demand it, they have it, they

grumble at it, and decline to pay for it. Not long since, certain proprietors interested in land-drains instituted proceedings against the Board of Works in the law courts of Dublin, and the Master of the Rolls severely animadverted upon the Board for the unconstitutional and arbitrary nature of their acts; "an Irish Star Chamber," he called it. A Star Chamber, also popular opinion was very much inclined to call this great instrument for the redemption of Irish lands. Lord Rosse had procured a committee of the House of Lords to expose the abuse; and on the recommendation of that committee, which had an Irish difficulty in arriving at a conclusion, Commissioners were appointed to investigate some of the districts marked by excess of expenditure and of dissatisfaction. The Commissioners discovered that estimates had been greatly exceeded; one estimate, for example, of works which were to cost 186,916*l.*, proved in fact to have cost 106,616*l.* more; and the proprietors who assented to the lower expenditure complained of being mulcted for the larger. The Commissioners could not get over the difficulty better than by suggesting that the imperial exchequer should bear the balance; a short cut from Irish dissatisfaction. There are technical reasons why the Irish proprietors had some show of justice in their complaint; nevertheless, the species of absurdity in expecting exact estimates in cases where unforeseen difficulties beneath the soil, or in the fluctuations of the weather, may entail great excess of expense. The removal of Mr. Malony, the commissioner in charge of the drainage department from the Board of Works, implies some dissatisfaction in the administration; yet it is impossible to treat Commissioners who have the conduct of great works of such kind as persons buying and selling an ascertained commodity, and bound by their "bargain," like Antonio to Shylock. It was a complaint that the Act embodied arbitrary clauses; but official departments must have power, and the question is, not whether such works can be reduced beforehand to an exact estimate of expenses, but whether it is on the whole beneficial to invoke the power of the Executive.

Now it is not only obvious, but confessed, that individual proprietors cannot effect the grand drainage of their own estates. Physical geography does not know individual proprietors; and streams will not flow or stop with any respect for the rights of property. If individual proprietors wish their lands to be drained they must combine, and render their association harmonious to the physical geography of the district. They want a machinery, therefore, which must be independent of their own individual caprices and changeable moods; and unless county boards should supply such a machinery for a majority once voted, upon the principle of self-government, a still higher authority appears no more than sufficient for the purpose.

The Commissioners who exhibited these difficulties in Ireland, also brought forth proofs of the immense advantage which results from drainage on a great scale. In the Strokestown district the Board expended 36,000*l.* Before drainage the land was never cultivated, and most of it paid no rent. The works were partly executed in 1848, and the lands were then, for the first time, put under cultivation. Between that period and 1853, the gross value of the crops raised off this hitherto fallow and unwholesome waste, was 47,407*l.*; and the net profit, after paying all expenses, amounted to 29,214*l.*; nearly clearing off, in that short period, the whole cost of the works. There have been valuable improvements in Lincolnshire—witness "the Fens," whose name records the improvements effected in past times. A similar kind of improvement has redeemed much land on the Danube, for the profit of the Bulgarians; and the question is, whether the very completeness and multiplicity of rights enjoyed by the English agriculturist will bar him from enjoying benefits achieved by his forefathers in ruder times, or by barbarians in his own. We have long known that we want drainage—we have long known that we cannot get out of our land all that we might, until we drain; but the question is, whether we have yet arrived at that amount of self-knowledge which would result in the clear conviction and *will* to go and get the work done. If we have, it will be necessary to use the example of Ireland for imitation, where it shows us the profit of work done; and to use the same example for avoidance, where it shows

the effects of a narrow or litigious spirit in impeding every machinery which we set at work.

IN re HAMILTON: LORD MALMESBURY'S DEFENCE.

THE case against Lord Malmesbury may be taken from his own account. He complains that Mr. Hamilton's story is so "loose and inexact" as to vitiate its truth, and then he tells the story of himself:—

"When I first heard from Sir William of the brutal outrage committed by the Neapolitan police upon Mr. Hamilton's scholars, and of the breach of treaties against Mr. Hamilton himself, my first and paramount duty was to oblige this Italian State officially to acknowledge that British subjects residing at Naples possessed an indefeasible right to visit and receive one another in their own houses, for all objects of social intercourse and of religious and secular education. There never could be a question that the Neapolitan Government had indisputable power over the acts and education of its own subjects, and that beyond a private expression of my opinion I could not interfere with them. I did, therefore, exact from the Neapolitan Government an official recognition of that right; and, more than this, I obtained from it, that a British school which had hitherto existed, as they stated, by connivance and forbearance, should be hereafter publicly authorized and established under the protection of the British Mission."

This seems excellently done, but what are the "fruits?" Lord Malmesbury himself pronounced the conduct of the Neapolitan policy "brutal;" he asserts the right of a British subject to keep a British school; he says that he secured that right. Being publicly recognised, was the right freely exercised?—was it maintained?—was the brutal conduct of the police checked? On the contrary, the police interfered more brutally than ever, and the right was forcibly suppressed. Here, then, we gather, on the statement of the British Minister himself, that a right which had been exercised upon sufferance, and that he caused to be recognised, as if only for the purpose of suppressing it in fact, by a violence which he justly calls brutal. What is this but to drag the British nation in to the indignity in which Mr. Hamilton was involved?

Lord Malmesbury then enters into an examination of dates to show that he had only "heard" of Mr. Hamilton's claim in August, the school having closed in July. "The whole affair was settled on the 16th December," and he quitted office on the 28th of that month; it was, therefore, not eight but four months during which Lord Malmesbury had heard of it. But as Lord Malmesbury entered office in February, 1853, we can only suppose that he did not "hear" of it sooner, because he did not ask about it. He also says that Mr. Hamilton stated his annual profits at 200*l.* a year, "and he now puts them at 700*l.*;" but Mr. Hamilton's claim is not on the score of profits. He was forced to break up his school abruptly; and, as any man in any commercial transaction will find, an abrupt closing of business leaves the current account deficient on the credit side as compared with the debtor's. "This," says Lord Malmesbury, after the paragraph we have just quoted, "is my reply to the statement 'that the only fruit of my interference was fifty pounds given to Mr. Hamilton.'" Now, Mr. Hamilton does not state that as the only fruit: he says that Lord Malmesbury unwarrantably accepted 100*l.* for an injury which is stated at 500*l.* But Lord Malmesbury on some very "loose and inexact" survey of the case "considered a sum of 100*l.* the due compensation for his loss." It is evident, however, that Lord Malmesbury considers the official recognition of a right as the solid fruit of his intervention, a right recognised to be violated in the teeth of the English nation as well as of the schoolmaster.

We have not yet heard the whole of the case. "I shall probably," says Lord Malmesbury, "at the next meeting of Parliament, move for the production of the correspondence which took place between the Foreign Office and the Neapolitan Government upon this subject." But how are we to be assured that "the correspondence" will not consist of "extracts?" Or even if it be entire in the series of official documents, how are we to know what passed in "private" notes? which, as Prince Carini says, usually tell the truth. There is, indeed, no security; for although Lord Malmesbury declares the conversation to have been an invention, we have on too many occasions had reason to observe the mass of private correspondence which lies under a double veil, beneath the outer veil of that secret diplo-

macy with which English affairs are conducted. And how are these affairs conducted? We see the Minister of the Crown forcing the recognition of a right, in order to let it be violated, and avowing the indignity offered to a British subject, and to the British nation, as a thing to be redressed by money!

PRINCE ALBERT.

A CORRESPONDENT complains of the manner in which we have recognised certain merits in the Prince Consort, and we are induced to print his letter, because we believe it expresses feeling very common amongst many of a class for whom we have a great respect, and whom we desire to understand our real meaning—the working-classes:—

"DEAR SIR,—The illustrious person above mentioned has been frequently adverted to in your journal of late, and lavish encomiums have been paid to him; he has been set forth not only as a man of the age, but as a man in advance of the age; not only as an individual who sympathises with the people, but as a man who desires their social and political elevation, and acknowledges the equality and fraternity of the race; in short as a man thoroughly imbued with democratic sentiments.

"Now, sir, however beautiful this may appear in print, I humbly conceive the position of the man will not warrant the assertion. Is it to be supposed that the consort of the most powerful sovereign in the world, who has the prospect of being father to a long line of princes, should be so blind to his own and their interests as to use his influence to destroy the sources from which it is customary to seek alliances? Is it not much more probable that he will throw the whole weight of British influence (at his disposal) into the scale of the aristocracy, and strive to keep the reigning families upon their thrones? Indeed, judging from the countenance which Britain has as yet given to the cause of the people in the struggling nations of the continent, we must conclude that Government, however liberal, is the inveterate enemy of democracy. This is Kossuth's conclusion, and indeed the only one that could be drawn from the facts.

A GLASGOW READER."

Our friend misconceives our statement, and the actual statement of the Prince himself. He specifies certain very desirable objects, the social and political elevation of a people, and assumes that those objects are packed up in the one word "democratic." Now, it is a fact that the same objects have been sought by men who were not in any sense democratic in their principles. The word democratic means "belonging to an opinion that the entire bulk of the people ought to be the governing power;" a political proposition which we will not now discuss, but which is quite separate from the objects mentioned by our correspondent. Many persons believe that the social and political elevation of the people, even the equality of the race, can be better attained under aristocracy, or even autocracy, than under democracy: and history supplies materials for discussing rather than for settling that question. It may, indeed, be said that the only genuine democracy ever witnessed in the history of the world is that of the United States of America; while the rule of many aristocratic governments—such as that of England, or of Venice at its best—has resulted in very general happiness; and the nearest approach to social equality has been attained under the absolute despotism of the Mussulman system, which recognises no distinction except the possession of power,—and where the beggar of to-day may to-morrow change places with the Pasha, the possession of politico-military power conveys but a social distinction.

The reason why we consider Prince Albert as one of the men in the vanguard of the age was before our readers. We regard his principles as set forth particularly in the speech which he delivered at the Mansion House, in March, 1850 (not 1849, as we erroneously stated). If we ascribe undue merit to the author of that speech, the reader was able to correct it, since we supplied him with the data. Whoever the author of that speech was, we say that he is a man who understands the relations between a truly catholic religion, the most cultivated and scientific philosophy, and the industrial tendency of the present day. We believe Prince Albert to have been the author of that speech, from the internal evidence offered by many other addresses which he has delivered; and believing so, we believe that he has grasped the great idea of the age.

The fact that the author is a Prince does not prevent us from recognising the living force of the words. Truth is vital, whether it come from

the lips of prophet, peasant, or prince; and no bigotry of class can close our ears to the fact, that the man who utters these sentiments is a man capable of appreciating truth in all its greatness.

The position of the man does not modify the truth, which is greater than the man is. But what Prince Albert may "probably" do we cannot judge; we expressly concurred with those who say that he ought not to have a statue, because the whole of his conduct is not yet before us, but what he has done in "the cause of the people," or of the "struggling nations," we are glad to be ignorant. Prince Albert's position cuts him off from interfering with politics, foreign or domestic; by the principle of our constitution the Sovereign is irresponsible, but can only act through Ministers who are themselves responsible, and we do not desire to see that responsibility of Ministers diminished by their sharing it with the Crown.

If Prince Albert were to meddle in "the cause of the people" he would commit a crime. He can do nothing save that which is permitted to a private gentleman of high rank. But whether he be public or private, whether he commit any crime in future or adhere to the modest course to which he has hitherto confined himself, we still say, that the speech of March, 1850, comprises in it a few words of sublime truth which will immortalize him far longer than any statue of bronze or stone.

THE GOVERNING CLASSES.

No. X.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the leading journal, being a gentleman who rides in hack cabs, and therefore cannot enjoy the parks of a free metropolis, complains that Buckingham Palace is more mysteriously exclusive than an eastern seraglio; and he points out that if Buckingham Palace were in either of those despotically governed capitals, Paris or Vienna, the grounds of the royal residence would be open to the public. "Hack Cab," in short, is horribly annoyed that her Majesty and the Prince like to have their house and garden to themselves; his obvious tendency being to insist that the mob should have the right of entrée to all the private apartments of the Palace; and that Victoria's faithful subjects should enjoy the privilege which Marie Antoinette's subjects assumed—of seeing every night whether the children had really been put to bed. But the "Hack Cab" class of Englishmen betray, in these despicable impertinences to the Sovereign who cannot answer them, a pitiable miscomprehension of the spirit and position of the British Court. That gloomy and austere exclusiveness of the gardens which so offends the prying and pushing "Hack Cab," is in perfect keeping with the tone of the Court; and if the grounds were made public the privacy of the audience-chamber would disappear: the Reynoldses would follow the Boy Joneses. The British Crown is so respected because the British Court is so exclusive; and the exclusiveness is requisite in a capital which is a commercial capital of shifting principles and uncertain aristocracies. The Grand Monarque might use the tweezers in his dressing saloon at Versailles, in the presence of two hundred French gentlemen; but then they were gentlemen in as well as ascertained positions as his own, who had had Seurs, Ducs, and Comtes before them, and who would leave (it was thought) endless lives of precisely the same personages after them. Edward the handsome might stroll through Cheapside, to see the citizen's wives behind their lattices; Charles might saunter down the Bird-cage-walk to feed his ducks and air his dogs, and walk off his last night's orgie; and George, the country gentleman king, might show himself, with one of the unpleasantest old ladies in Christendom on his arm, to his loving subjects who could get within sight of the terrace at Windsor. These were days when Kings were kings by grace of God, as the loyal believed, and when society was kept down in stiff demarcations. But in these days Courts have to be circumspect; they think that familiarity breeds contempt; and so it does when the familiars are contemptible. Joseph of Austria set a terrible example of *bonhomie* to continental sovereigns; and that free and easy style of royalty has destroyed the principle of monarchy in Germany. Haroun al Raschid is not a model for a European king, for Haroun al Raschid was always followed in his peregrinations by an aide who was an adept at the bow-

string. We see that the *parvenu* Emperor of France, while affecting a belief in a new set of royal ideas, goes back to the traditional etiquette of the *ancien regime*, and if he can't have gentlemen has at least gentlemen's dresses, and shutting himself up with them in his palaces never shows himself to the people. Our Court can afford to throw off the restraints of etiquette when out of town; and we all admired Queen Victoria more than ever when we heard how she went about gossiping with the peasants in the Highlands, or how she scampered up to Dargan's house and shook him heartily by the hand. But in "town" boy Jones must be handed over to the police, and Reynolds must be ignored; every act is a precedent, and rigid routine is self-defence. We have no aristocracy to constitute "the Court" proper, and in a commercial capital royalty would be compromised by cultivating the casual Robinson who has made a great fortune, and opened a great house—for Robinson may be in the *Gazette* next year, or may take advantage of courtesy to propose a statue. Our Court, under the influence of one of the most accomplished men of the age, encourages arts and letters; and proof that Prince Albert is a great man, is in the pleasing circumstance that when he leaves the routine of a prescribed list he seeks the society of successful writers, artists, and savants. But these are exceptions sustaining the rule—that the British Court is the most exclusive Court in Europe. Hence extensive popular ignorance of the Court; extreme vagueness in speaking of the royal family; and immense inevitable error in the popular opinion of the most influential of all our Governing Classes.

Fuseli said, that there were many reasons why Petrarch was not popular in England, but that the principal reason was that the English knew nothing of Italian. There are several reasons why the subordinate members of the royal family of England are not popular; but the principal reason is that the people know nothing of those royal persons but their names. There is a *Court Circular* to give us a cipher to explain the national affection for the Queen; and we can, at least, deal with Prince Albert historically, and judge of him as we would of Prince Rupert—from what we can make out of his acts. But what can the people know of the public characters they pay for who lead a profoundly private life? When they are dead and gone we make surprising discoveries; and the other day we found Mr. Landon remarking quietly that the Duke of York, who was generally cheered in the street and caressed in society was a "swindler"—the very man who was declared by three Bishops as the "only hope of a Protestant land." There can be no doubt that he was as surprising a scamp as ever lived; but should we not have known that at the time, or before we put up the monument that stands in Waterloo-place, London, like a note of exclamation upon British enlightenment and Protestant faith. He had a large salary for a long time; as had also their Royal Highnesses, his brothers and sisters, who perhaps, on the whole, were scarcely worth what they cost—being, as a family, perhaps the least respectable of all families who ever enjoyed the privileges of this free and happy land. The perfect secretiveness of royal personages as often does them harm as good: for, as in the case of the Duke of Cumberland, a frightened public easily gets into the habit of believing anything bad of a man who, in the beginning, got a bad name, and was never frank enough to explain it away,—a Reynolds only finding opportunity for the mysteries of a court which is mysterious. If a gentleman of taste and authority is hear-heard in turning her Majesty's moles "swindlers," we may rapidly get used to that sort of candour: and there are a few things to be said of an extremely painful character both of the gentlemen and the ladies who spring from the union of George III. and Charlotte: it's historical injustice; but it's a pity we have to wait till men are dead to attack them—being, besides, too late to reform them. We ought to be encouraged by Mr. Landon to courage and candour towards the living illustrious. There was poor Mr. Hunt sent to prison for mentioning that his Majesty George IV. was an Adonis of fifty, or something of that sort: and though we have progressed so far as to be able to suggest now that he was an unworthy King—or as Mr. Landon, who is forcible, says, a "swindler"—we are not much bolder with his relatives who survive—even when we know posi-

tive discreditable facts. We are a moral and a religious people; but we assented complacently to the ennoblement and endowment of the illegitimate children of King William; and should, indeed, feel flattered to be noticed by them in society. We admire Thurlow for attacking "the accident of an accident," and we wonder at the profligacy of English manners when Charles the Second could make his bastards Dukes; but we were by no means astonished when a gentleman whose pedigree didn't go beyond the delightful Mrs. Jordan, was made an Earl; and the other day we witnessed without horror a high Indian command conferred upon that nobleman's younger brother (an energetic officer), also a Lord by "courtesy" of a generation of what Mr. Thackeray calls "snobs." Our Queen recognises those cousins, and why should not we? We should be shocked if we were asked to dinner to meet the Gräfin von Lansfeldt, but there are a couple of British Dukes who are descendants of celebrated prostitutes, who are not ashamed of their origin, and we as a people are rather proud of them, or else we shouldn't pay, as we do annually to this day, for the maintenance of their dignity. We are, therefore, very tolerant of Royal foibles, and it is to be regretted that we are not more confided in by our contemporary Princes of the Blood. We are very glad to see them when they come among us "public." Perhaps a less brilliant or less fascinating old gentleman than the late Duke of Cambridge never existed; but we loved him, he came so often to our public dinners, and on those occasions used the privileges of his nearness to the throne to mangle her Majesty's English. In the same way the Duke of Sussex, who was also condescending, was a very popular man; and we deeply regretted our laws which prevented him marrying his mistress, as his brother George did.

However unworthy a royal duke might be, we would like him; and a royal duke would, consequently, lose nothing by letting us know the truth about him. We had a strong suspicion in George the Fourth's lifetime that he was an objectionable gentleman; but we can remember how we cheered him, particularly in Ireland. The Duke of Cumberland got on, despite his reputation, and all good Protestants wept when he was found out in an Orange conspiracy.

The Duke of Cambridge of the present period costs the country about 30,000*l.* a year; and we are really entitled to know a little of so expensive a Prince. He ought to come to our dinners and our meetings, not that we should find out anything about him then, but that we like to see our princes, if only as figures in the pageants of our public proceedings. Archbishop Whately could succeed in proving that there never was a Napoleon Bonaparte, and would have little difficulty in demonstrating that the Duke of Cambridge is a myth. He has been seen in a private box at a theatre, and rode a great many people down on the day of his first battle—the Wellington funeral; but doubts about his existence would have their justification. In a few years he will have the Horse Guards; and then we can go and satisfy ourselves any day at four o'clock, that our best dragoon officer—(he really rides people down very well)—is really a royal Duke. But, meanwhile, it would be well if he threw himself into some movement of the day which would bring him occasionally face to face with the people. We are much obliged to him for commanding a cavalry regiment and ranging a park or two (before dinner); but Prince Albert commands regiments and ranges parks also; and finds time to be the leader in the great movement of the century. A royal Duke should have a pronounced character,—even if only a character for liking dinners; and the present Duke of Cambridge is unfortunate in that his name conveys no idea of personality to the enquiring popular mind. Nobody will be bold enough to object when he succeeds Lord Hardinge; but it will nevertheless be felt by a self-governed nation that it ought to know a little about the man who fills the office which has been held in turn by Hill, Wellington, and Hardinge.

With respect to the "rest of the Royal Family," who could tell even their names? But I have drank their health very often; and am quite sure that the toast, as the Chairman always observes, needs no introduction;—that is to say, that as we know nothing about them, we had better continue respectful and solemnly silent. At the toast is always drunk with

three times three, we may conclude that that is the number of the persons we reverence,—which is something to be sure of.

NON-ELECTOR.

RUSSIAN SERFDOM.

[CONCLUDING ARTICLE.]

Just before I left Russia, in 1846, a trial peculiar to those latitudes was creating great excitement in Moscow. A Prince, possessing large domains in the province of Ozel, had one of his serfs flogged. The serf died under the punishment. According to custom, a priest and his deacon, attended by the Sacristan, were present at the burial, and drew up the registry certificate of the man's death. The good priest signed; the good deacon signed the said certificate; but lo, on perusing their joint declaration, the Sacristan made the remark that this was not a case of natural death, but a murder. The priest stared in amazement at the observation, and endeavoured to convince him of his error, and to persuade him to sign. The Sacristan obstinately persisted in his refusal. As soon as the Prince was informed of this difficulty, presuming that the Sacristan would scarcely let such a good opportunity slip without improving it, he sent the poor wretch a few hundred roubles. Still the Sacristan held out, and calling on the priest and deacon to attest the bribe, he disappeared from thence, to re-appear at Ozel, where he penetrated into the presence of his archbishop, and to him related the affair. The archbishop, unprepared for such an emergency, wrote to consult the governor, and the superior priest of the district. Now, the governor of Ozel happened to be a near relative of the murderer. It may be imagined he spared no effort to hush up the affair altogether; but the inflexible Sacristan stuck fast to his allegations. The affair got abroad, and placed the police in a situation of considerable embarrassment, for the crime was but too evident. The secret police gave information of the whole story to the Emperor. The governor was removed; the inquest resumed on a different footing; proof after proof established the fact that the Prince of Trubeskoï and his wife had been in the habit of practising the most abominable cruelties towards their serfs. Subterranean dungeons were discovered in the seigneurial mansion, in which prisoners languished in chains. Dungeons and irons, it should be understood, are equally foreign to Russian customs. The Prince was tried, condemned, degraded, deprived of all his titles, and, accompanied by his worthy helpmate, packed off to Siberia. Nor did the Emperor stop there, but ordered all the marshals of the district, since the installation of the Prince in his domains, to be tried for the crime. As might be expected, however, this measure was not carried out. Ch—, the then Minister of Justice, was among these marshals, and the matter was not pushed any further, out of deference for one of the most mediocre of administrators.

The relations between the nobles and the peasants are anything but sound. Indeed they are as strained and insecure as reciprocal distrust can make them. The patriarchal relations of which Haxthausen speaks, where then did he find them? The great lords, in the time of Catherine II., treated their peasantry with a sort of aristocratic consideration and tutelary regard; the small proprietors also, because they had not yet cast off the manners of the peasants, among whom they lived in extreme simplicity. But the succeeding generation separated themselves more and more from the peasants, and from their simple manners. Civilization suggested to the nobility new wants, and with these wants new ways and means. The developments of industry and manufactures, the diffusion of the principles of political economy adapted to local habits, furnished fresh means of utilising the peasants. The seigneur, that "patriarch," that "chief of the clan," that "father of the commune," from an aristocrat became by degrees manufacturer, planter, slaveowner.

Mr. Haxthausen has seen all this, and is as well aware of it as I can be, but in his capacity of an absolutist demagogue he is, doubtless, obliged to pass it over in silence. This author, who has unfortunately marred his interesting work by an indescribably frantic passion for royalism, knows too well the organization of the Russian commune, not to have known that the power of the seigneur is an exercise upon the commune into which it has entered as an element altogether foreign, parasitical, and destitute of normal basis. He succeeds as little in explaining, by a pretended patriarchalism the seigneurial prerogatives, as in justifying the oppressive despotism of Petersburg by the sublimity of obedience, a passion which this enlightened German calls the distinguishing virtue of the Russian people. The real patriarchal chief of the commune is the Staroste, elected by the commune from among its own members. It is he who takes the place of the father of the family; he is the representative, the guardian, the natural protector of the commune. What, then, is the office, the duty of the seigneur, that alien intruder who makes, from time to time, at more or less

* Which has led him even to celebrate the praises of the lash for the soldier's back. He speaks of the whip with affecting enthusiasm, and attributes to it all the glory of Rome, taking for his authority the evidence of some honourable and royal (*Königliche Preussisch*) Jacobin or other.—A. H.

irregular intervals, irruptions upon his estates, like the Baskah Tartar upon the towns, and levies contributions? The Staroste, on the other hand, is not, and cannot be, a despot; were he so disposed, the force of custom and traditional rights would crush the attempt. The united commune (*Mir*) would, by its universal will, reduce him at once to the limits of his authority and of his duty. Elected by the free suffrage of all the working members of the commune for a limited term, he knows well enough that he will have to become a simple *moujik* again if not re-elected. He knows that after having governed the village he will be obliged (as M. Haxthausen so poetically describes) "to come and kneel before the common assembly, lay down before it the staff and insignia of his office, and ask pardon of the commune for any wrongs he may have committed against it."

Surely there is no want of another adoptive father, of a *step-father* who lives away from the commune, and who appears from time to time only to snatch away the lion's share of its produce. If the seigneur were nothing more than the proprietor of the soil he could exact nothing but the rent of his land, but he afflicts the peasant with a capitation tax, he taxes his labour independently of the land, he ransoms his right of locomotion. Thus, to employ an admirable expression escaped from Mr. Haxthausen, "on the basis of a St. Simonism reversed, he makes the impost more severe in proportion as the subject of the impost has more talent."

Beyond the commune there should be nothing but the national unity, the *res publica* (*Semskoie delo*) or the directing power. The free communes are assembled by districts (*volost*), and, according to Russian law, every commune having its Staroste, this aggregation of communes elects its popular chief, called *Golova*. There is many a *Golova* who has thirty thousand men under his orders. Together with this chief there are two judges, a sort of justices of the peace, elected by the peasants for the legal administration of communal affairs and of the police. The police is exercised in the villages by *centurions*, and *decurions* elected; the distribution of taxes and of offices is administered by the *Golova* and the *ancients*. It is a complete socialistic self-government, and it worked very harmoniously till we became indoctrinated with the policy of German or Byzantine order.

One Minister, M. Kisseleff, was capable of appreciating a part, at least, of the magnificent institutions on which the commune is based. His reform of the administration would have been almost the beginning of a recognition by the Government of St. Petersburg of Russian common law, if the personnel of the administration were not so profoundly vicious. One of the great misfortunes of our Government is, that it governs to excess. It mingles in and with everything and everybody; regulates everything, fidgets about everything: the length of the Jewish Caftan on the Polish frontier; the length of hair worn by the students of our universities; at one moment it is recommending a husband to reprimand his wife, at another it is advising a young man not to lose all his fortune at cards. Our Emperor is not only the head of the Church and of the State—he is also the principal clerk, and the busybody in chief. He marries, he unmarries; he manages all, and mars all. *Talis rex.*

M. Kisseleff, while he preserved the grand communal institution, contrived to neutralize the purely national and healthy characteristics of his scheme by that excess of administrative intermeddling, that intemperance of regulation, in a country, too, to which all formalism is repugnant, and which, in truth, does not want any artificial supplement to the force of long habits and traditional customs. By way of administrative interference with all the affairs of the peasantry, he introduced a thief into every commune; he opened in every village an Australian mine of spoliation for his bureaucratic diggers. The probity of the Minister is not here in question; but was he not old enough to know that the subaltern employes throughout Russia are nothing but patented brigands and veteran robbers?

The solution of continuity between the world of employes and the people, as between the people and the Government, is evident enough. The Government of Petersburg is a temporary, provisional government; it is a terrorist dictatorship; a Caesarism carried *ad absurdum*. Its people is the noblesse, and that only so far as it is the enemy of the people. M. Haxthausen tries to prove the contrary—that the imperial power such as it exists now is necessary, national, logical, and popular. This very Catholic censor appeals to the quasi-atheistical philosophy of Hegel in support of the schismatic Emperor. We know that Hegel has turned a good many heads by presenting the simplest theory in the world as most extraordinary—"all that really is is reasonable." Nothing can be clearer; and without entering into scholastic distinctions between the *be* and the *seem*, we concede that every phenomenon has its *raison d'être*, and that an absolute absurdity is absolutely impossible. One need not be a great master in metaphysics to be aware that where there is effect there must be a cause. Geoffroy St. Hilaire discovered and described the very exact laws of teratology; he succeeded admirably in justifying the abnormal development of the fetus, but the monster

remained a monster still. In the normal notion of man monstrosity is included as a disturbing possibility from without, but in no sense is it admitted as a rule. A pure and simple inquiry into such monstrosities would have been strictly proper in Russia, but M. Haxthausen arms himself with the accursed philosophy of Hegel for quite another purpose. He draws the conclusion that the imperial power in Russia is the best government possible! "Only one thing is wanting," continues our holy doctor, "to this government to be perfect—to be Catholic." Donoso Cortez at Madrid was wont to announce the end of the world if England were not speedily reconciled to Catholicism.

Since the separation of the Russian Government from the Russian people two Russias have been face to face. On the one hand, Russia *Governmental*, rich, armed, not with the bayonet only, but with all the resources of chicane borrowed from the chanceries of the despotic States of Germany. On the other, Russia poor, agricultural, laborious, communal, and democratic: Russia disarmed, conquered (*conquisita*) without having been vanquished. What wonder, then, if the Emperors have handed over to their Russia, to the Russia of courtiers and officers, of French fashions and German manners, that other coarse-bearded, barbarous *moujik* Russia, incapable of appreciating that imported civilization which has descended on it by the grace of the Throne, and for which the ignorant peasant openly professes the most unmitigated disgust. And why should he regard that Russia?

"How cross you have been these last few days," said the Count—, one of those male concubines in the suite of the Empress Catharine, to one of his parasites. The individual to whom these words were spoken, half in question, half in reproach, was a poor nobleman, the ignoble butt of the ignobler pleasantries of the *blase* favourite. The buffoon, a fat, bloated, greedy fellow, used to wait every day eagerly for the moment to devour the Count's dinner. The latter, perceiving the voracity of the wretch, bethought himself of a singularly funny contrivance. He had a horse collar bought, and fastened round the buffoon's neck, and thus harnessed he was let loose upon the dishes and the wines. He represented very accurately a wild beast gorging himself with the food, and leaving plates and bottles empty. The host was infinitely amused at the beast, and his guests too.

"Oh! how much cause have I to be sad!" said the harnessed nobleman. "Of all the persons in your suite, I only have the misfortune not to be the object of your bounty." "How do you mean?" "Have not you given Cossacks to all the rest? I only am excluded from your favours." The Count burst out laughing, and, to his guests, said, "What do you think of this fellow? he is not such a fool as he looks. What, you, too, want Cossacks?" "Why not?" replied the fool, "they cost you nothing?" "Well, indeed, what do they cost me? Well, you shall have some Cossacks." "Count! you are joking!" "No, on my word." And Caliban covered with kisses the hand of his worthy protector.

This was just at the time when Little Russia was being reduced to feudal servitude. Catherine II., that "Mother of her country," possessed by lusts untamable, gave away 300,000 male peasants as the price of one of her Babylonian orgies.

The Count had but to speak to keep his word, and the nobleman unharnessed went away into Little Russia lord and master of a commune of Cossacks.

I cannot resist recounting a second act of this drama. Last year, passing over the St. Gothard, I perceived a Russian name on a traveller's album. Below that name another traveller had written a biographical notice not without interest. The Russian chamberlain of H.M.I., &c., a proprietor in Little Russia, had during several years martyred his serfs and his servants. Immensely rich, but of insatiable rapacity, he wore them out by his exactions and his tyranny. In 1850, when he was living on his domains, the serfs driven to desperation resolved to make a signal example of their lord. Breaking one night into his house, armed, and showing him a bunch of rods newly cut, they offered him the choice of death or corporal chastisement. The chamberlain reasonably chose correction. It was duly administered. When the punishment was over the serfs exacted of him a written promise not to divulge the events of that night. He wrote and signed that noble promise, and what is more,—he kept it, for fear of worse.

Some months after came the recruiting season. The lord selected one of his serfs as the contingent of his commune. This conscript, it appears, had not been one of the least ardent or the least vigorous in administering the nocturnal castigation, and he felt not unnaturally convinced that the lord in naming him for the contingent was satisfying indirectly a vengeance long suppressed. Military conscription, it should be remembered, is regarded with horror by the Russian peasant. The young conscript resolved to take his revenge. Before the assembled military council *de recensement* he declared aloud that he was made a soldier only because he had thrashed his lord the chamberlain. He was thought mad.

"Ah! you think me mad, do you?" he replied; "here is something to convince you."

And he drew from his pocket and read out loud the seigneurial document.

The amazement was universal. This revelation was so unexpected, that they forgot to suppress the conscript or the accusing document, which was not even given back to the chamberlain. In the first fit of surprise they drew up a report of the circumstance. The Russian lord had not provided for a case of thrashing a chamberlain.

Great was the embarrassment of the Minister; he referred to the Emperor. The Emperor, who had kept his chamberlain by his side as long as he only thrashed his peasants, was indignant with him as soon as he got thrashed himself. He expelled him from his service and from the empire. The serfs were left unpunished. Ever since our ex-chamberlain has been parading, by order of his master, his striped back and shoulders through all the capitals of the civilized world, and he inscribes his name on Mont St. Gothard.

And to make his story all the more *piquant*, let me add, that this mealed and mangled chamberlain—this cruel and cowardly seigneur, is no other than the noble grandson of the harnessed nobleman—of that glutinous buffoon who was let loose upon a commune of serfs. The thrashers were the descendants of those poor Cossacks bent to the yoke, and cast as a prey to a greedy mountebank.

Well! what do you say to this harnessed father, this striped son, and to the Emperor Nicholas carrying on the propaganda *sui generis* by sending this chamberlain on his travels.

I shall conclude my letter by some new details on Russian society.

There is no law of primogeniture in Russia. Peter the First tried to implant it among us, but the manners of the people resisted it, and at his death the decree was revoked. Nicholas has permitted one or two privileged families of the highest aristocracy to indulge in this caprice; but that is only an anomaly, an absurdity the more.

The rule is for the sons to have an equal share in the distribution of the father's property. For the nobles it constitutes a rapid descent to poverty. A lord who owned two thousand serfs, held a good position. His two sons are left, each with half the fortune of their father, while they, in their turn, leave a moiety of it to their children. At the same time, the price of every thing is increased, more rapidly than the income of the estates or the number of the serfs. Civilization introduces into the families of aristocracy luxurious tastes, and wants unknown to our forefathers, so that, with an estate lessened by three-fourths, the grandson has to supply demands twelve times greater than those of his grandfather. We must not forget this important phase in the question—the manners of the nobles. No people in Europe is more unfitted for habits of order and economy than the Russians and Poles. We must see how, in the course of two or three generations, fortunes, whether great or small, are made, and lost, and passed from hand to hand. The Russians are greedy, very greedy of money, but care less than their neighbours for property in land. They love money, for the pleasure of throwing it away. Economy is unknown amongst us. There is no middle class between niggards and spendthrifts.

In general, when the land is once distributed, the sons tread in the steps of their father. If one of them has need of money he mortgages his estate to the bank; the money is soon squandered, the interest eats up the remaining income, the estate, before long, is sold by auction, the surplus, if there is a surplus, is paid to the ex-lord, and, when he has eaten that, his eyes are opened to his ruin.

One man, in order to relieve his embarrassments, gives himself up to play, without restraint; another begins to drink, from very despair, and dies in his debauchery; another, better advised, takes some official employment, and robs unscrupulously. This man prospers, but his son will be ruined. Between the years 1812 and 1840, a small minority strove to constitute themselves exceptions to the general rule. They were, for the most part, men educated out of Russia, great admirers of political economists, like Say and Malthus. They became industrious, and assumed the manners of the *bourgeoisie*; but they were few in number, and had few disciples.

But what said the commune in the midst of this eternal come and go of proprietors, this parcelling out of estates, this continual change? The thousand serfs, who obeyed one lord, were each time scattered over three or four communes, varying in extent, each having their own individuality, their own organization, and distinct lands. The lord will have a single management for the whole of his estate. If a distribution takes place, he is compelled to complete the communal lots by means of pecuniary arrangements, and concessions of various kinds. This is practicable, but only up to a certain point. We come to the division of the commune itself—sometimes two or three brothers have undivided possession of a village, more or less important. But this division can be effected in spite of them. If the portion of one of them is seized for debts, will the new proprietor submit to the unity of possession, the common management? He will hasten, more frequently, to get rid of it.

The proprietor, who has the largest interest in the

commune, taxes and worries the others in all conceivable ways, and while these portions of lords are overwhelmed with embarrassments, with complications, with inextricable disorders, the peasants fall into the same ruin.

The parcelling out of communes, the increase of estates, enclosed and intermixed in every direction, has enforced the attention of the Government, and it has been obliged to take measures for arresting the complete ruin of the serfs. Thus it has formed a *minimum* of serfs, after which no further distribution is allowed. The next step is to fix an indemnity, and to decide on the question of expropriation. Evidently the rights of the nobility do not appear so sacred to the Government, when fairly put to the test? how otherwise could the right become weakened in proportion to the number of the peasants?

In 1845 it was permitted to the nobles of Toula to unite under the presidency of the prefects and the marshals. The question was, how to devise measures for the emancipation of the serfs of the province.

Moscow waited for the same powers. From 1842 to 1846 the agitation among the nobility increased, the journals became so bold as to publish articles on emancipation. It would have been well if the Government had given some aid to the nobility in the accomplishment of this object; but the hatred of everything that is called liberty or emancipation is so thoroughly ingrained in this family of incurable autocrats, that Nicholas hastily threw all such projects to the winds, on the first arrival of the news of the 24th of February.

Such is the latest and present phase of this question of SERFDOM in Russia. The peasant continues deprived of all protection but that of the customary law (*la loi coutumière*): he may be dragged from his family, from his commune, although that be recognised by the law; he may be made a servant. The lord has the right to have him flogged, only not to death; he has the right to imprison him in a *maison de police* for disobedience. He may condemn him to military conscription, or pack him off to the mines of Siberia at his own expense. In the two latter cases, the serf at least becomes free. Lastly, it is an established and constant practice to sell serfs, if not separately, at least by family. No land need be given to the peasants except just enough to allow them to vegetate miserably. The lord is under no obligation to his servants beyond supplying them with just enough food and clothing to prevent them perishing of hunger and of cold.

Shall these monstrosities, I ask, continue without an incessant, universal protest? Surely from time to time it is well that a free voice should be lifted up to denounce these degrading institutions, this foul complicity of a Government that talks of its strength, with a noblesse that boasts of its enlightenment. The mask must be torn from these slaveholders of the North, who go lounging and lipping over Europe, mingling with your affairs, assuming the rank of civilized beings,—nay, of liberal-minded men, who read *Uncle Tom's Cabin* with horror, and shudder when they read of sellers of black flesh. Why, these same brilliant spies of the salons are the very men who on their return to their domains rob, flay, sell the white Slave, and are served at table by their living property.

ALEXANDRE HERZEN.

December 20, 1852.

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.

STRIKES AND THEIR REMEDY.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

Leeds, November 17th, 1853.

SIR,—Your most admirable articles upon the strikes have decided me to say a few words upon the subject. The strikes past and present prove, as you say, that no combination of men can raise labour above the price remunerative to the capitalist; and, on the other hand, no combination of the masters can entirely prevent strikes from occurring. So long as that false political economic maxim,—"*That each has the right to do the best he can for himself*," works as it does; making the interests of labour and capital antagonistic;—so long will strikes continue as an inevitable consequence. When labour seeks advance, it is at the loss of capital; and capital always gains by the reduction of labour:—each "grabs when grab it can,"—and hence the differences, and loss to both sides, and to the world, in consequence of these stand-stills and strikes. If the maxim be right, so must be the results; and both sides in doing the best they can for themselves are perfectly right in their contention, and as usual no one is wrong! But the world know to the contrary, and

the evils each party feel from losses, prove a wrong somewhere. Hitherto, more knowledge, better organization, and more capital, have enabled masters temporarily to beat the workmen; but knowledge will soon level all past distinctions, and, in future, better organization of workmen, and more capital among them, will yet turn the balance,—and we may soon expect to see capital and labour at a dead lock in consequence. Strikes are but beginning, and the future will find both parties so equal, quick, and keen to their own interests, that with the change of every month's business,—or even every individual contract, up or down will go the wage, giving rise to interminable differences, and to a fearful derangement of all business progression.

To this inevitable but certainly very undesirable state of things, the present practical school of political economy offers no remedy. Some, it is true, qualify their practical maxim by adding, the "best for each is to consider each other." This, now, is but theory, and to apply it to practice would be to introduce that awful bugbear, communism, at once. And yet, is it not clear from these strikes, and from what we must need-fully look for in future, that an amalgamation of interests only can preserve order and economy in manu-facture, and increase of capital to the community? Both sides theoretically acknowledge this fact, and yet neither master nor men are prepared to give up their individual and temporary interests for the general good.

We know very well, as a rule, the capitalist will not be content to take a good weekly wage, which would amply content any of his workpeople, in order to di-vide the profits made, to add to the wages and com-forts of his hands; nor, on the other hand, do the op-eratives, in any concern in difficulties, seem content to take any less than *all they can possibly get*, to enable the firm to bear up against unavoidable loss from trade or speculation.* Firms eloquently preach up mutual interests to the operatives when they have something to gain; and the hands are most willing and importu-nate to share in profits; but neither are willing to share in reductions or losses. Hence strikes, and the loss of millions of wealth to the world; which will continue, and grow worse by extension. To bring these days of tribulation to a speedy end, I have to offer a few words—the results of experience, to the men, and to the masters its warning.

The solution of this social difficulty is to be found in the principles and practice of co-operation; in other words, the *identification* of interests. Do the working men want to prove this, and to receive the *whole due* to labour?—their way is very clear, but, mark, not *very* easy; they must work for themselves, be their own capitalists, masters, overlookers, tradesmen, and "hands." In other words they must co-operate, build mills, erect machinery, work under economic arrangements, and conform to business rules and con-ditions; and then they would reap their reward. Otherwise they never will; as the lions will always claim the lion's share, and leave the jackall but the scraps! Do the working-men say this is impos-sible? Let them be content, then, as they are; others do it, and if they cannot, it only shows they are in their own place. Co-operation is, however, becoming a favourite scheme among working men; unfortunately hitherto it has been considered only when immediately required, and during a strike; but to succeed co-operation must be thought of, and acted for too, *before* the time for its use. The people must learn to sow in November and March if they would reap in autumn. Corn will not spring up just when, how, and where required, at a moment's notice; neither will mills, trade, and co-operation. Brick, stone, wood, iron, and steam would work just as well for workmen as for capitalists; and trade and profit would come to them as well as to others, *if* they would perform the necessary conditions for success. These conditions are, imperatively, capital and labour beforehand; know-ledge and skill to conduct them, with time, and pa-tience, and forethought. It does not always fol-low that even then success is certain, but we know as a rule it is, and hence the increasing wealth of the manufacturing capitalist. How has the capi-talist become the capitalist? First he saves from poverty, invests in a mill, borrows upon his credit, extends, engages, and works to a profit the best talent he can obtain; trusts and struggles on during reverses, and patiently pursues all improvement; and so must the men if they wish the same result of capital to follow. But if the working-men will continue to live and drink, and cheap trip to the very top of their income weekly; will turn a deaf ear and laugh at the warning of those who foresee their future evils; will always seize every tempting opportunity for temporary advantage in their power, getting all they can, and when they can get it (let them not wonder at the like treatment from masters); if they will *not* subscribe and accumu-late money when in good work, will *not* co-operate in

* I have since read this to the principal of a large firm, who told me, after three years successive loss, he consulted with his cashier to propose a voluntary reduction to the men, to elicit their sympathy; and was deterred from doing so, because he was assured the idea would be laughed at, as too ridiculous for entertainment.

good times; but will strike, and doing nothing, live upon funds hastily subscribed, for a temporary end; *they will ever be beaten, and deserve to be so*. Would the Amalgamated Engineers have been beaten as they were if they had beforehand purchased the concern of-fered to them so advantageously at Liverpool? and yet they set about raising funds, when *out of work* and too late.* On the contrary, if workmen would co-operate, and *create* wealth, instead of merely consuming their funds on strike, they would be *certain to succeed*; and if the people were always in condition to begin to work for themselves, there would be a final end to strikes; the masters would not dare to contend against their reasonable demands. Do the working-men doubt of success, and doubting will not try? then, like the doubting spirits in the fable, they will never enter Heaven's gate, because they doubt there is a gate to Heaven? It is submitted they have not wealth to be-gin work. No man has to begin with, it is men that make wealth, and not wealth men. Do they say we have neither knowledge, nor talent, nor skill, to con-duct such operations? Then, in the name of goodness, let them stand aside, and give place to better men. Do they say we have no confidence in ourselves? Then, working men, there is no hope of your ever succeeding; without virtue and reliance you are doomed to slavery and degradation for ever—without pluck to help your-selves the gods can do you no good.

As a proof of what co-operation can do when rightly conducted, I will instance what it has done at the peo-ple's mill at Leeds. 3500 members have subscribed 3500*l.* to manufacture and sell flour; and last year they made a clear profit of 2800*l.* After a bonus of 14*s.* 8*d.* per share divided, the share has grown to 40*s.*, and this year will exceed the last. The months of Septem-ber and October (extraordinary from the rise) yielded upon their business 1502*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* profit, above all expenses!! Working-men, who are consuming capital, co-operation has done this to create it; and you might do the like by the like means. But the people's mill did not succeed always thus; they have made many mistakes, and have had (and may again) severe reverses; but look at the glorious results, by patience, forethought, and skill in action. Could the full details of this experi-ment of co-operation be given they would but the more prove the wonderful power of co-operation, and the wonderful folly of the people if they will not conform to its conditions. What has been done may be done again, and if the people were agreed it is certain,

1. That they could soon subscribe ample capital; 2, they could build mills and erect machinery; 3, they could hire, pay, and work under able conductors; 4, they could manufacture against all rivalry; 5, they could trade, and realize wealth as well as others; and they might become comfortable, and independent, and removed from strikes, and want, or the fear of it. The conditions performed, success is humanly certain:—

At present, the working men do not choose to per-form these conditions; but letting others do it, who, as masters, often abuse their powers in accumulation, the men quarrel thereat, strike, and then subscribe funds, which they devour until exhausted; and, beaten, work on until they strike again, and whine about tyrants and oppression, &c. &c. Is not this posi-tive imbecility?—away with such folly on both sides. The national welfare is perilled thereby. Working men, away with this absurd trifling of strikes. Do you wish to be well paid, well treated, and well doing? Co-operate—manufacture—and trade for your-selves! Do it well, and you must succeed. Masters, beware; you may stretch the string too tight, for if the people do but awake to a sense of their power, farewell to your accumulation in future. The mil-lers of Leeds laughed our co-operative attempts to scorn; they don't laugh now. A few more years, and we shall be able to buy them all up, supersede the capitalist, and put the master upon "decent weekly wage." What will become of your fixed capital, if the people choose to erect mills, and to work for them-selves? You have no patent to retain trade in your hands. Beware!

In the meantime, evil to both men and masters is certain, until there come a better understanding, and a more national agreement for mutual interest. Mas-ters may stand a little longer upon their dignity, and their capital; and men may be beaten once or twice more, but this must end, and co-operation would soon solve the problem. In the meanwhile, I wish well to both.—Most truly, &c., JOHN HOLMES.

THE KING'S COLLEGE CONTROVERSY.

SIR,—Mr. Maurice has been dismissed from his pro-fessorship, at King's College, for attempting to cast a doubt upon the doctrine of eternal condemnation, and advocating the possibility of ultimate salvation for all. The promulgation of Mr. Maurice's ideas upon this subject, Dr. Jelf tells us has filled him with "intense alarm." How wonderful must be the construction of an intellect, which can regard the prospect of Divine mercy and forgiveness with "intense alarm," and that of everlasting punishment with satisfaction!

I do not blame, however, the mere dismissal of Mr.

* The turn-outs at Preston, when *out of work*, are talk-ing of subscribing and beginning to co-operate.

Maurice. That is a simple fact, evidencing a state of things a necessary result of existing circumstances. If holding a certain position, under the implied trust of inculcating particular tenets, a teacher thinks it right to advocate others, diametrically opposite, the powers who appointed him have obviously the privilege of dis-charging him. But, nevertheless, if, at a public school, doctrinal articles are taught so absurd and hor-rible, that humanity, instinctively recoiling from them, seeks refuge in disbelief, or absolute denial of the whole doctrine, the public has a right to enquire into the question involved, and to have a voice in the matter. Mr. Maurice says that he has acted from a sense of "his duty to hundreds, nay, thousands, of young Christians, whose faith in the redemption of Christ, even in the being of God, was at stake." For this cause, to a Christian clergyman probably a sufficient one, he disputes that which few advocate and none be-lieve. Infallible Dr. Jelf, however, clings to eternal damnation. It is his cherished hobby, and he will never abandon it—till death. The question may take some time to decide, but one may hope, without lack of charity, that the Doctor may eventually have cause to rejoice at finding himself in the wrong.

The idea of the eternity of torment, even if awarded for the most horrible deeds, is alike repulsive to reason and feeling. Reason condemns it, because human crime is finite, terminating with death, and punishment must be the atonement for wrong. Now if a myriad of years of torture compensate for but the smallest fraction of any aggregate of evil, the whole must re-ceive its equivalent in less than eternity, or arithmetic is a lie, and two and two do not make four. If, on the other hand, no finite amount of pain can wash out the slightest stain of sin, an eternity of agony will not effect the result, and will be mere useless cruelty, not righteous compensation.

But faith, feeble theologians affirm, is distinct from reason. It must, then, be founded on feeling. Place, therefore, faith and feeling in antagonism, and the issue must weaken either the foundation or the superstruc-ture. Yet feeling revolts at this doctrine. "My brethren," said a Scotch pastor, "let's pray for the poor devil!" Here broke forth the genuine natural im-pulse of the human heart, bursting through the tram-mels of conventional theology. A demon only could delight in the prospect of ceaseless, hopeless torture to a human soul. Humanity shrinks from the thought, and can humanity be more charitable and merciful than the source of charity and mercy? Yours, &c.,

E. D.

WHO IS TO GIVE IN?

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Mr. Cobden, with a frankness which, certainly under the circumstances, was highly creditable, has asserted that *both* parties in the great northern strikes are in the wrong. In such case, both parties ought to retrace their steps. But which party is to set the wise example? Weak men can go wrong; but it re-quires superior men to admit error, and correct it. The workmen one would like to see do it, for their own credit; but working-class pride is as strong as middle-class pride. As the masters profess to have more knowledge, and are bound to set a better ex-ample than the operatives, the public will look to them to retrace the course which can only bring discredit upon both parties, and ruin upon one. Would some influential, clear-sighted man like Mr. Cobden suggest to the employers that arrangement which they ought to agree to, and put an end to that war of industry, which endangers the reputation of the nation for commercial good sense. Yours, sir, respectfully,

ONCE AN OPERATIVE.

Birmingham, 9th Nov., 1853.

A BAKER'S HINT.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—For the last seventeen years a most efficient law for the regulation of the making and selling of bread has been completely inoperative, a period surely long enough for shortweight and adulteration to have full play upon the daily bread (especially of the poor), of the whole community. As a remedy, I would suggest that policemen should be appointed for certain periods, say a month each, for particular towns or districts, to detect frauds, receive complaints, and assist in bringing them before the magistrates for adjudication. It would inexpensively and immediately establish a more equitable and legitimate competition, greatly elevate the moral tone of the trade, and advance its general respectability; objects, considering the many thousands engaged therein, worthy of the earnest effort of all who give thought of hope for better things.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

E. C.

Nottingham, November 15th, 1853.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several letters to Open Council under consideration.

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*.

CHRISTMAS always intimates its approach by literary prognostics, and "coming events cast their *Almanacks* before them." This coming season does not promise to be so rich in gift books as the previous years, but *Punch's Pocket Book* shows its old familiar face, with LERCH and TENNEIL humorous as ever. The *Pocket Book* has fallen off in its literature, but maintains its position as a compound of the useful and agreeable. Other *Almanacks* claim attention—the *Irish Exhibition Almanack*, the *Magazine of Art Almanack*, the *Emigrant's Almanack*, the *Almanack pour Rire*, the *Almanack de l'Illustration*, the *Almanack Comique*—*almanacks* for every taste and every purse.

The first volume of Dr. VERON's *Mémoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris* turns out to be more amusing than we anticipated—indeed, it is one of the pleasantest volumes of gossip France has sent us for a long while. Dr. VERON does not fill his pages with himself, but with his contemporaries; and as his experience of Parisian life must have been sufficiently curious and varied, in his avocations of doctor, director of the Opera, and editor of *La Revue de Paris* and *Le Constitutionnel*, we may hope for more piquant details than could have been given had he made himself the hero of his book. As a sample take these two letters. ALEXANDRE DUMAS will be recognized in every line of the following:—

"MY DEAR VERON,—This is the way men of talent work.
"I send you one hundred and twenty blank pages, every one of which you will have stamped by the boy in your office. You will return them to me on Tuesday morning by the first train.
"You will find your volume commenced on coming here to dinner, Tuesday, the 14th; and I will bring you the volume finished on coming to dine with you, Tuesday, the 21st.—Ever yours,
"A. DUMAS."

This is the way DUMAS works: can you wonder at his fecundity? Now read this from GEORGE SAND:—

"MONSIEUR,—You greatly pain me by asking for a volume a month sooner than our engagement prescribes. There is great danger to my health and to the merit of my book in working thus hastily, without allowing myself time to mature the subject, and to make the necessary researches; for there is no subject so small but requires much reading and reflection. It appears to me that you make me too much of a *stop-gap*; my self-love is not wounded, and I have too much admiration and friendship for Eugène Sue to be jealous of your preference. But if you allow him the necessary time to develop his long and admirable works, I also must have time to polish my little studies, and I cannot undertake to be ready when the *Juif Errant* reposes. All that I can promise you is to do my best, for I have a sincere desire to oblige you. I say nothing of the unpleasantness of setting to work when I had reckoned on a month's repose, very necessary to me. I have already relinquished that idea, and have been at work ever since I received your letter, but how can I, in the space of six weeks, send you a volume which would satisfy either of us? I do not think it to the interest of your journal to press me thus; therefore am I somewhat angry with you, although I do not refuse to do whatever may be humanly possible.
"GEORGE SAND."

From a letter of BALZAC's we make one characteristic extract. He had not long been married, and he thus speaks of his extravagance at Dresden:—

"Oh, the lovely things there are here! I have already spent 25,000 to 30,000 francs on a *toilette* which is a thousand times more beautiful than that of the Duchesse de Parma. The goldsmiths of the middle ages were very superior to ours, and I have discovered some magnificent pictures. If I stay here, there will not be a farthing of my wife's fortune remaining, for she has already bought a pearl necklace which would drive a saint distracted."

VERON gives a curious picture of the Empire. Beauty was force, he says, and herculean proportions were greatly esteemed—*on faisait cas de larges épaules, et de mollets luxuriants*. Dancing was so much "the rage," that any man who could dance with distinction was sure to get office: under our ANNE it was verses which opened the doors of place. Perhaps, after all, there was not so much difference between the two. There are other details in VERON's book equally curious, but not equally to be cited in public journals. VERON says, we know not on what authority, that it is not true that GUILLOTIN invented the instrument which goes under his name; it was ANTOINE LOUIS, secrétaire perpétuel of the *Académie de Chirurgie*, who, in conjunction with a mechanic named SCHMIDT, constructed the first guillotine.

It is appreciable evidence of the growing importance of the Secularist body, that a regular publishing establishment should have been organized, as it has been by MESSRS. HOLYOAKE, who have opened a shop in Fleet-street, to meet the wants arising from success.

"It has lately become more than ever necessary that new and unknown friends, isolated perhaps in remote districts, should be able to point to London, where a fully-known, accessible, evident, and recognised Establishment and representation of their principles exists, where their reference would lead to the illustration and vindication of their views. Besides, it is due to the extending influence of Secular Societies—it is due to many persons who now stand upon our side, and to others who honour us with counsel—to assume and sustain an adequate position. Benefit will accrue to individuals and to the truth."

Such is the object of this new firm. At the close of the year, the business now carried on by Mr. WATSON will be transferred to MESSRS. HOLYOAKE.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

Victoria: late Australia Felix. By W. Westgorth.	Oliver and Boyd.
Saunterings in and about London. By Max Schlesinger.	Nathaniel Cooke.
Goldsmith's Essays.	Nathaniel Cooke.
Boys and their Rulers.	Nathaniel Cooke.
History of Alexander the Great. By Jacob Abbott.	Nathaniel Cooke.
History of William the Conqueror. By Jacob Abbott.	Nathaniel Cooke.
Discovery. A Poem. By E. A. Leatham.	Walton and Maberly.
The Farmer's Assistant and Agriculturist's Calculator. By J. Greeve.	
Cookery, Rational, Practical, and Economical. By H. Reid.	Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.
Avillon, and other Tales. By the Author of Head of the Family. 3 vols.	W. S. Orr and Co.
Willich's Income-Tax Tables.	Smith, Elder, and Co.
Clotel; or, the President's Daughter. By W. W. Brown.	Longman and Co.
Punch's Pocket-book for 1854.	Partridge and Oakley.
The Chemist. A Monthly Journal. No. II.	Punch Office.
Highley's Library of Science and Art.	Highley.
Bohn's Classical Library.—The Works of Apuleius.	H. G. Bohn.
Bohn's Ecclesiastical Library.—Socrates' Ecclesiastical History.	H. G. Bohn.
Bohn's Standard Library.—The Works of William Cowper. Vol. I.	H. G. Bohn.
Chalmeriana; or, Colloquies with Dr. Chalmers. By J. J. Gurney.	R. Bentley.
Bentley's Railway Library.—Stella and Vanessa. Translated by Lady D. Gordon.	R. Bentley.
An Account of some Cases of the Epidemic Cholera. By F. A. Bulley.	Hamilton and Co.
On the Living Language of the Greeks, and its Utility to the Classical Scholar. By John Stuart	Stuartland and Knox.
Blackie, F.R.S.E.	J. Bentley and Co.
Bentley's Monthly Review. No. VII.	Longman and Co.
Poems. By M. Arnold.	Ward and Co.
Caroline; a Franconia Story. By Jacob Abbott.	Ward and Co.
Stuyvesant; a Franconia Story. By Jacob Abbott.	Ward and Co.
Clerical Education.	Blackader and Co.
"Strikes," Viewed in Relation to the Interest of Capital and Labour. By H. Dunckley.	Hall, Virtue, and Co.

CHOLERA AND ITS TREATMENT.

Asiatic Cholera; its symptoms, pathology, and treatment. With which is embodied its morbid anatomy, general and minute, translated from a paper by Drs. Rheinhardt and Leubuscher. By Richard Barwell, late House Surgeon, and now Demonstrator of Anatomy at St. Thomas's. Churchill.

Thoughts on Cholera. By Edward Hearne, formerly House Surgeon to University College Hospital. Churchill.

WE do not usually notice medical books; but cholera is so much a topic of general conversation, no less than of pressing importance, that we may overstep our limits, and call attention to Mr. Barwell's excellent and suggestive work.

Mr. Barwell commences by enumerating the facts which force the conclusion, that cholera is an epidemic, not a contagious disease, dependent for its manifestation on the presence of a certain physical *nidus*, not on that moral *nidus* of sin and heterodoxy which Edinburgh Presbyteries, and other extremely foolish sections of mankind, would have us believe. If it is a scourge, and if the "finger of God" is visibly directing the scourge, the plain experience of 1845, 1848, and 1853 is, that vengeance has local partialities:—

"Thus, however powerful and virulent the cholera poison may be, it really seems that the constant local evils are necessary for its development and action, and that, where these social cesspools do not exist, there the disease is powerless; as German mystic tales make the hero unassailable by the fiend, until some fault of the man has given power to the demon."

This is something gained: a direct starting point for all men. As old Cromwell bade his soldiers trust in Providence and keep their powder dry, so a modern ruler answers Edinburgh supplicants—"Pray, but clear your pig-styes." We learn, also:—

"It appears, then, that cholera—or rather that influence which produces cholera—travels from East to West; that alone it cannot produce the disease, but that it must also be aided and abetted by some local conditions, which, on their part alone, would produce diarrhoea, typhus, or intermittent fever, as the case may be; but whether epidemic cholera be caused by the operation of a mixture of these two influences, or whether the cholera influence produce that malady by operating on a system well prepared for the attack by a typhus-fever-producing condition, cannot now be judged. Nor is it of great importance; the material point being, that we can estimate the amount of epidemic force in any part of England, by studying the returns of deaths in those parts, from zymotic diseases; that when these gradually go on increasing for a number of years, and when all disease more and more incline towards a low, malignant character, then may we suppose that a time is approaching when some great epidemic shall scourge the land. When we find, moreover, as in London, that all diseases have, in about the last twenty years, altered considerably in character, and deviated from the previous sthenic, to a debile asthenic type, so that the treatment of many such has lately become stimulant, instead of antiphlogistic,—then may we justly conclude that something in our sanitary arrangements is grievously wrong, for which, sooner or later, the population must suffer."

After detailing in a masterly manner the premonitory symptoms, and the various causes of Cholera, Mr. Barwell thus sums up:—

"Cholera, then, is a malarious disease, of an irregular intermittent type, the cold fit being so violent, as to form the most fatal part of the malady, and to take the most prominent place, in all descriptions, and all our ideas of the disease."

Into the question of treatment we will not enter: it is a point beyond our jurisdiction altogether; but we may note, that Mr. Barwell is decidedly opposed to the popular "chalk mixture."

"Thus, the prescriptions should be aromatic, stimulant, and astringent, and not such as merely clog the bowels by a semi-mechanical action, like chalk mixture, to which there are many objections, particularly in the form of disease now under consideration. Of all medicines in the Pharmacopœia this is about the clumsiest. It may plug the bowels for a time, but then is, by its irritation, pretty sure to induce a second unhealthy form of diarrhoea, nearly as bad as the first; or, if it do not stop the diarrhoea at once, is perfectly certain to make it worse, by hanging among the villi of the intestines, and keeping up a constant irritation. There is quite enough chalk for any useful purpose in the aromatic confection, and that amount is the utmost which, according to my experience, is likely to benefit the patient."

Elsewhere recording the result of his observations, he says:—

"When most remedies employed had been found of little efficacy in combating the disease, and when many that, previous to the invasion, had been quite petted and eulogised by different doctors as all but infallible, had been discovered to be perfectly useless, people began to look about them for other means, and many different methods were attempted, and many remedies administered, merely because they were new and had not been tried before, while others were taken into trial upon the recommendation of continental physicians. Thus mercury, in large and small doses; opium in different ways; brandy, emetics, salines, chloroform, turpentine

and olive oil, both by the mouth and in enema; tobacco, injecting the veins, &c., were all tried, and without the successful issue that their various English, Continental, or Indian advocates had promised; sometimes, it is true, in the hands of one or two practitioners, two or three cases would consecutively recover, and then the plan was vaunted and the medicine strongly recommended by a letter in the *Lancet* or *Times*; but in a little while the new remedy was perhaps condemned with the rest, and it was found that a fortuitous run of recovering cases had given the medicine a lustre as false as evanescent."

The reader may perhaps remember that, a few weeks ago (*vide Leader*, No. 184), we communicated the results of a series of experiments, made by the French physiologist, Brown-Séguard, proving, beyond a doubt, that in many cases of poisoning the proximate cause of death was the *diminution of temperature* which ensued: we intimated the connexion of this fact with the recognised necessity of warmth as one mode of treating cholera, and in Mr. Barwell's volume there is abundant evidence in favour of that view. Here is one passage:—

"Stimulants, such as brandy, ammonia, or wine, though decidedly useful in their place, have not such effect in restoring circulation, and exciting the system to greater action, as in collapse from other disease; indeed, considering the difference of its cause in this and in other maladies, it is not to be expected that they would be as beneficial; for prostration usually occurs in consequence of nervous shock, and consequent loss of nervous power; therefore, stimuli which act upon that system are naturally in those cases such as would benefit. But in this disease there is comparatively little loss of nervous power; in fact, with so great disturbance of the circulation, the retention of nervous power is marvellous. Our remedies ought not, therefore, to be directed through that system, but we should, if possible, find some means of acting on and recalling the circulation without exciting the nervous centres; and the best mode of doing this is by external heat."

"This principle of combating the deadly cold collapse was not found or recognised at St. Thomas, until after several cases had been treated at the hospital, and the general inefficacy of medicines or of stimulants proved; and though a certain number under the treatment then adopted recovered, still the whole result was unsatisfactory: thus, of 28 cases of perfect collapse, before external heat was used, but 7 recovered—a very small proportion; but after this was employed 61 patients were treated by some mode, in which this formed an essential part, and of these 27 recovered, or not very far from half the whole number—a proportion which we may call 9-20ths of the whole—the application or non-application of external heat making the difference between the recovery of one quarter, or one half of the whole number of patients."

A SALAD FOR THE SOLITARY.

A Salad for the Solitary. By an Epicure. Price 3s. 6d.

Bentley.

THERE are few light books more entertaining than the gossiping anecdotal collections, of which the elder Disraeli has given the model. Small talk is a tendency of human nature, and such books give us small talk about interesting persons. It would be difficult to compile a thoroughly dull volume of such anecdotes and scraps as those collected by the "Epicure," in his chapters on Dietetics, the Talkative and Taciturn, Curious and Costly Books, Dying Words of Distinguished Men, Citations from Cemeteries, the Infelicities of the Intellectual, Pleasures of the Pen, Sleep and its Mysteries, &c.; nevertheless the "Epicure" has approached as near the standard of dullness, as the anecdotes would let him. The book is made up of good, bad, very bad, and indifferent. It is the commonplace book of a commonplace man; what the author quotes and compiles is often readable enough, what he brings from out his own stores had better be skipped lightly over. When we notify, therefore, that the book may be lounged over, at odd half hours, with amusement, we are not to be understood as implying more than the fact of anecdotes and quotations being always acceptable, in such unfilled gaps of time. There seems to have been no attempt at exhausting a topic, and for curiosity and completeness, the series of papers occasionally appearing in the *Critic*, under the title of "Rambles in the Byeways of Literature," is far better worthy of attention.

Nevertheless, our readers may not be sorry to have a leaf or two of this "Salad for the Solitary;" we will not close the volume without gratifying them. Here is a bit of gossip about the

MARRIAGES OF BALZAC AND LAMARTINE.

"M. Balzac, the French novelist, exhibits another example of eccentricity in matrimonial affairs." According to a Parisian correspondent, the arrival of this celebrated author from Germany caused an immense sensation in certain circles, owing to the romantic circumstances connected with his marriage. When Balzac was in the zenith of his fame, he was travelling in Switzerland, and had arrived at the inn just at the very moment the Prince and Princess Hanski were leaving it. Balzac was ushered into the room they had just vacated, and was leaning from the window to observe their departure, when his attention was arrested by a soft voice at his elbow asking for a book which had been left behind upon the window-seat. The lady was certainly fair, but appeared doubly so in the eyes of the poor author, when she intimated that the book she was in quest of was the pocket edition of his own works; adding that she never travelled without it, and that without it she could not exist! She drew the volume from beneath his elbow, and flew down stairs, obedient to the screaming summons of her husband, a puffy old gentleman, who was already seated in the carriage, railing in a loud voice against dilatory habits of women in general, and his own spouse in particular; and the emblazoned vehicle drove off, leaving the novelist in a state of self-complacency the most enviable to be conceived. This was the only occasion upon which Balzac and the Princess Hanski had met, till his recent visit to Germany, when he presented himself—as her accepted husband. During these long intervening fifteen years, however, a literary correspondence was steadily kept up between the parties, till at length, instead of a letter containing literary strictures upon his writings, a missive of another kind—having a still more directly personal tendency, reached him from the fair hand of the Princess. It contained the announcement of the demise of her husband the Prince,—that he had bequeathed to her his domains and his great wealth, and consequently, that she felt bound to requite him in some measure for his liberality, and had determined upon giving him a successor—in the person of Balzac. It is needless to state that the delighted author waited not a second summons; they were forthwith united in wedlock, at her chateau on the Rhine, and a succession of splendid fêtes celebrated the auspicious event.

"The story of the marriage of Lamartine is also one of romantic interest. The lady, whose maiden name was Birch, was possessed of considerable property, and when past the bloom of youth, she became passionately enamoured of the poet

from the perusal of his 'Meditations.' For some time she nursed this sentiment in secret, and being apprised of the embarrassed state of his affairs, she wrote him, tendering him the bulk of her fortune. Touched with this remarkable proof of her generosity, and supposing it could only be caused by a preference for himself, he at once made an offer of his hand and heart. He judged rightly, and the poet was promptly accepted."

The following might have been indefinitely extended, but it suffices to indicate the

VOLUMINOUSNESS OF AUTHORS.

"Our forefathers, however, must have had their patience pretty severely taxed by the prolixity of some of the early scribes. What should we think of twenty-one huge folios?—yet we find, in 1651, a writer of such interminable dimensions; while another, Peter D'Alva, even extended his learned lucubrations to no less than forty-eight, in an abortive attempt to expound a mystery unfathomable, and which his labyrinth of words but rendered the more mysterious. While, not to name Confucius or the reputed six hundred volumes by the French bishop, Du Bellay, we might remind the reader of the astounding intimation given by St. Jerome, to the effect that he had perused *six thousand* books written by Origen, who 'daily wearied seven notaries, and as many boys, in writing after him!' It ought not to have amazed his friends, therefore, to have learned of the sickness of that multifarious writer, Sir John Hill (the author of the *Vegetable System*), when he confessed it was in consequence of overworking himself on *seven productions at once!* We read of Hans Sachs, a Nuremberg shoemaker, who lived about the close of the fifteenth century, and who seems to have apportioned his labours equally between boots and books, the praiseworthy arts of making poetry and pumps, sonnets and shoes, to the 77th year of his age; when he took an inventory of his *poetical* stock in trade, and found, according to his own calculation, that his works filled thirty folio volumes, all written with his own hand. They comprised 4200 songs; 208 comedies, tragedies, and farces; 1700 fables, miscellaneous poems, and tales, and 73 military and love songs,—forming a grand total of 6048 pieces, small and great; out of which he culled as many as filled three great folios, which were published in the year 1558-61. How strangely the early scribes seem to have coveted the ambition of being voluminous writers, not remembering that Persius became immortal from the transmission of but *two sheets of paper inscribed by his pen.*

We presume it will be hypercritical to suggest that Persius had neither pen nor sheets of paper, and that his works would have covered a vast area than two sheets, had the two sheets been there. While on this topic of voluminousness we will add the epitaph suggested for Tiraqueau, "who, although a water-drinker, was the father of twenty works and twenty children: had he been a drinker of wine he would have peopled the whole world with books and men."

Hic jacet qui aquam bibendo vigniti liberos suscepit, vigniti libros edidit. Si merum bibisset totum orbem impressit!

We conclude our notice with this extract of

VERBAL CURIOSITIES.

"A very learned Frenchman, in conversation with Dr. Wallace, of Oxford, about the year 1650, and author of a grammar of the English language written in Latin, after expatiating with the Doctor on the copiousness of the French language, and its richness in derivations and synonyms, produced, by way of illustration, the following four lines on rope-making:—

"Quand un cordier, cordant, veult corder un corde;
Pour sa corde corder, trois cordons il accord;
Mais, si un des cordons de la corde decorde,
Le cordon decordé fait decorder la corde."

"To show that the English language was at least equally rich and copious, Dr. Wallace immediately translated the French into as many lines of English, word for word, using the word *twist* to express the French *corde*:—

"When a twister a-twisting, will twist him a twist;
For the twisting his twist, he three twines doth entwist;
But if one of the twines of the twist do untwist,
The twine that untwisteth, untwisteth the twist."

"Here were verbs, nouns, participles, and synonyms to match the French. To show further the power and versatility of the English, the doctor added the four following lines, which continue the subject:—

"Untwisting the twine that untwisted between,
He twirls with his twister the two in a twine;
Then twice having twisted the twines of the twine,
He twisteth the twine he had twined in twain."

"The French funds had been exhausted at the outset. Not so with the English, for Dr. Wallace, pushing his triumph, added yet four other lines, which follow:—

"The twain that in twining before in the twine,
As twines were intertwined, he now doth entwine;
Twist the twain intertwining a twine more between,
He, twirling his twister, makes a twist of the twine."

"Dr. Adam Clarke, to whom we are indebted for the record of the preceding trial of skill between the two philologists, adds in conclusion, that 'he questions whether there is another language in the universe capable of such a variety of flexions, or which can afford so many terms and derivatives, all legitimate, coming from the same radix, without borrowing a single term from another tongue, or coining one for the sake of the sound; for there is not a word used by Dr. Wallace in these lines which is not purely Anglo-Saxon, not one exotic thing entertained.'

"The following lines, from Gray: 'The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,' has been found to admit of eighteen transpositions, without destroying the rhyme or altering the sense: the reader will be content with the following:

"The weary ploughman plods his homeward way.
The weary ploughman homeward plods his way.
The ploughman, weary, plods his homeward way.
The ploughman, weary, homeward plods his way.
Weary the ploughman plods his homeward way.
Weary the ploughman homeward plods his way.
Homeward the ploughman plods his weary way.
Homeward the weary ploughman plods his way.
Homeward the ploughman, weary, plods his way.
The homeward ploughman weary plods his way.
The homeward ploughman plods his weary way."

"Southey, it may be remembered, so highly esteemed Cowper's beautiful *Lines to his Mother's Portrait*, that he is reported to have said, he would willingly barter all he had written for their authorship. This is high tribute to the amiable yet melancholy muse of Cowper; but we are digressing. We therefore return to our anomalous and curious selections; and first, beg to present an ingenious piece of literary Mosaic:

"The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
In every clime; from Lapland to Japan;
To fix one spark of beauty's heavenly ray,
The proper study of mankind is man."

Tell! for you can, what is it to be wise,
Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain?
"The man of Ross!" each lisping babe replies,
And drags, at each remove, a length'ning chain."

Ah! who can tell how hard it is to climb
Far as the solar walk or milky way?
Procrastination is the thief of time,
Let Hercules himself do what he may."

'Tis education forms the common mind,
The feast of reason and the flow of soul;
I must be cruel only to be kind,
And waft a sigh from Indus to the pole."

Syphax! I joy to meet thee thus alone,
Where'er I roam, whatever lands I see;
A youth to fortune and to fame unknown,
In maiden meditation fancy free."

Farewell! and wheresoe'er thy voice be tried,
Why to yon mountain turns the gazing eye,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side,
That teach the rustic moralist to die."

Pity the sorrows of a poor old man,
Whose beard descending swept his aged breast;
Laugh where we must, be candid where we can,
Man never is, but always to be blest."

MARGARET.

Margaret; or, Prejudice at Home and its Victims. An Autobiography. In two vols. Bentley. Price 7s.

THIS, as the work with which Mr. Bentley inaugurates his bold speculation of giving us novels cheap as cheap books, will excite a degree of attention which its power and its desire to quit the beaten track, for pressing realities, will justify. The book is singular in many respects. There is a fervour and sustained purpose in it which carries the reader through much that is objectionable—very much that is unreal. It is an autobiography, the scope of which is nothing less than to expose the wretched conventionalisms which trample goodness and courage out of life, which make poverty the worst of crimes, which render it perilously difficult for a young woman to earn her living in any sphere higher than that of domestic service, and which make religion a mockery and a form.

Such is the purpose. We cannot always applaud its execution. Where exaggeration does not run over into falsehood, improbability often warms off belief. In such a crusade, truth and moderation are indispensable. Now the writer of *Margaret* is perhaps a very sincere person, quite unconscious of the untruth which his or her pictures convey—and far be it from us to say or insinuate anything directly throwing a doubt on his or her sincerity. Bungling workmanship, however, is untruth, although not mendacity; and that the workmanship is bungling, as regards the presentation of religion (not to mention other topics), we assert on the evidence of the effect produced on our minds as we read.

In the early chapters we were moved to something like indignation by the obtrusive and immodest display of religious phrases, reminding us of the cant with which religious novels are saturated. In calling this "immodest," we adopt the sentiment so admirably expressed in the current number of the *North British Review*, wherein a writer whose orthodoxy is as unquestionable as his ability, thus remonstrates with some American writers:—

"The novelist who, in professing to depict human life, dispenses altogether with Christian agency, is leaving Hamlet out of the play with a vengeance; but the opposite fault of violating the modesty of religious feeling, by an unseasonable foisting of it in the faces of those who do not comprehend it, is even worse than a merely negative neglect. It is the greatest immodesty that can be perpetrated. All modesty, if analyzed, proves to be nothing more than the reluctance of a pure heart to having its feelings bared to the gaze of an imperfect sympathy; and the higher and deeper the feeling, the greater the indecency and ruinous wrong of exposing it."

But amid the prodigality of pulpit language there stood what looked like an unusual liberality, in the shape of an infidel whom we are taught to regard as a most truthful, exemplary man. He rejects Christianity; yet he is made more Christian in act and feeling than all the other Christians in the book, except the mild, acquiescent grandfather, whose Christianity allows him to be "put upon" as if he were a Job. This puzzled us. Very sincere Christians recognise the fact that a man may reject the doctrines, yet act up to the spirit of Christianity; but although sincere Christians do this, very "professing" Christians assuredly do not. You never expect charity from those who are loud in their assertion of "preaching Christ." Accordingly, we thought at first that the writer of *Margaret* was a person of great liberality, who had only been infected with the phraseology of a sect. But as we proceeded through the volumes, and noted the reiterated attacks on churchmen and professing Christians, together with the vigorous onslaughts upon the forms and mockeries which mask real Christian feeling, the suspicion became irresistible. "This writer," we said, "is only using religious phraseology as a stalking horse, behind which he may securely shoot the arrows of his scorn at the mummeries of orthodoxy." Before closing the volumes, our suspicions oscillated, and now calmly reviewing the whole series of indications, although we will not accuse the writer of having been moved by such an intention, we do accuse him of being a bungler at his work, if that were not his intention.

In the attacks on current prejudices, in the exposure of heartless conduct venerated by respectability, in the crusade against "shams," social and moral, the writer is often powerful, and only fails of being always and completely so by the want of sufficient attention to details, and by representing as typical what is obviously exceptional. It is really a great subject this of the obstacles social and moral which frustrate woman's attempts to earn a livelihood; but it demands the severity of unexag-

gerated truth, or its presentation must fail in effect. In *Margaret* the writer has been allowing his imagination to substitute the sequences of life; he has combined a story out of imaginative sequences, not out of actual experience. This is the more to be remarked, because he has evidently been actuated by a desire to quit the track of the circulating library, and to draw upon actual or recorded experience for materials; but the reality is not depicted in its real traits, and is mingled with much that is obviously fictitious.

We are arguing very seriously—some will think severely—with this author on his first appearance. It is not often that a novel calls for such criticism, and the author must accept so much of the implied compliment. He has been very near producing a book "to make a sensation;" it is because he has power in him we have paused to point out the causes why he has not wholly succeeded. We say "he" to avoid the repetition of a qualification; but our belief is that the writer is a woman.

Portfolio.

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

TWO OLD OWLS.

An Apologue.

TWO old Owls lived in domestic quiet, in the oriel window of an ancient ruin. They had lived there for years, staring at the world with large round wondering eyes, but mingling no more with it than was necessary; their experience of it had made them hermits. If, as would occasionally happen, they ventured into the sunlight, they were blinded and bewildered by the glare, buffeted and insulted by the smaller birds, who made game of them. And so they secluded themselves in their mossy solitude, and lived there in plump, cosy, downy contentment. A few worms and mice sufficed for food; and for affection, each sufficed to each.

One night a Hawk, an old acquaintance of their childhood, flew into their nest. The meeting was cordial with the reminiscences of youth. They talked of old times till the dawn was grey, and the twitter of the smaller birds rose sharp into the morning air. They marvelled, indeed, to see how young the Hawk looked, with his bright restless eye, his slim legs, and barred plumage, like those of a gay young bachelor. He told them it was because he had *lived*. And then he dazzled the old Owl with sparkling narratives of the outer world, and raised strange longings in his breast to see something of the varied forms of life so eloquently described.

"Whenever I have ventured out by daylight," said the Owl, "the other birds have mocked me; so, thinking I was out of my proper sphere, I returned to my home."

"That is because you have not boldly taken your position," replied the Hawk. "In the world you must take what you want—no one gives. When I make my appearance you should see how the birds rush to the nearest wood and thicket, giving vent to their scandalized terror in various cries!"

"Do they never fly after you?"

"Sometimes; but that is only when I have got one of them in my talons. Coming here this afternoon I carried off the wife of a most respectable partridge," said the Hawk, with a libertine shake of the head. "I wanted her, and so I took her. The whole covey followed me, making an uproar like a village of outraged women; they thought I wanted her for my seraglio. Not I—I ate her."

As the Hawk said this the old Owl looked at him with envy and respect; but his wife "shuddered," and thought the Hawk would be a bad companion for her lord. She was glad when he flew away, and devoutly wished he would never fulfil his promise, of "looking in upon them" some fine day.

The words of the tempter dwelt in the old Owl's mind. He was moody, taciturn, abstracted. Visions of the gay life led by Hawks tormented him. The ruin where he had spent so many happy years seemed now a monotonous prison; mice and worms seemed now a monotonous regimen; his old wife "twaddled," he thought; and he himself felt old, as he thought how much younger seemed his friend. The Hawk had been to Court, and, indeed, was related to the Emperor Eagle. Why should not he, also, make a figure at the Eagle's Court? Why should he remain the terror of mice, when he might make the doves cots flutter?

In this mood he saw the Hawk return, and gladly accepted the proposition to "see life," in his company; but, afraid of his wife's tears and reproaches, afraid of his own conscience, he dared not tell her of what he was about to do. He slipped away, leaving her dozing on her perch. She awoke to her bereavement.

It would be a long tale to tell how the truant Owl was disenchanted by reality; how vain his efforts to become a young dandy, like the Hawk; how miserable the sunlight made him; how the food disagreed with him; how he went to Court, and was haughtily disowned by the Eagle, and mercilessly quizzed by the courtier birds; how heartsick and feeble he returned to his old oriel window, to spend his days in such peace as remorse would leave him.

As he flew homewards all the dear familiar scenes came soothing to his mind, like a breeze from the sea shore on a feverish brow. The image of his old and loving companion, with whom all joys and sorrows had been shared, became an alternate anguish and alternate joy to his troubled heart, filling him with remorse and with hope. As he flew into the ruin a huge and murderous rat slunk away into his hole, licking his bloody lips. As he flew up to his nest a film overshadowed his eyes; for there, before him, lay the mangled body of his murdered wife. He had left her old and unprotected; he found her a corpse.

VIVIAN.

BABY-MIND.

"THERE is a cabbage in my garden," said Isaac, "which grew from a seed that escaped a bird's bill one day last autumn, as it pecked the parent stock. In the winter it lay covered with snow. Frost nipped its bed tightly about it, and half-pinched out its life. Yet it lived and grew, a fibry tree, at first, in the soil, then a pin-point of green on the surface; a slenderling anon, that drooped its head for faintness, when the meridian sun shot at it, that scarcely sustained the gently falling dews, and bended to breaking when the rain came. Then a sturdy plant, a uniped of growth and substance, whose heart widened with its days. Its roots, which now stretch eight inches into the soil, are preyed upon by worms; greedy insects cuddle among its leaves; and its heart is fed upon by millions of minute existences. John, the gardener, will get ninepence for it on Saturday at the market!"

"Whatever are you thinking about, my boy?" said I, smiling at his history of a cabbage.

"I have been considering," he answered, "what and where was I, when my father and mother exchanged glances for the first time at Mrs. —'s party, on the evening of the 7th January, 1827: and, do you know, I cannot form any satisfactory hypothesis on the subject. Not but that I have invented a dozen. I embodied my favourite one in a couple of stanzas last night. Will you hear them?"

"With pleasure," said I, "and see that you do them justice in the reading."

"Well, here they are; I have called them—

A THOUGHT.

I.

I'm a soul as old as the world,
I breathed in the dawn of eternal day;
I've played with stars in the depths of space,
And run them many a merry race,
Where heaven's dust flies, o'er the milky way.
I was free—I was free.

II.

I'm a soul in a prison of clay,
Laden with fetters of flesh and bone;
From morn to night and from night to morn,
Every minute my burden is borne.
I fret my chains, and wrestle, and moan,
To be free—to be free."

"Bravo!" cried I, when he had finished reading. "I like the idea; it is at least more poetical than believing that, on the night alluded to, you lay indigested in your papa's stomach! As for the prisons of clay, they are model prisons, my boy, fitted up on beneficent principles, and not to be sneered at. But, by Jove, I like the idea!"

"Now, Dick," said my friend, rather seriously, "stop jesting, like a good fellow, and let us talk over this subject."

"With all my heart." So we talked about Babies for a long time; and here is the outcome of our conversation.

When Baby first enters the world, we roll the pulpy organism in flannel and niche it in a nice cosy cradle to rest. The puling weak creature, insensible to joy or grief, was ushered into life with a pang, and a scream; and here it now lies oppressed by a long and painful stupor—a nightmare prefacing the dream of a life. Turn aside its covering and look on it,—it has all the physical attributes of the biped, though not in all their grace and symmetry. It neither sees with its eyes, hears with its ears, nor discerns with its olfactories and tangentials as we do; and yet the development of this flannel-bound brat may one day meet us—a philosopher,—a sceptic,—a puritan,—a what-not!—perhaps in society say an impudent thing to us,—put us down, show us up! God is great,—but is not this amusing? This rudiment of a philosopher might enter three times into a draper's yard stick!—an incautious pillow would take but a few seconds to dismiss its soul to Hades!—yet will it live to ask itself whether it *has* a soul—to struggle fiercely to comprehend itself; which it will no more be able to do than to take its head in its teeth—the poor little innocent wretch!

Shall we try and comprehend it?—alas, it is but another self, and we shall not succeed. Let us be content to be ignorant where knowledge is impossible; enough for us, that whencesoever it has come, it is here now, tiny, helpless, little soul,—nabbed at last and fixed here in God's penal settlement, over which evangelical parsondom, and other self-elected spiritual tormentors, experimentally preside! There it lies, the unconscious raw material of a man—as yet, an unadulterated specimen of humanity. Where out of the cradle can we find such? What relation, pray, is there between the sand on the beach and the mirrors in which we admire ourselves?—between a ship's cable and superfine note-paper?—between a spider's entrails and a lady's silk gown?—between the baby of the cradle and the bosom, and the man or woman of *good* society? Sleep on, little soul—happy thou, it may be, should thy sleep know no awaking!

If the powers of the mind are there, as some philosophers assure us, encased in the strength and experience of a fore existence,—if Memory, and Perception, and Reflection, and Imagination, and Wit, and all the allied powers in the grand and eternal constitution of the soul are there, and if they bring with them their foreign airs and prejudices, how do they behave when on the walls of their organic prison, life first dawns, and the opening eyes telegraph to the Council in the brain's assembly rooms, the first impressions from the new world? Let us follow our fancy. And first: the SENSES like fools peer from their posts out on the strange world across whose threshold they have entered; the alphabet of things is new to them, they want a key to the symbolism of the universe. At each new impress from the outer sphere, they behave like the people of a city besieged, who fly to the ramparts and walls, wondering and wisting when any new or unheard-of engine is rolled up to the attack. SIGHT, come from a world of dazzling brilliancy, in vain adapts his spying apparatus to study

form. He washes his eyeballs, adjusts his humours, and strives to bring things to a focus. At last a mother's face is painted on the brain. Wit finds no contrast to lead to laughter; Imagination never in its infinitude of creations conjured up such a shape; Memory talks anxiously aside with his elder sister Recollection; while Wonder, returned from looking out through the eyes, throws his first summersault in the centre of the group! And now the face smiles in holy calmness, while this ring of observers watch it on the brain. Mysterious sympathy!—the pulse quickens,—the nerves vibrate responsive to the feeling at the heart;—a smile steals over the face of the Babe,—a placid rippling smile, the silent signal of the slowly dawning consciousness within. TOUCH diffuses itself through the frame; he stations watchers on the fingers and palms, but shrinks from his first encounter with coarse materiality. He has come from the world of abstract forms, a perfect geometrician, but fails to recognize either the parallelipipedon on the rotund. HEARING for millions of ages had listened to the music of the spheres. His fine taste is sickened with disgust. He sits in the ears all day, sat and regretful, while every point in space centres a wave that surges in low murmurs into his retreat. He will presently lay aside his fastidiousness: the grinding of a street-organ will yet put him into raptures. TASTE, at first warning of the approach of earth, stations himself as keeper at the gates, to test all imports. Thoughtless fellow!—who used to drink nectar with the Gods, and enjoy the choicest fruits from the Eternal Trees. The nurse's spoon with the everlasting oil of castor is presented to him. Poor sense, he spits and sickens with disgust,—the extremest portions of the organism tingle in sympathy with his suffering—SMELL:—

"Enough," cries one, impatient of these newcomers from a world of spirits, "enough of these tyros in the school of experience. Your philosophy is absurd; perception is but educated sensation; and sensation is but—" you hesitate, our dear sir! The philosophy which guided our fancy is absurd; granted, but your philosophy may be offensive as well as absurd. We cannot know how we are brought into our mysterious intimacy with space and time, and form. We are aware of that. Speculation is the child of impotence. Let us see the child of *your* weakness. To please you, then, we will reverse the picture, and regard Baby as the result of numberless differentiations of cells and tissues, whose last differentiations brought it into the open air, and into swaddling bands, and who has yet to be differentiated into thinking and daring manhood, and thence into oblivious abysses beyond the grave; into grasses, and thence into beef and mutton, at unpopular prices per pound; into wind in an alderman's stomach, and into blood in his coarse and bulgy veins; till once again it reappears, from its weary round of differentiations, a prattler on a mother's breast, or a loved rogue, pulling its papa's whiskers? We think no longer now of Baby as possessing *mind*, but as having certain undeveloped electricities in its branular department. Poor Baby! if this be what thou art! if from such we are! We are fain to wish thee *dead*, and ourselves *dead*. Better, indeed, incorporated in the all extended electric ocean, to speed a jobber's lie along the wires, than to be a lie ourselves!

DICK FUTEREL.

The Arts.

WHITEBAIT AT GREENWICH.

If gentlemen *will* take ladies to Richmond and Greenwich with views of gallantry flanked by whitebait (I never do!) they must be "prepared for the consequences." By the way, what is the subtle link connecting gastronomy with matrimony (right and left-handed),—gulosity with what the French call "overflowings of the heart?" There is such a link. Not only do I observe young gentlemen of the Lovelace species to be very partial to whitebait dinners, but I note as an invariable fact, a law of conjugal life, that the happiest couples are always fond of the cuisine; correct views on the constitution of a dinner engender deeper and more lasting affections than the strictest sympathy in orthodoxy, or the most thorough participation "in views for the elevation of the species." Ergo I, being a logician, infer a causal connexion between happiness in the married state, and harmony in gastronomic desires. Argal I, being one to whom Logic is a guide, philosopher, and friend, not feeling myself capable of gastronomic excellence, have never married. Shakespeare, who knew everything, calls Love, with sad irony,—

"A madness most discreet,
A choking gall, and a preserving sweet."

thereby profoundly, though obscurely, intimating the connexion between love and jam-pots, which our proverbial phrase, "cupboard love" has consecrated.

Whitebait dinners are pleasant things, if you don't eat the whitebait, and don't pay the bill. The bill is a decided drawback; so is the waiter sometimes; he was so pre-eminently on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Buzzard's clandestine dinner at the Crown and Sceptre, as set forth in Maddison Morton's "screaming" farce at the Adelphi, adapted from *Un Garçon de chez Vêry*. The Buzzards have married in secret, and are dining in secret, their tête-à-tête much and frequently disturbed by the incessant apparitions of the waiter. This waiter, on the opening of the piece, has quitted the Crown and Sceptre, and comes to fill the place of "boy" at Buzzard's establishment. Buzzard, recognising him, imagines that he "knows all." He knows nothing, but that is as good as all, and so he mysteriously assents, tyrannizing over Buzzard in a manner "easier seen than described." Go and see Keeley do it. It is one of the drollest farces you can see; the dialogue is droll, from its oddity, the situations are droll from Keeley's fat fun, and from the wild disregard of probability which the author laughingly passes over. On the first night there was too great a tendency to ride jokes and situations to death by repetition, but when pruned of these "damnable iterations," the farce will be a great success.

A NICE FIRM.

At the LYCEUM we have had a picture of legal life, drawn with an attention to reality rarely witnessed on the stage, and drawn with a skill which puzzles one to account for its success not being greater than it was. Here is a comedy in one act, well written, admirably and ingeniously constructed, full of character, never running into exaggeration, never dawdling into dullness, played to perfection, and yet not by any means so successful as many a piece unworthy to be mentioned in the same breath. Why, with all these elements of durable success, was the success so much beneath desert? Why was the piece more admired than laughed at? This is a nut for critics to crack. I have puzzled over it, tried my molars on it, and am not sure that I have got at the kernel yet.

The subject is an ill-regulated attorney's office. Two solicitors, *Moon* and *Messiter*, present two types of bad management; one is slow, formal, oblivious, pottering, twaddling, *moony*; the other is rapid, reckless, confident, *messy*. One forgets, the other does not wait to remember. One mislays documents, the other acts upon his own hasty guesses. Were it not for a cool managing clerk the business would instantly fall into ruin: as it is, the business only falls into confusion. You see at once the idea is fertile: Tom Taylor makes it only too fertile: in his hands it is illustrated with such abundant, truthful, and minute detail, that the whole picture comes out like a daguerreotype.

I do not indicate the *imbroglio* of incident and character through which the piece moves with amazing ingenuity and clearness, for I do not want to take the edge off curiosity; but enough has been said to indicate the nature of the dramatic idea presented; and enough, perhaps, to render intelligible the following remarks.

A Nice Firm is an original idea worked out with felicity, but worked out in a style more suited to the novel than the drama. It is like one of Balzac's stories in its exhaustive details—all of them necessary for the complete exhibition of the idea; but individually too minute and familiar to be of great interest. This, as I take it, is the *παρὰν ψευδος*, the original sin of the piece. In the drama, details should be few and striking, rather than abundant and trivial. We do not, as in a novel, care to follow the author in his building up of a large work out of minute materials. Effects should be distributed in masses; as indeed is implied in the very fact of

representing in an hour or two the events and feelings of a large episode of life. Tom Taylor's effects are seldom broad enough, droll enough, to amuse in themselves while illustrating his idea; hence it is that although we see what he is doing, and admire its truth, we are not so much amused as we should have been in reading a story so worked out.

In this respect I look upon *The Nice Firm* as a dramatic lesson; I do not think the *Times* has pointed out the main source of weakness in alluding to the technical nature of the subject and the jokes; that may have had something to do with it, but the real error lies deeper I think, and it is one which deserves study, for surely the paradox is unpleasant when a piece like this, of which every one must speak in admiration, does not amuse so much as others every way its inferiors! The acting was excellent. Especially is Frank Matthews to be commended for his unexaggerated portrait of the moony old solicitor—a real bit of acting. Charles Matthews began in his charming, easy, natural style, promising great things; but the part falls off as the piece advances, and expectation gradually subsides. Baker, always truthful, played a little bit of character. Roxby, Williams, and Mrs. Frank Matthews were also good in their several parts.

A PRETTY PIECE OF BUSINESS.

NOTHING can be more unlike *A Nice Firm* than *A Pretty Piece of Business*: one is all truth, the other all farce—one is new, the other as old as farce; one extorts admiration, the other laughter. *A Pretty Piece of Business* has no other object than that of raising laughter, and it raises shouts. Buckstone, as the bashful M.D., intensely admiring the impudence of Howe, is worth going miles to see. For a long while this very droll actor has been (although a manager) playing the most ungrateful parts; at last he has got a bit of character in his hands, and it is a treat to see what he makes of it.

George Vandenhoff is decidedly "making a stand" at the HAYMARKET. His *Claude Melnotte* fully justifies our hopes of him as a valuable acquisition in serious comedy and the "young tragedy" parts. On Thursday a little opera by Edward Fitzwilliam was produced, with success. I was unable to go, but next week I will see it and report.

VIVIAN.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 27th of September, at the Adyar, Madras, the wife of the Hon. Sir Christopher Rawlinson: a son.
On the 4th of November, the Lady Anne Dick Lauder: a son.
On the 8th, at Hythe, the Hon. Mrs. Augustus Lane Fox: a son, stillborn.
On Friday, the 11th, at Cologne, Baroness Von Verno-Klevenow: a daughter.
On the 11th, at Streatham, Surrey, the wife of Gustav Dressler, Esq.: a daughter.
On the 16th, at Carlton-terrace, the Countess of Arundel and Surrey: a son.
On the 16th, at 12, Bentinck terrace, Regent's-park, the wife of Thornton Hunt, Esq.: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 3rd of November, at Newport, Rhode Island, United States, Daniel Sargent Curtis, Esq., of Boston, U. S. A., to Ariana Randolph, youngest daughter of the late Rear-Admiral Ralph Randolph Wormeley, of the British Navy.
On the 3rd, at Sephton Church, Captain Starkey, H.E.I.C.S., late Commandant Third Sikh Infantry, eldest son of John Cross Starkey, Esq., of Wrenbury-hall, Cheshire, to Eleanor, second daughter of Charles Robert Simpson, Esq., Waterloo.
On the 10th, at Brighton, the Rev. William Keene, perpetual curate of Whitby, Yorkshire, to Elizabeth, third daughter of John F. Thomas, Esq., Member of Council, Madras.
On the 11th, at Adbaston, Aston Lewis, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.A.C., &c., of Fulbeck, eldest son of William Lewis, Esq., of Woodbrook, Alderley, Cheshire, to Georgina E. Rose, youngest daughter of Sir George Denys, Bart., of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire.
On the 11th, at St. George's, Beckenham, Kent, David Maxwell Aitken, Esq., M.D., of Kingsland, to Mary Ann, youngest daughter of Thomas Washington, Esq., of Milk-street, Cheapside, and Ravensbourne-lodge, Lewisham, Kent.

DEATHS.

On the 24th of September, at Sanger, Captain George Collingwood Dickson, Twenty-third M. L. I., son of the late Admiral Sir Archibald Collingwood Dickson, Bart.
On the 2nd of November, at Florence, Captain Robert Napier Kellett, late of the Royal Highlanders, nephew of Sir Richard Kellett, Bart.
On the 3rd, at Malta, Charlotte Hope, only daughter of the Right Hon. the Lord Justice Clerk for Scotland.
On the 6th, at Bagndre de Bigorre, Hautes Pyrénées, and interred in the Protestant part of the public cemetery in that town by Pasteur E. Frossard, Lucy, the wife of Alfred Binyon, Esq., of Manchester, and daughter of the late Thomas Hoyle, Esq.
On the 11th, at Pitfour Castle, Perthshire, Montague Lady Pamure.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, November 18, 1853.

THE settling of the Consol account at the latter part of last week passed off very quietly; only two failures were announced, and to no great amount. The fluctuations have been rapid, but to a great extent since Saturday. On the receipt of the extraordinary *Times* despatch, on Wednesday, from Bucharest, they weakened slightly; but from the subsequent belief on Change that the Cabinet Council had separated without coming to any decided course of action, and that Parliament will not be summoned before the new year, there was a slight rise in Consols. This morning they are firm at 95. The public, in fact, prevents any serious fall in Consols. Speculators, who have been "going" for a fall during the last six weeks, cannot realise, and will eventually be

heavy losers, unless some very disastrous continental dilemma should arise. Large purchases have been made for Trust Funds in Chancery, and the aspect of English railways, with their enormous debts and liabilities, is doubtless driving many people to get rid of their shares, and purchase Three per Cents. at this present low figure; and it must also be taken into consideration that Europe is in a state of smoulder that may burst into a flame at any moment.

Hence prudent foreign capitalists may be buying largely into our funds. The sales, therefore, of Consols are perhaps mostly speculative, while the purchases are real and bona fide. Railway Shares have been very sparingly dealt in, and the bi-monthly settling on the 15th was very easily got over. Of Foreign Railways the same may be said—a slight depression has occurred within the last two days, owing to a threatened rise in the rate of discount by the Bank of France. The Great Luxembourg line has commanded some attention, owing to a report of a favourable arrangement being onward with the Strasburg line.

Mines have been somewhat brisker this week. The unlucky Metcalf Jamaica Copper Mine has received very unfavourable intelligence, and command but $\frac{1}{2}$ premium per share, at one time having been pulled to £18 per share. The Aqua Frias and Nouveau Monde still promise great returns. West Mariposas have met with attention, one of the managers having, it is said, arrived with 700 or 800 ounces of gold. Waller shares have also been enquired after. Australian mines have been dormant, nothing doing in them. Australian Agriculturals have advanced some £4 per share. The supposition is, that favourable news has been received.

But the great business of the week has been in the Consol market and Foreign Securities. There is but little doing in Russian, the greater number of holders of this Stock are in Holland, and there the fluctuations are more marked, and of greater extent. Spanish Three per Cents. have been dealt in somewhat, and Peruvians. The markets close 3 30, as per list.

Consols, 95, 95½; Russian Four and a-Half per Cents. 112½, 113½; Spanish Three per Cents., 21½, 22½; Peruvian, Actives, 71, 73.

London and North Western, 102½, 102½; South Western, 76, 78; Great Western, 82, 83; South Eastern, 61½, 62½; Eastern Counties, 13, 13½; Great Northern, 84½, 85½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 65½, 66; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 60, 62; York and Northern, 49; Northern of France, 34, 34½; Paris and Lyons, 15½, 16½; Paris and Strasburg, 32½, 33 x. d., x. u.; Rouens 40, 42.

Australian Agricultural, 42½, 43½; Peel River, $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; North British Australasian, $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; Scottish Loan and Investment (Australasian), 7½, 7½ p. m.

Aqua Frias, $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; British Australian Gold, $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; Colonial Gold, $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; Nouveau Monde, $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; Mariposas, $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; Imperial Brazils, 5½, 6; Maraquitas, $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; Waller's (Virginia), $\frac{1}{2}$ p. m.; United Mexicans, 3½, 3½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday, November 18, 1853.

The supplies of wheat, barley, and oats are moderate since Monday. The wheat trade is exceedingly firm, at the prices of that day; and oats meet a ready sale at 6d. per quarter advance. Barley, beans, and peas are without alteration.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.
(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Satur.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	218	216	.....	217½	218	.....
3 per Cent. Red.	93	93½	94	94	93½	.....
3 per Cent. Con. Ans.	94½	94½	94½	94½	95	.....
Consols for Account	94½	94½	94½	94½	95	.....
3½ per Cent. An.	94½	95½	95½	95½	95½	.....
New 5 per Cents.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1850	65	64	5 5-16	5 5-16	.....	.....
India Stock	251	.....	.....	253	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	par	1 d	2 p	.....	par	.....
Ditto, under £1000	2 d	2 p	.....	.....	2 p	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000	2 p	2 p	6 p	6 p	4 p	.....
Ditto, £500	2 p	2 p	6 p	6 p	4 p	.....
Ditto, Small	2 p	2 p	6 p	6 p	7 p	.....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian 4½ per Cents.	Russian 4½ per Cents.	97½
New, 1852	Spanish 3 per Cents.	45½
..... 95½	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def.	21½
Danish 3 per Cents. 1825	..... 82½	.....
Mexican 3 per Cents.	Belgian 4½ per Cents.	95½
..... 24½	Dutch 2½ per Cents.	63½
Peruvian 3 per Cents.	.....	.....
..... 50½	.....	.....
Russian 5 per Cents., 1822	.....	.....
..... 112½	.....	.....

WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS, from Two till Five o'clock, a part of Dr. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM is open for Ladies only, when LECTURES will be delivered by Mrs. LEACH. On those days Gentlemen will still be admitted from Eleven till Two, and from Seven till Ten, while on other days the Museum will be open for Gentlemen only from Eleven till Five, and from Seven till Ten. Lectures by Dr. LEACH.

Admission, One Shilling. Portland Gallery, Regent-Street, opposite the Polytechnic.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.—
Lessee and Manager, MR. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, November 21, and during the week, will be repeated the Original Drama, in Three Acts, called PLOT and PASSION. Principal characters, by Messrs. F. Robson, Emery, Leslie, Cooper, White, and A. Wigan; Miss E. Turner and Mrs. Stirling. After which the introductory Extravaganza, called THE CAMP AT THE OLYMPIC, in which will appear Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, F. Robson, Cooper, and Galli; Mesdames Stirling, P. Horton, Chatterly, E. Turner, Wyndham, and A. Wigan. To conclude with THE WANDERING MINSTREL. Jem Baggs Mr. F. Robson.

Box-office open from Eleven to Four. Doors open at Seven, and commence at Half-past Seven. Stalls, 5s.; Boxes, 4s. Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.

WEDNESDAY EVENING CONCERTS.
EXETER HALL.—A NIGHT WITH MENDELSSOHN

On Wednesday next, the 23rd inst.

PART II.—Music of a Miscellaneous character.

Principal Vocalists—Misses Birch, Alleyne, Stabbach, Rebecca Isaacs, Madame Lablache, and Madame Amedei (prima donna contralto assoluta of La Scala, Milan—her first appearance at Exeter Hall), Mr. Galer, Mr. Champion, Mr. George Perron, Mr. Lawler, and Signor Lablache. Grand Pianoforte, Mlle. Wilhelmine Clauss (her last appearance previous to her departure for the Court of St. Petersburg.) Solo Flute, Mr. Richardson.

Conductor, Mr. Benedict; ditto of Second Part, Herr Meyer Lutz. Leader, Mr. Thirlwall. Director of the Music, Mr. Box. Chorus Master, Mr. Smythson. Managing Director, Mr. William Willott.

Tickets and Programmes to be had at the Hall.

LONDON TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—

ORATIONS will be delivered by JOHN B. GOUGH in EXETER HALL, on

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, and THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1853.

Doors open at Seven; the Chair taken at Eight o'clock.

Tickets, to the Body of the Hall, Sixpence each; Reserved Seats, One Shilling; may be had at the Office, 337, Strand.

LONDON TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—

JOHN B. GOUGH will deliver an ORATION in the MUSIC HALL, STORE STREET, Bedford Square, on

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 23rd, 1853.

Doors open at Seven; the Chair taken at Eight o'clock.

Tickets, to the Body of the Hall, One Shilling; Reserved Seats, One Shilling and Sixpence; may be had at the Office, 337, Strand.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit **WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS**, 39, Oxford-street, (corner of Newman-street,) Nos. 1 and 2, Newman-street, and Perry's-place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of **FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY**, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, £2 14s. to £5 10s.; ditto with ornolu ornaments and two sets of bars, £5 10s. to £12 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to £3; Steel Fenders from £2 15s. to £6; ditto with rich ornolu ornaments, from £2 15s. to £7 7s.; Fire-irons, from 1s. 9d. the set to £4 4s. Sylvester and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges,

First—From the frequency and extent of his purchases; and
Secondly—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

DISH COVERS AND HOT-WATER

DISHES in every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherche patterns. Tin Dish Covers, 6s. the set of six; Block Tin, 12s. 3d. to 27s. 2d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 32s. 3d. to 57s. 6d. the set; Britannia Metal, with or without silver-plated handles, 73s. to 110s. 6d. the set; Sheffield plated, £10 to £16 10s. the set; Block Tin Hot-water Dishes, with wells for gravy, 13s. to 19s.; Britannia Metal, 20s. to 72s.; Sheffield plated, full size, £9 10s.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has **TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS** (all communicating), exclusive of the Shop, devoted solely to the show of **GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY** (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.

39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); Nos. 1 & 2, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 & 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

CAUTION.—TO TRADESMEN, MER-

CHANTS, SHIPPERS, OUTFITTERS, &c. Whereas it has lately come to my knowledge that some unprincipled person or persons have for some time past been imposing on the Public, by selling to the trade and others a spurious article under the name of **BOND'S PERMANENT MARKING INK**, this is to give notice, that I am the Original and sole Proprietor and Manufacturer of the said article, and do not employ any traveller, or authorize any person to represent themselves as coming from my establishment for the purpose of selling the said ink. This caution is published by me to prevent further imposition upon the public, and serious injury to myself, **E. R. BOND**, sole executrix and widow of the late John Bond, 28, Long-lane, West Smithfield, London.

DAVIES'S YELLOW SOAP, 38s., 44s.,

48s., and 52s., per 112 lbs.; Mottled, 54s.; Brown Windsor, 1s. and 1s. 9d. per packet; White Windsor, 1s. 4d.; Plain Windsor, 9d.; Honey, 1s. 4d. Sperm Oil, 8s. per gallon; Argand or Vegetable, 4s. 6d.; French, 4s. Sperm Candles, 1s. 7d. and 1s. 8d. per lb.; Transparent Wax, 1s. 10d.; Best Wax, 2s. 3d.; British, 1s. 5d.; Botanic, 1s.; Composite, 8d., 9d., 10d., and 10½d. Store Candles, 7d.; Moulds, 8d. for Cash, at **M. P. DAVIES** and **SON'S** Old-Established Warehouse, 63, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross.

FORD'S EUREKA SHIRTS.—

Best Quality, Six for Forty Shillings; Second Quality, Six for Thirty Shillings. Gentlemen desirous of obtaining Shirts in the very best manner in which they can be made, are solicited to try **FORD'S EUREKA**. "The most unique, and the only perfect-fitting shirt made."—*Observer*.

Country residents purchasing in any provincial town are requested to observe on the interior of the collar-band the stamp—**Ford's Eureka Shirts, 38, Poultry**, (without which none are genuine.) Agents are now being appointed in all towns. Terms, &c., forwarded on application.—**RICHARD FORD**, 38, Poultry London. Manufactory, Hay's-lane, Tooley-street.

EUREKA.—PATTERNS of the New

Coloured Shirtings in every variety of Colour, upwards of 200 different styles for making **FORD'S EUREKA SHIRTS**, including sprigs, spots, stripes, &c., sent post free on receipt of six stamps, price 27s. the Half-dozen.—List of Prices and Mode of Self-measurement sent post free.—**RICHARD FORD**, 38, Poultry, London.

N.B.—Agents are now being appointed in all towns. Terms, &c., forwarded on application.

THE IMPERIAL COVERLETS.—The most

elegant and useful articles ever yet used, as a covering for the bed, are the **IMPERIAL COVERLETS**, which combine GREAT WARMTH WITH EXTREME LIGHTNESS. No person studying health and comfort should be without them, and to invalids and children they are especially valuable.

"I disapprove exceedingly of thick heavy quilts and counterpanes; they should always be avoided, especially by invalids, as they irritate delicate frames, and prevent sleep."—*Dr. GRAHAM'S "Domestic Medicine,"* page 192-729.

May be had of **W. H. BATSON and CO.**, 39, MADDOX-STREET, REGENT-STREET.

HEAL and SON'S EIDER DOWN

QUILTS are made in Three Varieties—the Bordered Quilt, the Plain Quilt, and the Davet. The Bordered Quilt is in the usual form of bed quilts, and is a most elegant and luxurious article. The Plain Quilt is smaller, and is useful as an extra covering on the bed, or as a wrapper in the carriage, or on the couch. The Davet is a loose case, filled with Eider Down, as in general use on the Continent.

Lists of Prices and Sizes sent free, by post, on application to **Heal and Son's Bedding Factory**, 196, Tottenham-court-road.

VARICOSE VEINS, &c.—HUXLEY'S

SURGICAL ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c., are still recommended in all cases where a bandage would formerly have been applied. They are light, durable, and more economical than any article yet produced. **SPIRAL STOCKINGS** at a great reduction in price; Abdominal Belts on a new principle, weighing only four ounces.

Particulars, Lists of Prices, and the articles forwarded by post, on application to **HUXLEY and CO.**, 5, VINE STREET, OXFORD STREET. Hospitals supplied on favourable terms.

PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.**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 January, and 4th of every alternate month thereafter from Southampton, and on the 10th of January 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 27th of every month from Southampton.

MARSEILLES, ITALY, and MALTA.—From Marseilles to Genoa, Leghorn, Civita Vecchia, Naples, and Malta on the 15th and 30th of every month; and from Malta to Naples, Civita Vecchia, Leghorn, Genoa, and Marseilles, departing from Malta on the 1st and 15th of every month.

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.

For further information and tariffs of the Company's rates of passage money and freight, for plans of the vessels, and to secure passages, &c., apply at the Company's Offices, 122, Leadenhall-street, London, and Oriental-place, Southampton.

HARBINGER, from England to Port Phillip, 69 days.

ARGO, ditto ditto ditto 64 days.

Ditto, from Port Phillip, home via the Horn, 64 days.

STEAM to AUSTRALIA.—The GENERAL

SCREW STEAM SHIPPING COMPANY'S Ship **CRÆSUS**, of 2500 tons and 400-horse power, will positively leave Southampton for **MELBOURNE** and **SYDNEY**, on Tuesday, the 10th of January, 1854. The Cabins possess every comfort, are well ventilated and fully furnished; two spacious Saloons are devoted to the public entertainment of the Passengers. Rates, from £35 to £80, according to the accommodation required, exclusive of wines, beer, &c. Rates of Freight from £7 per ton, dependent on priority of engagement. Rough goods will be taken by special agreement.

Full information as to freight and passage-money may be obtained on application at the Company's offices, 1, Adelaide-place, London-bridge; or to the Company's agents at the principal towns of the United Kingdom.

Parcels carried at the rates fixed by tariff. Ship's letter-bag will be open at the Company's offices.

ITALY, GENOA, LEGHORN, FLORENCE, ROME, NAPLES, and MALTA.

Travellers and Families about to visit Italy, &c., are informed that the **PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S** two new Steam-ships "**VECTIS**" and "**VALETTA**," of 1,000 tons and 400-horse-power each, fitted up with superior passenger accommodation, and already proved to be the fastest ocean steamers afloat, now run from Marseilles to Genoa, Leghorn, Civita Vecchia, Naples, and Malta, departing from Marseilles on the 15th and 30th of every month; also from Malta to Naples, Civita Vecchia, Leghorn, Genoa, and Marseilles, departing from Malta on the 1st and 15th of every month.

Particulars of fares, accommodation, &c., may be obtained on application at the Company's Offices, 122, Leadenhall-street, London, where also by timely arrangement separate cabins for families or parties may be secured.

TEA!**INSURRECTION IN CHINA.—TEAS are**

advancing in Price, and from the disturbed state of the producing districts, the well-ascertained shortness of supply, and the increasing consumption, there is every probability of a considerable rise. We have not at present altered our quotations, and are still selling

The very Best Black Tea, at 4s. 0d. the pound.

Good sound Congou 3s. 0d. "

Finest Pekoe ditto 3s. 8d. "

Fine Gunpowder 4s. 0d. "

Choice Oolong 1s. 0d. "

Finest Homeopathic Cocoa 1s. 0d. "

This is the most pleasant and nutritious preparation of Cocoon.

For the convenience of our numerous customers, we retail the finest West India and Refined Sugars at market prices.

All goods delivered by our own vans, free of charge, within eight miles of London. Parcels of Tea and Coffee, of the value of Two Pounds sterling, are sent, carriage free, to any part of England.

CULLINGHAM and COMPANY,

Tea-merchants and Dealers,

27, SKINNER-STREET, SNOW-HILL, CITY.

ARRIVAL of the NEW SEASON'S TEA.

Our **FIRST CONSIGNMENTS** of the **NEW SEASON'S TEA** are now on **SALE** at our Warehouses, 8, King William-street, City. We beg to call attention to the strong Congou Tea, at 3s. and 3s. 4d. per lb. The prime Souchoong Tea, at 3s. 6d., and 3s. 8d. The best Lapsang Souchoong Tea, at 4s. The prime Gunpowder Tea, at 4s. and 4s. 8d. The delicious Gunpowder, at 5s. All who purchase at these prices will **SAVE MONEY**, as TEAS are getting **DEARER**.

We are still selling prime **COFFEE** at 1s. and 1s. 2d. per lb. The best MOCHA and the best WEST INDIA **COFFEE**, at 1s. 4d.

Teas, coffees, and all other Goods sent carriage free, by our own vans and carts, if within eight miles; and Teas, Coffees, and Spices sent Carriage free to any part of England, if to the value of 40s. or upwards, by **PHILLIPS and COMPANY**, Tea and Colonial Merchants, 8, King William Street, City, London. A General Price Current sent post free, on application.

FIRE at the GUTTA PERCHA WORKS.**RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS.**

The Gutta Percha Company beg to Inform their Customers and the Public, that they have resumed the Manufacture of Tubing, Sheet, Siles, Round and Flat Bands, Chamber Vessels, Talbotype Trays, Galvanic Batteries, Union Joints, Bosses, Flasks, Bottles, Bowls, Curtains and Cornice Rings, &c. &c. Numerous Fancy Articles are also in progress.

Submarine and Subterranean Telegraph Wire insulated with Gutta Percha.

Orders to be addressed, as previously, to the **GUTTA PERCHA COMPANY, PATENTERS**, 18, Wharf-road, City-road, London.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847.

The Court of Directors grant Letters of Credit and Bills at 30 days' sight upon the Company's Bank, at Adelaide. The exchange on sums above £10, is now at a premium or charge of two per cent. Approved drafts on South Australia negotiated, and bills collected.

Apply at the Company's Offices, No. 54, Old Broad-street, London. **WILLIAM PURDY**, Manager.

SAVINGS BANKS' DEPOSITORS and

other **INVESTORS** are informed that the **ROYAL INVESTMENT SOCIETY** is allowing Depositors 4½ to 5 per cent. interest on Deposits, which are all invested on real security by this Society. No partnership liability.

TRUSTEES.

The Right Hon. Lord Thomas Pelham Clinton.

The Hon R. E. Howard, D.C.L.

Erasmus Wilson, Esq., F.R.S.

Prospectuses free on application.

W. BRIDGES, Secretary.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,

7, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, London.

Established May, 1844.

Parties desirous of Investing Money are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with perfect Security.

The Interest is payable in **JANUARY** and **JULY**, and for the convenience of parties residing at a distance, may be received at the Branch Offices, or paid through Country Bankers, without expense.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses free on application.

THE METROPOLITAN AND PROVIN-

CIAL JOINT-STOCK BREWERY COMPANY.
Capital, £200,000, in 40,000 Shares of £5 each. (With power to increase it to £1,000,000.) Calls, 10s. per share, with Three Months' Notice.

TRUSTEES.

Alfred B. Baghott Watts, Esq.

Edward Vansittart Neale, Esq.

DIRECTORS.

John Francis Bontems, Esq. | Edward Vansittart Neale, Esq.

Charles Henry Edmonds, Esq. | William Holloway, Esq.

Sydney Stevens, Esq.

MANAGER.

Mr. William Stevens.

BANKERS.

Commercial Bank, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden.

OFFICES.

13, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, London.

NOTICE is hereby given, that in accordance with the Resolution passed at the last General Meeting, a **DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT.** per annum is now payable on the Shares of the Company. The dividend warrants may be obtained on application at the Offices, between 10 and 4 o'clock. In conformity with another Resolution passed at the same meeting, the Directors are prepared to issue bonds for sums of £1 and upwards, payable by instalments, and bearing interest at five per cent. per annum; to be repayable at stated periods, and convertible into Shares at the option of the holders.

Shares can be obtained by applying at the Office as above.

The Company's **UNADULTERATED Ales, Porter, and Stout**, supplied in casks or bottles of imperial measure, from the Stores, 13, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, where Lists of Prices and any other information respecting the Company can be had by application to the Manager.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.**MESSRS. HOLYOAKE AND CO.,**

BOOKSELLERS and PUBLISHERS, 147, FLEET STREET, LONDON, give intimation that their Printing Business and Book and News Agency, hitherto carried on at 3, Queen's Head Passage, Paternoster Row, will in a few days be opened at No. 147, Fleet Street.

On and after January 1, 1854, Messrs. Holyoake and Co. will publish, at 147, Fleet Street, the List of Works on "Free Inquiry" now issued by Mr. James Watson, Publisher, of 3, Queen's Head Passage, Paternoster Row.

All Mr. Watson's Works will be immediately sold at No. 147, Fleet Street.

With *Reasoner* No. 391, (next Wednesday's Number,) is published price One Penny, a Map of the War of the Danube, with article No. 1, on the "Eastern Question," by J. C. Collet.

Miss Martineau's New Work, "Comte's Positive Philosophy," translated, 2 vols.; Professor Newman's New Work, "Kosuth's Speeches;" Leigh Hunt's New Work, "Religion of the Heart;" G. H. Lewes's New Work, "Exposition of Comte," supplied at

Holyoake and Co.'s, 147, Fleet Street.

FIVE GUINEAS.—Mr. WM. H. HALSE, the

Medical Galvanist, of 22, Brunswick-square, London, informs his friends that his **FIVE GUINEA APPARATUSES** are now ready.—Send two postage stamps for his Pamphlet on Medical Galvanism.

TEETH.—By Her Majesty's Royal Letters

Patent.—Newly-invented and Patented application of chemically-prepared **WHITE INDIA RUBBER** in the construction of **ARTIFICIAL TEETH**, Gums, and Palates.—**MR. EPHRAIM MOSELY**, Surgeon-Dentist, 61, Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square, Sole Inventor and Patentee. A new, original, and valuable invention, consisting in the adaptation, with the most absolute perfection and success, of chemically-prepared **WHITE INDIA RUBBER** as a lining to the ordinary gold or bone frame. The extraordinary results of this application may be briefly noted. All a few of their most prominent features, as the following:—All sharp edges are avoided, no springs, wires, or fastenings are required, a greatly increased freedom of suction is supplied, natural elasticity hitherto wholly unattainable, and a soft, perfect natural elasticity of the agent employed, the greatest support is given to the adjoining teeth when loose, or rendered tender by the absorption of the gums. The acids of the mouth exert no agency on the chemically-prepared White India-rubber, and, as it is a non-conductor, fluids of any temperature may with thorough comfort be imbibed and retained in the mouth, all unpleasantness of smell and taste being at the same time wholly provided against by the peculiar nature of its preparation.—To be obtained only at

61, LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET, LONDON.

22, Gay-street, Bath.

34, Granger-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THE UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY. (Provisionally Registered.)

Capital £300,000 (with power to increase the same), in 150,000 shares of £2 each. Deposit £1 per share, payable on allotment, and the remainder on or before March 31, 1854.

TRUSTEES.

Andrew Caldicott, Esq. (Messrs. Caldicott, Sons, and Wilcocks), Cheapside.

Frederick Burmester, Esq. (Messrs. Burmester, Brothers), St. Helen's-place.

Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S. (Messrs. T. and W. Chapman), Leadenhall-street.

Joshua Walker, Esq. (Messrs. Walker, Parker, and Co.), Abchurch-lane.

Directors of the London and Westminster Bank.

PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. Lord Bateman, Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Hereford, *Chairman*.

Captain the Hon. Walter Bourchier Devereux, R.N.

Standish Grove Grady, Esq., Middle Temple, Recorder of Gravesend.

William Leaf, Esq. (Messrs. Leaf, Smith, Leaf, and Co.), Old Change.

Le Comte de Massiac, Epernay, and 130, Piccadilly.

Captain Alexander L. Montgomery, R.N., Director of the Atlas Assurance Company.

Peter Rolt, Esq., M.P. (Messrs. Brocklebank and Rolt), Clement's-lane, City.

Henry Brinsley Sheridan, Esq., 3, Onslow-square, Brompton.

Captain George Drought Warburton, Royal Artillery, Commissioner of Corporation Inquiries.

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Charles W. Elkington, Esq., Town Councillor, Birmingham.

W. Logie, Esq. (Messrs. Logie and Fisher, Writers to the "Signet"), Glasgow.

J. Ravenscroft, Esq. (Messrs. W. and J. Ravenscroft, merchants), Rumford-street, Liverpool.

J. R. Stebbing, Esq., F.R.A.S., Town Councillor, Southampton.

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Sir Henry Beddingfield, Bart., Osburgh Hall, Norfolk.

Thomas Bedborough, Esq., Old Windsor.

Benjamin Bodenham, Esq., Kingston, Hereford.

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N. Huckle, Esq., Ashton-under-Lyne.

G. Hughes, Esq., Upper Deal.

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John Frederick Norman, Esq., banker (Messrs. Stuckey and Co., bankers), Taunton.

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Deane John Hoare, Esq., 14, James-street, Buckingham-gate.

Alexander K. Curtis, Esq., 7, New-square, Lincoln's-inn.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Hoare, Fleet-street; the London and Westminster Bank.

ENGINEERS.—P. Pritchard Baly, Esq., M.I.C.E.; J. Walker Wilkins, Esq., electric telegraph engineer.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. W. O. and W. Hunt, 3, Whitehall-place; Messrs. Few and Co., Covent-garden.

SECRETARY.—The Hon. William Twiss Law, Offices, 5, Ludgate-hill, London.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of affording, throughout the United Kingdom, greatly increased advantages of telegraphic communication, at a much reduced rate of charge.

With this object the Directors have availed themselves of the telegraphic improvements recently patented by Mr. J. W. Wilkins, the inventor, whose services they have secured for the effectual development of this most important system, and whose practical experience in the working and management of electric telegraphs, both in this country and the United States of America, will be most valuable to the Company.

The Following are the Chief Advantages contemplated by this Company:—

1. COMMUNICATION WITH NEARLY 800 principal TOWNS or PLACES in the UNITED KINGDOM.

2. AN UNIFORM CHARGE OF SIXPENCE per MESSAGE (not exceeding Twenty Words) to any of the Company's Stations.

3. THE MESSAGE WRITTEN by the TELEGRAPH INSTRUMENT ITSELF.

4. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSMISSION, without the need of INTERMEDIATE OPERATORS.

5. EXTREME SIMPLICITY.

6. SUPERIOR INSULATORS.

7. GREATLY INCREASED RAPIDITY OF OPERATION.

8. ONE OPERATOR ONLY REQUIRED at EACH TELEGRAPH.

9. THE MOST PERFECT ACCURACY.

Arrangements have been made for vesting the patent rights in trustees for the Company.

Application will be made to Parliament for an Act of Incorporation to enable the Company to carry out the foregoing objects. In the meantime the Company will be formed under a deed of settlement pursuant to the Joint Stock Companies' Acts, in which is embodied the usual limitation of liability clause.

The estimates have been carefully prepared and considered, and the Directors feel confident of a highly remunerative return for the capital invested.

It is intended to commence telegraphing so soon as any section of the work is completed, by which means income will be obtained upon the very first expenditure.

Proposed Tariff of Charges.—An uniform rate of 6d. per message (not exceeding twenty words) to any of the Company's stations, and one halfpenny for each additional word.

Applications for Shares (in the subjoined form) to be addressed to the Secretary, at the Company's Offices, 5, Ludgate-hill, London; or to Messrs. W. O. and W. Hunt, solicitors, 3, Whitehall-place; Messrs. Few and Co., solicitors, Covent-garden; Messrs. Brunton and Son, Auction Mart, Bank; John H. Anderson, Esq., 17, Throgmorton-street; Mr. Nathaniel Lea, stock and share-broker, 38, Bennett's-hill, Birmingham; and Messrs. Hobbs and Sheppard, Sweeting-street, Liverpool; from any of whom forms, prospectuses, and further information may be obtained.

Form of Application.

To the Provisional Directors of the Universal Electric Telegraph Company.

Gentlemen,—I request that you will allot to me Shares of £2 each in the above Company, and I hereby agree to accept such shares, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to pay a deposit of £1 per share thereon upon allotment, and to execute the deed of settlement and the Parliamentary contract when required.

Dated the _____ day of _____, 1853.

Name _____

Residence _____

Profession or calling _____

Reference in full _____

SOLICITORS' AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

52, CHANCERY-LANE, LONDON.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, ONE MILLION.

This Society presents the following Advantages:—

The security of a Subscribed Capital of ONE MILLION.

Exemption of the Assured from all liability.

Premiums affording particular advantages to young lives.

Participating and Non-Participating Premiums.

In the former, EIGHTY PER CENT. or FOUR-FIFTHS of the Profits, are divided amongst the Assured TRIENNIALY, either by way of addition to the sum assured, or in diminution of Premium, at their option.

No deduction is made from the four-fifths of the profits for interest on Capital, for a Guarantee Fund, or on any other Account.

POLICIES FREE OF STAMP DUTY, and INDISPUTABLE, except in case of fraud.

At the General Meeting, on the 31st of May last, A BONUS was declared of nearly TWO PER CENT. per annum on the amount assured, or at the rate of from THIRTY to upwards of SIXTY per cent. on the Premiums paid.

POLICIES share in the Profits; even if **ONE PREMIUM ONLY** has been paid.

Next DIVISION OF PROFITS in 1856.

The Directors meet on Thursdays, at Two o'clock. Assurances may be effected by applying on any other day, between the hours of Ten and Four, at the Office of the Society, where Prospectuses and all other requisite information can be obtained.

CHARLES JOHN GILL, Secretary.

EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY,

3, Crescent, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London.

DIRECTORS.

Robert Alexander Gray, Esq., Chairman.

Thomas Devas, Esq., Deputy Chairman.

Charles Bischoff, Esq.

Thomas Boddington, Esq.

Nathaniel Gould, Esq.

Charles Thos. Holcombe, Esq.

Richard Harman Lloyd, Esq.

Joshua Lockwood, Esq.

W. A. Peacock, Esq.

Ralph Charles Price, Esq.

Thomas G. Sambrooke, Esq.

William Wybrow, Esq.

ACTUARY AND SECRETARY.—Charles Jellicoe, Esq.

The business of the Company comprises Assurance on Lives and Survivorships, the Purchase of Life Interests, the Sale and Purchase of Contingent and Deferred Annuities, Loans of Money on Mortgage, &c.

This Company was established in 1807, is empowered by the Act of Parliament 53 Geo. III., and is regulated by Deed enrolled in the High Court of Chancery.

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