

Thomson Leigh Hunt, 7 Wellington Street, Strand.

The Leader.

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

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1854.

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News of the Week.

A GAIN the Eastern question presents itself in two branches—in the Euxine and the Baltic; but the Russian question, now becoming substantive, begins to look infinitely more important than the Turkish. The news from Constantinople might make us fear that Austria has succeeded in misleading our Ministers to sacrifice Turkey at the feet of Russia. They have urged upon the Porte a new note, in which the Four Powers engage Turkey to conclude peace with Russia, upon the conditions that the old treaties with Russia be renewed. This appears to give up everything that Russia asked. It is, however, remarked by friendly commentators, that the treaties on renewal would be subjected to the explanations, guarantees, and control of the Four Powers, and would thus virtually constitute a pledge from Turkey to those Four Powers, and not solely to Russia. The notion that the Porte was capitulating, provoked the riot of which we have already heard, under the Mussulman zeal of the Ulemas and Softas; but the proclamation of continued war, notwithstanding the new negotiations, had the effect of pacifying the people. Both sides continue their preparations and action.

In the meantime, the peculiarly one-sided enforcement of neutrality in the Black Sea, after the blow at Sinope, tells most disastrously for Turkey. An instance will show its working. The Porte was about to send reinforcements to its troops in Asia Minor; but the path by sea being cut off, this reinforcement would be obliged to travel round by land, and would arrive to the succour of the Sultan's faithful soldiers a month after its departure! Turkey, however, is not likely to be downcast, especially after the new and signal success in Lesser Wallachia; where a large body of Russian reinforcements were repulsed with immense loss.

Indifferently as European diplomacy looks in that quarter, however, there is some hope that our Government may have at last committed itself to steps more energetic and just. Three series of orders have been sent out to the admirals of the Black Sea. The first, to enter the Dardanelles; the second—just about the time of Lord Palmerston's secession from the Ministry—"to make a demonstration" in the Black Sea; the third, recently, and after his return, to take possession of the Black Sea, and enforce its neutrality, by con-

fining the war-ships of Russia and Turkey to their ports. The important fact, however, remains to be told. These last instructions have been notified directly to St. Petersburg, and the notification will arrive in that capital before the Turkish reply to the note of the Four Powers. Michael Angelo alone could portray the aspect of the dread Czar, on learning this outrage upon his supreme dignity. We fully expect to hear that, while he declines to treat with any other country on Turkish ground, he will now feel compelled to accept a direct quarrel with the powers of the West.

We do not care much to investigate the endless rumours about the mission of the Prince de Chimay from Belgium to France to intermediate with the Czar; nor with suspicions that Austria will back out of the Western alliance, while Prussia shall join the neutral league of Denmark and Sweden. There are apparitions, however, which, whether they be substantial verities or not, are so ugly in their look as to create anxiety. The statement that Prince Albert interferes in the conduct of foreign affairs between the Queen and her Ministers, is rather confirmed than not by collateral circumstances, which are currently told in the conversation of society, and by the form of any unpublished contradiction which over-zealous servants are said to have hazarded. The stories are, as yet, unsupported by any real evidence; but they meet with no real contradiction, though the public might have expected that the charge would have been repelled with indignant promptitude.

Another extremely disagreeable incident is the proposed meeting of the Count de Chambord with the Orleans family at Claremont. By the constant visits which the Count has exchanged with the Duchess of Orleans, it would seem as if he had brought over that independent lady to the league; in which case he would now be the adopted father of his young cousin, the Count of Paris. When the Count met the Duke of Nemours at Frohsdorf, public opinion in England condemned the Austrian Government for assisting at the conjunction; and now public opinion turns uneasily to the recollection that the Orleans family have the run of the royal residence in England. It is true that our court can be primarily responsible for the gross infringement of discretion and taste of which the Count de Chambord is guilty, in abusing the free hospitality of England, to make it the safe ground of his intrigues; and no free Englishman would desire that our Government should pursue even those

worthless conspirators with spies or police. Let them machinate in safe impotence. But, at all events, the outrage on discretion and taste should be punished by the rigorous exclusion of these intriguing busybodies from our court. It is preposterous to plead private friendships; the crown holds its dignity by the tenure of faithfully performing suit and service to state policy.

Portugal, under its Coburg King-Regent, remains tranquil, because the English fleet is in the Tagus; protecting the Portuguese Court, not the inviolability of England.

The loyal Spanish officials have loudly heralded the birth of a daughter to the Queen of Spain, suspending the presumptive hopes of a Montpensier for a few days. The poor little infant died on the 8th instant.

One turns from these paltry intrigues and diseased dynastic calculations to the healthy development of constitutional freedom in a quarter which never ceases to raise our attention and interest. While the Pope is putting forth an allocution, confessing to the world the downcast state of his mind at the condition of the Romish Church, while our own ecclesiastical statistics disapprove many tales that Rome was regaining England, Piedmont is continuing her path in a gradual Protestantism, which certainly does not appear to be the less sure because it is slow. We know that the measures lately taken by Government will fail to touch the sympathy of our literalising Protestants, or our Voluntaries; nevertheless they are pregnant with the largest germs of religious freedom. The Government possesses a strong and overwhelming majority in the Representative Chamber, and it is expected that the Ministerial party will put in practice the design of revising the Church. The State-Church titles will be reviewed, mendicant orders will be put down, and the stipends of the multitude of common clergy will augment by the spontaneous munificence of the State. It is evident that, under such a reform, the customs and institutions of the regular orders will be altered, the secular clergy will be brought under the control and influence of the State, and, what is more, the people will witness the triumph of a Government which has the courage and strength thus to grapple the spiritual despotism of Rome and reduce it to secular control. This is a reform more pure-minded than that of Blue-Beard Henry; and if it is not establishing constitutional freedom and vitality in religious as well as civil matters, our own Reformation in England is a delusion.

From the opposite quarter of the world—the United States—come fresh reports that a great expedition is fitting out against Cuba, and that the Government is preparing to suppress it. It remains to be seen whether the preparations are adequate for that purpose; and if they are, whether the expedition would contrive to evade the vigilance of the Government. There is no doubt that if once Cuba were in American possession, the Government would be unable to effect a surrender.

At home, the state of the labouring classes is not quite satisfactory. The excessively trying weather, coupled with the enhanced prices of an adverse season, has given a sudden impulse to destitution; and it is an ugly circumstance, attending an increase of applications for relief, that in several parishes, including some important metropolitan parishes, the officers have refused food and shelter, in some cases with fatal results.

The strike in Lancashire has not been materially altered by the explanation which Mr. Hollins of Preston has put forth. He shows that, by whatever means, his "best weavers" earn higher wages now than they did in '47—in the ratio of 12s. to 7s. 6d. The operatives reply, that there is some mystification in the comparison, and that the true average of Mr. Hollins's mill was not more than 9s. 6d. In one respect, Mr. Hollins has advanced farther than the operatives; for he has given statements which are at once comprehensive and specific. The working classes allege that the statement lacks honesty: if, on their side, they would make a statement equally specific, and add the honesty, they would do what is expected of them. A correspondent of our own partly supplies what is wanted. It is a mistake, however, to suppose that the operatives establish their case by showing that wages are lower: what they have to do is to prove that, consistently with making a profit, Mr. Hollins could pay the rate of wages demanded. The question at issue is not their own wants, but the commercial capability of the millowners.

To the bread riots at Devonshire we do not attach much importance. Dear bread commonly provokes discontent—the ignorant resent their suffering in violence, the disorderly enjoy the confusion of an hour. In these outbreaks the upper and middle classes undergo the penalty of not having taught the people better.

The meeting in Edinburgh, to found a society for improving the dwellings and domestic condition of the agricultural labourers in Scotland, is a pleasant set-off against these incidents. In Scotland the married labourers are lodged in wretched cottages, the single men in a sort of barracks called "bothies." The buildings go with the farm; they are the property of the landlords, but no rent is paid for them; so that nobody has any interest in improving them except the labourer, who has not the means. The Duke of Buccleuch and his coadjutors are attempting to break down the whole system. They seek to obtain advances of money, like those for drainage, at an annual charge, for twenty-five years, of 6½ per cent., in payment of capital and interest.

A reform still more important is that now proposed by Government—a re-organisation of the Civil Service. The principal points in the new plan are, that every candidate for admission is to be subjected to an examination as to his fitness, and that some subsequent examination will take place before promotion. So that not only will the servant be chosen according to his merit, but he will have that great innovation in the present practice, an incentive to distinguish himself by zeal and aptitude.

PRINCE ALBERT AND THE CONSTITUTION.

Rumours have been recently afloat, as our readers know, hinting at the interference of Prince Albert in state matters. What amount of truth there may be in these stories of course we cannot say; all we know is that they are general and uncontradicted. They have produced an immense effect, as might be

supposed. Nor will the following correspondence, published in Dublin, allay the public feeling:—

"To His Royal Highness Prince Albert.
"May it please your Royal Highness,—I have recently read, with much pain and indignation, articles that appeared in the public journals, containing most unjust and anti-Christian accusations against your Royal Highness; and, moved by sincere sympathy and loyal duty, I beg leave to offer, with unfeigned respect, the following observations to your Royal Highness."

"The charges maliciously preferred against your Royal Highness may be summarised under two heads—first, that your Royal Highness improperly interposes your advice to the Queen on affairs of state; and, secondly, that your Royal Highness is invariably present when her Majesty receives audiences to her Ministers. Upon each of these points I will say a few words."

"1. It is utterly incorrect to allege that your Royal Highness is disentitled to give advice on affairs of state to your royal wife. It is true that your Royal Highness cannot act as the political head of the state; but when the Queen voluntarily selected your Royal Highness to be her consort, you became her head by sacred right of marriage; and your Royal Highness is bound, by that superior relation, to afford all advice and assistance to her Majesty in executing the arduous responsibilities of royalty; and for her Majesty to forego that help would be to deprive herself of the most important and impartial counsellor in her dominions! For what object can your Royal Highness have in view but that the best interests of the British crown may descend unimpaired to your royal posterity? Depend upon it, sir, that no presumed principle of public policy can or ought to sever your Royal Highness from your assigned rightful headship over the Queen of these realms."

"2. The peculiar position of a female sovereign renders it highly decorous and eligible that in all interviews with her Ministers the Queen should enjoy the protective presence of your Royal Highness, and the manly, open interference of your Royal Highness should be wisely considered as an effectual safeguard against even the surmised exercise of sinister influence."

"In the hope that these Christian considerations will prove cheering and sustaining to your Royal Highness, I have the honour to be, your Royal Highness's obedient humble servant,
"Thomas Mulock."

"Killiney, near Dublin, January 3."

"Windsor Castle, January 5.
"Sir,—I am commanded by his Royal Highness Prince Albert to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to thank you for your kind communication.—I have the honour to be, sir, your very obedient servant,
"Thomas Mulock, Esq."

"C. GREY."
Perhaps our readers will not think more highly of the discretion of the Prince, after perusing the above letters.

At a meeting at Sheffield, on Monday, there were indications of the popular feeling. The meeting was convened by the Mayor, on a requisition, to consider British policy on the Eastern question. Resolutions condemning the aggression of Russia, and declaring that force, if needed, should be used to expel him from Turkish territory, were adopted. Then Mr. Ironside proposed a memorial to the Queen, containing this paragraph:—

"That, in submitting these facts and resolutions, it would ill become your Majesty's memorialists to refrain from alluding to certain painful rumours, calculated to create alarm and distrust among the British people; and they would at the same time beg most respectfully to suggest that the best way of dissipating these rumours would be by a frank, honest, and hearty movement on the part of the Government in the manner herein described." (Cheers.)

The Mayor objected to this paragraph as entirely beside the object of the meeting.

"Mr. Ironside—I have finished reading it. (He proceeded to read the next paragraphs:—) That if there should be a disposition exhibited by some members of the Cabinet not to adopt this course, it is most respectfully suggested that your Majesty will further relieve them of the responsibilities of office, and fill their places with men who have the honour of England at heart, and effectually carry out the unanimous wish of the nation on this question. Your Majesty's memorialists therefore pray that no further time may be wasted (altered by the Mayor to 'lost') in the settlement of a question of such overwhelming importance, but that energetic measures may be forthwith taken by the British ('and French' in the original) Governments to compel Russia to recross the Pruth unconditionally, and to obtain the most complete and satisfactory adjustment of all disputes between Russia and Turkey." While the Mayor was modifying, to suit his own views, that part of the memorial which he considered objectionable, he (Mr. Ironside) would, in the most delicate and respectful manner possible, allude to the most objectionable portion. He had been deeply grieved to see the rumours that had been put in circulation; to see the universality of those rumours, and, as far as he knew, not the slightest attempt at contradiction had been made. (Hear, hear) It was a painful thing indeed for true-hearted Englishmen to think upon. Now, if half that was said was true—

"The Mayor—I must call Mr. Ironside to order. I came here to preside over a meeting to consider the Russian question, and you are now entering into matter entirely foreign, for which you have no data beyond mere rumour, which is contradicted on all sides, and which no one who has watched the conduct of the illustrious person to whom it refers, can for a moment believe. (Cheers.) So long as I preside over the meeting, I will endeavour to keep order. If you choose to transgress that order, I certainly shall leave the chair and depart from the meeting." (Cheers.)

"Mr. Ironside—I am exceedingly sorry." (Cries of "Let's have it out.")

"The Mayor—As chairman of this meeting, I call upon you to support the chair. (Cheers.) I decide that Mr.

Ironside is out of order. ('He is not.') If Mr. Ironside chooses to go on after this intimation, I shall leave the chair. I will sign no memorial that embodies that to which he alludes." (Uproar.)

"Mr. Ironside—If you will be quiet, we shall get over this little episode. The Mayor has altered the memorial to suit his own view."

"The Mayor—I have altered it to suit the truth."

Mr. Ironside intimated that there was nothing untrue in it before, though there might be that which to some would appear to be improper. He valued order too much to continue the subject after the chairman had ruled him out of order. He concluded by moving the address, omitting the objectionable paragraph. Mr. Whitworth seconded the motion. He believed that our Government had betrayed their trust on this question. Without the Russian monster was checked in his dishonest and aggressive practices the liberty of the world was in jeopardy.

The Mayor proceeded to take a show of hands on the memorial. He remarked that he had struck out that portion which referred to rumours which, in his conscience, he believed were without foundation, and with which this meeting had nothing to do. As the memorial had to be presented to her Majesty herself, it would have been highly improper and impertinent if it had contained any such notice. (Cheers. There were cries for the memorial as altered to be read.)

It was explained that the Mayor had struck out the paragraph referring to Prince Albert. In this form the memorial was adopted unanimously.

CITY MATTERS—DEFENCE OF THE CORPORATION.

THE inquiry before the City Commission was renewed on Wednesday. It had been arranged that witnesses pointing out defects and proposing alterations in the corporation should be heard first, and that the defence of the corporation should then be put in. That has now begun. Mr. Stuart Wortley read a written statement to the Commissioners which, going through the charges against the corporation, and defending that body, is its authentic vindication.

This defence is of great length, and amounts in the main to counter assertions. The income of the city, complained of as excessive, is set down at 200,000*l.*, besides which 17,000*l.* is raised by rates for lighting, sewers, and police. Nearly one-half the former amount is derived from rents, a little more than one-half from tolls, dues, and offices. The corporation contend that their landed property has been in their possession 1200 years, and insist that the purchase of freedoms and the tax on coal are sources of income alike unobjectionable and convenient. They admit, however, that the metage and portage require modification. With respect to the Lord Mayor's Show and Feast at the Guildhall, they are defended as ancient customs which ought not to be abolished; and it is asserted that the expenses of the Lord Mayor have been exaggerated by the witnesses before the Commission. The allowance to the Lord Mayor does not exceed 9000*l.* per annum. That the salaries of the officers are on a liberal scale is admitted, but it is contended that the civic legislature has a right to remunerate its officers as it pleases. The tavern expenses of the committees do not now exceed 1200*l.* a year. The right of the city to control its own police and sewers is vindicated. It is denied that the accounts are kept so as to be unintelligible. It is obvious that many allegations against the corporation are not answered; but one seems to be, namely, that the corporation is inferior to what it was of yore. The refutation of this charge has been made with great care, by instituting a comparison between the civic doings of the last and the present century. We append a few specimens:—

"In the 18th century almost all the officers of the corporation were remunerated by fees, and the offices were sold or disposed of, both in possession and reversion. Offices, judicial and administrative, were disposed of in this manner, although the produce of the sale rarely found its way into the corporation chest."

"In the 19th century as offices have become vacant the fees have become diminished or abolished. Not only has the sale of offices been discontinued, but the corporation has, as occasion served, bought up the right of alienation wherever it existed."

"In the 18th century the corporation likewise sold and leased, or authorised the Lord Mayor and the sheriffs to sell or lease, at fines and at nominal rents, the profits of the markets of the city, as well as the profits of certain coal, corn, and other meters' places."

"In the 19th century no such sale can take place. By payment of large sums of money, and by granting equivalent annuities and *post obit* compensations, which have now been almost all discharged, the corporation have bought up the revenues thus wasted in former times."

"In the 18th century, in consequence of the system of administration then prevailing, the corporation became in a very embarrassed state."

"During the 19th century, by increased attention to the business of the corporation and by an improved management of its affairs, all its old debts have been paid off, the revenue has been lifted above its expenditure, and its credit has been so completely re-established, that when, for the purpose of effecting great public improvements, the corporation has had occasion to go into the market to borrow very large sums of money, its seal has commanded the required loans on the lowest and most advantageous terms."

"During the 18th century, members of both courts were eligible to corporate offices and employments in the gift of the corporation, and such offices and employments were held by them to a large amount.

"In the 19th century none of these offices can be held by a member of either court; by standing orders of the Common Council every office is closed against every member, and every employment and every contract is closed against, not only every member, but his partners also. The self-denying regulations of the Court of Common Council in this respect have perhaps extended beyond those of any other popular assembly, for they render all its members ineligible for office unless they have for three months before the election ceased to be members of the court. The sons of members of the court are likewise rendered ineligible for office by a recent resolution.

"During the 18th century bankrupts and insolvents might remain corporators; the Court of Aldermen thence became a very mixed body. Bankers and bankrupts remained seated together, the vicissitudes of commerce that swept the merchant from his place left the magistrate in his seat, and many men continued to retain office long after the power to discharge its duties had ceased.

"In the 19th century this anomalous state of circumstances no longer exists. The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons obtained an act of Parliament, by which not only were the seats of corporators vacated by bankruptcy and insolvency, but absence from duty for six months worked a forfeiture of office.

"In the 18th century, and even at the commencement of the 19th, the corporation, with an income of 80,000*l.* a-year, remunerated their four standing committees with cash allowances to the annual amount of 1,100*l.* and tavern expenses *ad libitum*, amounting, upon an average of seven years, to upwards of 4,000*l.* per annum.

"But in the 19th century, by a series of resolutions, the same four committees, administering a revenue of 210,000*l.* a-year, discharge their duties without any money allowance, and with tavern-bills restricted to 1200*l.* a-year among them all.

"In the 18th century it appears to have been the policy of the corporation to avoid publicity in the conduct of its affairs. The Common Council frequently, and the Court of Aldermen and Commissioners of Sewers constantly, deliberated with closed doors. They did not publish accounts or minutes, and gave no facilities for the reporters of the public press.

"In the 19th century a totally opposite policy prevails. The corporation publish their annual accounts, the minutes of their proceedings, and the reports of their committees, and to insure a full attendance, and a knowledge of the voting of each member, lists of members present at the courts, and the names on divisions, are printed in the minutes. The Court of Aldermen and the Commissioners of Sewers, as well as the Common Council, hold their meetings in public, they give every encouragement in their power to promote the publication of their proceedings, and afford the most ample and convenient accommodation to the reporters of the public press." In conclusion they say:—"Reviewing, however, all that has been alleged before this Commission against the corporation, and the absence of all imputation of moral turpitude or personal corruption against any of its present members, and impressed with the contrast above drawn between the administration of its affairs in the late and the present centuries, we hope and believe that much of the obloquy to which our body has been exposed is attributable to the tradition of ancient abuses, for which the present generation are not responsible, and to the errors of our predecessors, which it has been our constant endeavour to correct. Under this belief, and strong in conscious rectitude of purpose in the performance of our duties, the corporation has courted inquiry, and relies with confidence on the result; they believe it will relieve them from a load of undeserved and unjust reproach. Having nothing to conceal, and acknowledging the weighty trusts reposed in them, the corporation and all its members appeal from prejudice and uninformed abuse to the impartiality and judicial wisdom of this tribunal, and while they seek the means of improved and more effective action in extending the basis of popular confidence on which alone their institutions can safely stand, they challenge the severest scrutiny, and contending for the maintenance of their just rights, they trust to the truth for their vindication."

The examination of Mr. B. Scott, late chief clerk in the Chamberlain's office, followed the reading of this document. Mr. Scott said that there is no foundation for the assertion that the accounts are unintelligibly kept; he also asserted that they are duly audited. Mr. Scott was examined as to the *Citizen* newspaper. He said he advanced 250*l.* out of his own pocket to sustain that journal, so that the Consolidated Committee might adopt it as their organ if they chose. He was repaid out of the funds of the corporation and the sum set down under the head "Miscellaneous Estimates." He was then asked questions respecting confidential expenditure:—

"Has there been any expenditure in Parliamentary matters or in any other things by the city, except the transaction to which you have referred, which may be called of a confidential nature, and of which a full account has not been given?—I am not aware of any sums of money respecting which a perfect knowledge has not existed in the minds of those who administered the funds, although the matter may have been sufficiently confidential to be referred to a sub-committee of a few persons, instead of to a large number.

"Is there any system of expending money for what you call 'private and confidential purposes of which no detailed account is rendered?—There are very many entries in the accounts of which the totals are given; but the details are not rendered. The details of Parliamentary expenditure could not be given.

"Is that because there is anything in that expenditure which requires to be kept secret?—It is not desirable in matters of that kind to publish to the world the precise nature of the expenditure.

"Why not?—It has been so considered.

"Why has it been so considered?—Because it is thought, probably, that the opposition would be more effectual by not publishing to the world the precise means by which the bill is opposed or public opinion elicited."

In his evidence, on Thursday, Mr. Scott admitted a further secret expenditure—that of 2750*l.* to oppose the removal of Smithfield-market. It had been expended in getting up petitions, and furnishing the Remembrancer with literary assistance.

The Town-clerk, Mr. Merewether, was examined; but his evidence, except as relates to the charters, is without interest. There are 120 charters in his keeping. He had copies of them for the Commissioners. The substance of all of them had been printed. He thought the corporation justified in shutting its muniment room against persons in litigation with it.

The Chairman—Do you not think that the fact of a great corporation like the city, with a long purse at its command, acting in such a manner, is likely to operate oppressively towards private individuals who contend against them?—My own individual opinion would be, that there is no great hardship in that. If I were called upon to advise a person, or even a corporation, under such circumstances, I should say, "Keep your charters to yourself."

Sir J. Patteson—I understand you to say, that if any person brings an action against the city, you would say that there were reasons why the city should not show its charters; but, supposing that the corporation themselves brought an action against a private person, as they have done in the case of Messrs. Combe and Delafield, and the defendants asked to see the charters upon which the action proceeded, would you regard the two cases as similar?—There would only be a difference in morality, or feeling, or equity; but in law I see none.

The Chairman—If, in reality, the substance of those charters is, as you say, published and known to all the world, what reason can there be for the city preventing any person from seeing them?—I really imagine that that resolves itself into a pure question of law and legal proceeding. I think that there is no reason; but whether there is or not must depend upon the progress of the cause and the circumstances dependent upon it. I am confident, however, that no step of that kind has been taken without the impartial and unprejudiced advice and opinion of the first lawyers of the land taken as in the progress of the suit.

Does the present state of the charters give rise to considerable doubt and litigation?—I am not aware of it; but I cannot conceive anything more easy than to raise a doubt upon every charter that was ever granted. The moment they are exposed to investigation the imperfections of the language, the alteration of the circumstances of the times since they were granted, and other matters, would lay any charter open at least to argument and discussion.

You are, no doubt, aware of the course taken by the Legislature in the Municipal Reform Bill with regard to the charters of other corporations?—Yes; I would almost rather not express any opinion upon that subject. I look upon it as one of the most unconstitutional acts that was ever done in this country.

In point of fact, the other corporations now hold what rights they have under statute, and not under charter, do they not?—I do not think that I could agree exactly to that proposition. My opinion is, that that act repeals all charters so far as they are inconsistent with that act, and no further.

Mr. Lewis—How many charters are there in the books which you produce?—The total number of charters, I think, is 120, which includes the whole series, from the charter of William the Conqueror down to the present time.

How many of those 120 are in print in a form accessible to the public?—The greater portion of them.

How many?—There are 49 in Norton's book, which are all the substantial charters. I believe that there are none which are important which are not printed. An application was made to the Court of Common Council some years ago by Mr. Pulling, who has written a book containing a good deal of information, certainly, but which is not quite accurate, for leave to publish all the city charters. In the end the Court decided not to concede his application, observing that, in their opinion, if the charters were published at all it should be by one of their own officers.

Do you think that any evil would arise from their publication? Is there anything which appears to you to be objectionable in it?—I have no idea of anything objectionable in it. I should think if they were published and proclaimed at Charing-cross that they would do no injury to anybody. In giving this opinion, I speak divested of my official capacity. A great many of the charters of London are confirmed by act of Parliament, and there are very many charters in the Tower which, of course, are in no way in my custody.

In describing the duties of the Lord Mayor, Mr. Merewether said they were very onerous; in fact, there were instances of Lord Mayors sinking under them.

SOCIAL REFORM IN SCOTLAND.

A good work has begun in Scotland. A meeting was held on Tuesday, in the Hopetoun-rooms, Edinburgh, for the purpose of promoting the improvement of the dwellings, and by this means the social condition, of agricultural labourers. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch was voted to the chair, on the motion of his Grace the Duke of Hamilton.

Among the gentlemen present were Lord Kintore, Lord Morton, Sir A. Hay, Sir Ralph Anstruther, General Lindsay, Sir J. Ogilvy, Sir J. S. Forbes, Sir Archibald I. Campbell, Sir J. D. Elphinstone, Sir Robert Arbuthnot, the Dean of Faculty, Mr. Campbell Swinton, Professor Alison, Mr. Balfour (of Whit-

tingham), the Hon. T. C. Bruce, Mr. Cumming Bruce, Mr. Scott Moncrieff, and Mr. Cowan, M.P.

The Duke made an admirable speech. Throughout Scotland, he said, the habitations and the accommodation they afford is very defective. There are cottages and bothies—often the worst buildings on the farm.

"Now, I cannot blink the true state of this question. This is not a meeting for bandying compliments from one to another—I wish it were in our power so to do. I come here to speak the truth. (Hear, and cheers.) You may say that a person coming in such a position, and with such a purpose, ought at least to come with clean hands. I confess for my own part—and I am ashamed to say it—that I believe I can show as bad specimens of cottages—for I have been into them and have seen them—I believe, also, in some cases, as bad specimens of bothies—as can be found in any part of Scotland. I say that to my shame. Now, I know there is great difference of opinion generally with regard to how a remedy for this state of things is to be effected. In some parts of the country there is a custom—which I think a very vicious custom, and a very wrong custom—viz., of letting every cottage on the estate with the farm on which it is situated. These are not only cottages which are required for the farm servants living on the farm and engaged in the ordinary occupation of the farm, persons to whom a free house is given as a part and parcel of the payment of their wages, but they are given to persons who labour not upon that one particular farm, or another particular farm, but who labour in different parts of the country. I know what has been the case upon my own estate. On one part of it there were three whisky shops, two dignified by the name of inns, and the other a grocer's shop. Now, surely it was not necessary that these should be let with the farm. Now, the practice which I have adopted, following the practice which I have found to be universal in England, is that of taking every single cottage away from the farm altogether, except those that in my opinion are necessary for the due cultivation of the farm. (Cheers.) But I know that there is a great deal of difficulty about that; and I know that there is a great disinclination to adopt it. The proprietors will dislike it at first, for it will give them a great deal of trouble. They will find that these cottages when let upon the farm are supposed to be kept in repair by the persons engaged on the farm; yet my experience is that they are not kept in repair—indeed, it is very well known that nothing but a minimum of repair is ever put upon them. These persons have no feelings for the owners of the soil, though they live upon it. And they know that too often the proprietor has the same want of feeling towards them. The proprietors say, 'We know nothing of you—you are sub-tenants'; and the tenants say, 'We have nothing to do with you—you are not our masters.' The moment these cottages come into the proprietor's hands there will be a demand for repairs; and no wonder. That has happened to me. There is a demand for repairs immediately. I have examined a great many of these cottages myself, and I found one of them not fit to remain; it was impossible to patch it up. When I took the parties out of the house, I got the box-bed removed, and down came the roof. (Hear, hear.) Now, this is a specimen of a great many cases; and we must not blink the question. If any gentleman will take the trouble of going into the cottages of Scotland, they will find these things not very uncommon.

"We must consider the effect this has on the moral condition of our peasantry. Many of them are very highly educated, and some of them have considerable natural refinement of mind. But really when a man has that feeling of refinement, and is well educated, if he lives in a house that any person might hesitate to put his pigs in, you cannot expect that he can be otherwise than discontented with his lot. He will be a discontented man, instead of being happy and contented. Then, with regard to the moral conduct of our people; how can you expect morality to be at that standard at which we boast it to be, and of which I at a distance am always willing to boast, though feeling that it is an empty boast, with this state of matters? For I fear I cannot say that our morality is improved. I wish we were making a step in advance—but how can it be so? I am not speaking thus of things which do not come under my own observation. I appeal to any landlord, factor, or tenant, if what I am stating is not the case. How can you expect that where men, women, and children are all huddled together in one apartment, or in two apartments, it should be otherwise than that all self-respect is lost, and that delicacy of feeling is destroyed. I have been told so by the people themselves. I have heard it from themselves. Then I know that there is great disinclination also on the part of many of the tenantry to what I have been referring; they don't like it; and they say, 'We have no command over our labourers if they are not entirely under our control; we must have them occupying cottages in our own hands and under our own control, or else we can have no authority over them. That is all very well; it is very well where they apply to household servants for their own farms, offices, and cattle, and things of that sort. But it does not at all follow that it is absolutely necessary that the same thing should apply to agricultural labourers. (Applause.) It is a very great advantage to an agricultural labourer to be able to carry his labour to the best market, and not to be bound down to work for any one man. In some cases I know that they are treated with the greatest kindness; in others they are treated with anything but kindness. There are some cases where the same labourers remain in the same place many years together. On other farms it is well known that the labourer changes every year, and that is another of the difficulties which you have to contend with. But the remedy for this is what I have said, viz., let the proprietors take the cottages and bothies into their own hands; and the persons who will receive the benefit from such a course are the labourers themselves. (Cheers.) I believe the true object and difficulty in the matter to be the expense. That, however, I don't despair of being overcome, as every other difficulty has been overcome. We have had money advanced for drainage and many other things; I hope some mode of extending the same system to the

building of houses on farms may be discovered. (Applause.) Now, I repeat that I am afraid I have said several things which are very unpalatable, and which will not be liked; but I cannot help it; I feel strongly on the subject, and I cannot but state what I feel. (Applause.) I do trust that you will have the same feelings in your minds which I have with reference to the duty which is incumbent on every person to look after the interests and the social and moral condition which follows the domestic condition, that depending on the domestic arrangements of the agricultural labourers throughout the country. (Cheers.) You may depend upon it you will improve greatly the moral tone of the country, and indirectly you will gain a great benefit to yourselves. And if you were to talk of this abominable matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, which, unfortunately for us, governs what we have to do in this country, I do believe that, instead of finding what I am advocating unprofitable, you would find it a very profitable investment, and one yielding a far higher return to your pockets, and certainly to your consciences, than the present vicious system which unfortunately prevails. (Applause.)

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"First, that no material improvement in the character and habits of the labouring population could be expected unless they were supplied with sufficient house-room and means of domestic comfort and decency; and that the present condition of the agricultural labourers in these respects was lamentably deficient throughout a great part of Scotland. Second, that it is the especial duty of the owners and occupiers of land to remedy this defect, and to provide adequate accommodation for their farm labourers; and that a stricter fulfilment of this duty would not only tend to maintain the physical powers of the workman in fuller efficiency than at present, and induce him to discharge his duty with greater diligence and fidelity, but would encourage him in the cultivation of superior habits, and remove one of the acknowledged causes of immorality and vice in the rural districts. Third, that there is reason to believe that in many cases improvement has hitherto been delayed from ignorance of the real extent of the evil, from uncertainty as to what is required for the proper accommodation of country labourers, and from want of information as to the best and cheapest way of providing it; and that although much good has been done by the exertions of the Highland and Agricultural Society in promoting the improvement of cottage dwellings, it is expedient that more comprehensive and systematic means should now be adopted for directing attention on the part of proprietors and tenants to the great deficiency that still prevails, and to aid them in their efforts to supply it. Fourth, that for this purpose an association be now constituted, to be called 'The Association for Promoting Improvement in the Dwellings and Domestic Condition of the Agricultural Labourers in Scotland,' the object of which shall be, by periodical meetings of the association, by the establishment of an office in Edinburgh, where plans, models, and specifications of buildings and fittings may be deposited and consulted, and by such other means as may be found expedient to promote the construction of suitable dwellings and domestic accommodations for the agricultural labourers in this part of the kingdom."

This is a most important movement, and capitally begun.

SCOTCH EDUCATION.

There is a great movement on foot in Scotland connected with education, which promises to lead to a really national secular system, under local management, in that country. The principles at issue are pretty much the same as those in England. The Established Church claims the parish schools, and the right of directing education; the Free Church seem to want to share the domination of the Kirk; while a strong party go for secular education with separate religious instruction based on the Irish system. The supporters of all the views in conflict are very active; but our readers will obtain a good insight into the spirit of the contest from the annexed extracts from speeches delivered last week at a meeting in Kelso, under the presidency of Lord Melgund. He made some admirable remarks, from which we may pick out the following:—

"Hitherto in Scotland, our parochial system, whether it has been good or whether it has been bad, has been strictly national. The parochial establishment is a national establishment, the parochial schools are national schools, and all the money which is given to the support of these schools is national money, and we may do precisely as we please with these schools without injustice to any one. (Cheers.) . . . But there are undoubtedly great and grievous faults connected with the school laws of this country; as they stand at present, tests are imposed upon those who are about to undertake the duties of schoolmasters, which I think it is quite improper in a free country should any longer be suffered to exist. (Applause.) Why, gentlemen, it is almost unnecessary that in any meeting held in this country I should argue against the system of tests. The whole course of our legislation has been adapted—has tended towards a repeal of all tests in regard to public offices—and the schoolmaster's is essentially a public office. (Hear, hear.) The only test, I think, which a man ought to be subjected to, is the test of the approval of his fellow-citizens. (Applause.) You may depend upon it, that if we allow persons to choose schoolmasters for themselves, they will make a much better choice than could be made by any rigid system of tests—a system which has hitherto created so much dissatisfaction in Scotland. (Cheers.) Why, it is a most absurd thing, when one comes to think of it, that at this moment more than one-half of the population of Scotland are excluded from the privilege of entering into the position of schoolmaster in the parish school."

But the best speech was that of the Rev. Mr. Renton, the Moderator of the General Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, and a great authority

on the subject. Mr. Renton showed that things cannot go on as they are doing; but the one party—the Established clergy—are doing all they can to prevent the constitution of the parochial schools from being changed.

"This is the position which has been taken up by a party. Now, in this age of inquiry and of change, when the spirit of the country and the principles of legislation are alike hostile to whatever is restricted, or exclusive, or partial, or unjust in our laws or institutions, and when it is the purpose of both to amend and to adapt our institutions to the present circumstances of the country, and to our present duty, the position is taken up by this party of no surrender, no reform, no amendment, no alteration in the constitution of these schools. (Hear, hear.) And who, pray, or what are they who at this time, before this country, take up this strange and invidious—shall I say this audacious—position? They are the party of the Established clergy."

After further showing from a speech made by Dr. Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly, that the clergy of the Established Church would oppose any measure which would disturb their irresponsible, unjust, and unprofitable control over the parish schools, he unmasks one of Dr. Barr's modes of attack.

"The reverend doctor proceeds to characterise the proposed plan of detaching the schools from the control of the Established Church, and vesting this control in local boards, as 'justly termed revolutionary.' Revolutionary is a formidable word, my lord. It is associated in the minds of many with convulsion and anarchy, and rapine and bloodshed. It is employed to frighten; but when it fails to produce that effect, as it sometimes does when employed by false alarmists and deceivers, and by interested monopolists, it has an opposite result, and when hung out on the banner of every party which opposes reform, it is apt to be regarded as the symbol of fear and weakness, and of a bad cause, and, therefore, instead of deterring, to invite and embolden the assailants to go on with the invasion. (Applause.) Why, my lord, it is only a few months since the respectable body over which Dr. Barr at present presides raised the cry of revolution against another reform, the abolition of tests in the lay chairs in the universities. They passed tremendous resolutions. They declared that the Sovereign was bound by her coronation oath to resist the change, and to maintain these tests. They protested that the Articles of Union guaranteed their preservation; and they uttered ominous words about what would come of their allegiance if these tests were abolished. To have read their speeches, or even their resolutions and memorials, one would have thought that heaven and earth were coming together, that Scotland was about to demand a repeal of the Union, or, at all events, that the clergy were on the eve of rebellion. Well, what happened? Not a single public meeting opposed the revolutionary change. Several public meetings and many public bodies petitioned for it. It passed with very feeble opposition in the House of Commons. It passed without a single negative in the House of Lords. The Queen is still on the throne. The people of Scotland are as loyal as ever. (Laughter.)

Is not the Legislature of this day, one member of which—our own honourable and respected representative—we have this evening the happiness to see among us, as competent to frame a measure for the time as the Legislature of Scotland, three centuries, or two centuries, or a century and a half ago, was to frame a measure for these times? (Cheers.) Is it to proceed to frame a measure in our day as if the population consisted now, as then, of one religious denomination? Is it not to take into account the altered circumstances, that there is now an influential section of Episcopalians—that there is a considerable section of Congregationalists—that in our large towns and among the lowest and most uneducated masses there is a large body of Roman Catholics—that there is also, unhappily, among the artisan and working classes in these towns a considerable body of no religion, or of sceptical and infidel opinions—and, finally, that of the Presbyterian population of the country, which comprises more than three-fourths of the whole, an overwhelming majority has left the pale of the Established Church?

We come forward on explicit principles. We wish the total abolition of tests connected with these schools, so that nothing of the sort, so far as religion is concerned shall be required of the candidate for the teacher's office. (Applause.) We wish also to have control over the school vested in committees chosen by those who are to pay for these schools, without any reference to religion or ecclesiastical distinctions at all. (Cheers.) And we wish to provide that the money received by taxation, whether it shall come from the general funds of the country, or whether it shall come, as we prefer that it should, from local rates—whatever plan the Legislature may sanction, the money so raised shall go to provide secular instruction solely, and that the important department of religious instruction ought to be, as it may most confidently be, left to be provided for by the parents and churches. (Cheers.) As I have already said, this is approaching the great difficulty. There has been much misrepresentation on the subject of secular instruction. A distinguished doctor (Dr. Candlish) represents those who ask for it as holding that it is enough to make a good man and a good citizen. Now I know a good many of those who are advocates for this system in England and in Scotland. I have the pleasure to know intimately those who have been most prominent in advocating it, and I must say that I never met with one of them, nor read a line that fell from the lips or from the pen of one of them, to the effect that mere secular instruction was enough to make a good man and a good citizen. They hold, as far as I hold, that religious instruction is of indispensable importance to the foundation and to the formation of a good character, either moral or religious, and that, without religious principle, what lies at the root of a good man or of a good citizen in any state of society is wanting. (Cheers.) But because secular instruction is not sufficient of itself to make a good man and a good citizen, does it follow that therefore secular instruction is an evil, and that, if you cannot supply a man with both secular and religious instruction, according to your notion of what

religious instruction should be, therefore you should rather let a man go without instruction at all than that we should get only the secular instruction, and not your religious instruction?

But, to return to secular instruction—what I mean by it is precisely what Mr. Stanley, now Lord Derby, called then moral and literary instruction. I would call secular instruction moral, literary, scientific, industrial training, including in the last what Lord Ashburton has so happily termed the knowledge of common things. I would include all that in what we wish in an efficient system of secular instruction; for what is to be paid for by all should be adapted to all. But I wish the religious instruction to be provided for otherwise. My resolution sets forth the recognition of the importance of such instruction; it sets this forth in order that there may be no mistake about our views. Certain hours are to be set apart for this religious instruction, and it is for the parents of the children, it is for the people of the locality, to say what that religious instruction shall be. If Protestants, they will wish theirs; if Roman Catholics, they will wish theirs; and so with the other sects."

An important meeting in Edinburgh, fixed for Thursday, will throw further light upon the position of the question.

AUSTRIAN OUTRAGE UPON AN AMERICAN.

MR. J. P. DRINKWATER, of Liverpool, communicates to the *Daily News* a copy of a statement addressed by the Reverend James Cook Richmond, a citizen of the United States, to President Pierce, detailing the outrages inflicted on him by Austrian officials in Hungary. Copies of the document have been forwarded to the American press; and General Pierce now has an opportunity of carrying out the policy announced in his inaugural speech. The document is as follows, and needs no comment:—

"To the President of the United States.

"Hungary, Kecskestet, Dec. 16, 1853.

"Dear Sir,—Through Mr. Secretary Marcy you may have already heard the relation of the unprovoked insults which were offered me by a high official (M. Kirchner, Oct. 14, 1853) in the police of Pesth, of the petty espionage and anonymous letter writing to which I was exposed by order of the police, as I can prove, and of the certain and proved withholding from three to twelve days, and almost certain (indeed, acknowledged at the post-office to me) opening of my private letters. Yesterday, Christmas-day, on my return from church, I was visited by the commander of the gendarmes, Jacob Schraml (the Rittmeister), of this place, with the information that he had orders from the highest authority in Hungary, with the cognisance of the Archduke Albert, civil and military governor of this (once) kingdom, to subject all my personal effects to an examination. I protested against the right of Austria to interfere with the sacred private rights of an American citizen, and asked the officer what course he would then pursue? He replied, he should 'telegraph to Pesth for further orders.' Meantime, I should necessarily be under arrest, and am also informed that I must as soon as possible leave the kingdom. Thus, in addition to my former complaints, in the correspondence laid before Mr. Secretary Marcy,

"1. My private sacred personal rights are subjected to violent interference, and my letters, papers, &c., examined against my will.

"2. I am in danger of arrest, if I defend my rights.

"3. A stranger, without all political connexions or purposes, is inhospitably driven from the kingdom.

"These several personal attacks on me and my rights are now added to the before-mentioned grievances. I have written to the Emperor, to the Archduke Governor of Hungary, and to our Ambassador, Mr. Jackson, in Vienna. The officer performed his duty with politeness and courtesy, and of course found nothing.

"Bidding the President to take such course as may be needful in this matter, and adding that I have written to the Emperor and the Archduke, as well as to our Ambassador, that the question has now become a state question, I hand over my rights as an American citizen with the utmost confidence to him whose inaugural address so nobly declared that 'the rights of an American citizen should be revered throughout the world,' and am, with the highest regard, your friend and fellow-citizen,

"JAMES COOK RICHMOND,

"Presbyter of the Anglo-Catholic Church."

"Felegyháza, Dec. 28.—This morning, between four and five o'clock, a gendarme intruded into my bedroom, ordered me up, and in a violent snow-storm compelled me to leave Kecskestet in a jolting waggon, over frozen roads. I arrived only two hours before the mid-day train, by which I had voluntarily promised to leave, and so exhausted that I could not continue my journey.

"29th.—Last night I hoped to rest, three gendarmes, by order of the Hussar Rittmeister, Herr Von Falkenhayn, of Felegyháza, broke down the door (which was split into two pieces) and threatened to 'shoot me dead' if I did not instantly rise. I rose, showed the word America in my regular passport, and told them that you had declared that the rights of an American citizen should not be violated with impunity, but should be revered throughout the world. With brutal, coarse, and disgusting minuteness and violence, they proceeded to examine my dress, thrusting their dirty hands into my bosom, and rifled my pockets of my papers and money. They told me I 'had never fallen into the right hands before, and they would teach me,' that my obstinacy (in refusing to answer their insulting questions) 'would soon be diminished,' &c., &c. The officer of the three then declared me under arrest, and taking me, at 1 o'clock in the morning, through another snowstorm, showed me a soldier's dirty bed in the guard-room. 'There's a good bed at your disposal.' Meantime, as they had forgotten to look under the pillow in the room where I was arrested, I had asked permission to take what they had left, with the understanding that I was not to be searched again. I then took out my watch and paper money, which I did not suffer them

to see. As soon as I reached the guard-room, the officer, who had before commanded the gendarmes 'to feel for letters sewed under my clothes,' undertook to examine me again. On my manifesting surprise, he ordered one of the soldiers 'Cock your gun' (Spann den Hahn). He then thrust his hands into my pantaloons pockets, rifled them of my paper money, miscounted it, and put it away. Without undressing I lay down upon the bed, a prisoner, while the gendarmes in the guard-room played at cards, drank, quarrelled, and swore during the remainder of the night. I asked permission in the morning to telegraph or write to the American ambassador in Vienna. Refused. At ten a.m. I was taken to the Rittmeister (commander of Hussars) Herr Von Falkenhayn, who meantime had become alarmed by the possible consequences of these proceedings executed under his orders. I must confess that the accused and the judge rapidly changed places, and on his questioning me I replied, the matter was now out of my hands, and must be settled between the Austrian empire and my country. He promised to restore my papers and set me at liberty, if I would immediately depart. I reminded him of the declaration of the Apostle Paul, 'They have beaten us openly and uncondemned, being Romans;' and told him it was easier to arrest an American citizen than to set him at liberty. It was finally resolved on my part that I should demand satisfaction from Austria through the American ambassador, and on his that I should remain under police observation till the answer came down from Vienna. This last was only a ruse to alarm me, for in an hour my papers and passport were sent to me, with a wish that I would leave the place. This I shall do as soon as it suits my convenience. I have not been invited to pay for the broken door.

"It is absolutely necessary that this occasion should be used to teach the Austrian Government that an American innocent traveller, whose papers are almost more than perfect (my passport is covered with signatures of Austrian ambassadors, from Baron Hulsemann, through Paris, Italy, here, &c., &c.), cannot, with impunity, between Christmas and December 29, be searched, ordered out, violently arrested, imprisoned, and twice minutely searched again, with exposure to an hourly and childish repetition of these capricious and dangerous proceedings. They must learn that there is an important difference between their subjects—exposed without remedy to all their whims—and a freeman from the United States. Not doubting that the President will take immediate and decided steps in this important matter, I remain with the highest regard as before, &c., "J. C. R."

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

LETTER CVII.

Paris, Thursday Evening, Jan. 12, 1854.

At last we are at war, or something very like it. Bonaparte seems to have quite made up his mind, if we may judge by the vast preparations in every branch of the service:—40,000 men of the class of 1852 have been called into service; the 80,000 men of the class of 1853 have been drafted since the 1st inst. among the different corps. The drawing for the class of 1854 is to be immediately proceeded with, so as to throw 80,000 men more into the regiments next April. By these successive measures the army will be restored to its total of 1848—540,000 men. Three armies are to be formed in the north, at Metz, and in the Var. Three generals are already named for the command, viz., Canrobert, Randon, and Pelissier.

Four days since an aide-de-camp of the Emperor left for Algeria. 50,000 out of the 80,000 men there stationed are to be formed into an active force, to be dispatched to Constantinople. This army of Algeria will be accompanied by 20,000 Arab cavalry drawn from the different provinces, to march with the French forces to the defence of Constantinople. A decree has just augmented by 2,000 men the effective force of the artillery, and a second decree orders that the ten new battalions of *Chasseurs de Vincennes* shall be organised and called together on the 14th inst., the day after to-morrow. I say nothing here of the navy, for the increase of which the most pressing orders have been given. The Bonapartists are talking already of a brilliant campaign in Italy for the spring, nothing doubting that the treachery of Austria, and her declaration in favour of Russia, will lead to this. They even say that Bonaparte will command the army in Italy in person.

Unfortunately, the sinews of war are wanting. On New Year's-day Bonaparte took fifty millions of francs (2,000,000*l.*) out of the Bank of France; just what he took for the *coup d'état*. Persigny was charged with this mission. Booted and spurred he stalked into the council-room of the Bank (I don't know whether he had a whip in his hand, à la Louis XIV.), and then and there he held forth to the Governor and Council of the Bank in a language that dismayed them. "We are at war now," he is reported to have said; "we want money and plenty of it; the treasury is empty; his Majesty appeals to you for funds. The Emperor wanted to negotiate a loan of 200 millions of francs (800,000*l.*) on the Bourse; he has not succeeded, and he would not insist, lest he should alarm the capitalists. He therefore sends me here to-day to propose to you to negotiate this loan; here are the securities for the amount; meanwhile his Majesty is in immediate want of 50,000,000 of francs (2,000,000*l.*)." An hour after, the *fourgons* of the Bank took away the 50,000,000 francs. It has been rumoured that a similar scene was enacted before the Syndicate of stockbrokers, and that they, too, were done to the tune of 200 millions of francs. But I cannot certify,

and don't believe that rumour; whereas I have proof of the Bank affair. Perhaps this has been the secret of the heavy fall of the funds to 69; two francs lower than a year ago, when a financial panic hailed the proclamation of the Empire. The worst of it is that no "takers" can be found for the new loan. A thousand rumours have been flying about. Some pretend that Rothschild gave the *mot d'ordre* not to touch the loan; others that the Fusion declines to acknowledge it *eventually*.

The Fusionists are lifting up their heads with amazing impudence, as if every morning we might expect to find Henry V. at the Tuileries and Bonaparte at Vincennes. Some of the functionaries (that rat species) seem to be shaken in their confidence, not to speak of loyalty. They turn their anxious gaze to the horizon; to republicans they talk of the resurrection of the republic; to the Fusionists, of the restoration of the monarchy in the spring. The demeanour of the judge in the new trial of the prisoners concerned in the plot of the Hippodrome and the Opéra Comique has been remarked. Four months since, when the accused breathed the name of the "Republic," the President, Zan-jiacomi, reduced them to silence; when they declined to acknowledge the Emperor, he burst into a passion. This time, on the contrary, when Ruault, one of the accused, persisted in saying three times that not recognising the existing Government, he could not recognise its judges, and so had nothing to say in his defence, he was not interrupted. Seven warnings have been given to Legitimist journals this week only. Several domiciliary visits of the police have taken place in the provinces. Even the priests have been struck. A college kept by priests has been closed by the Government. True the youths educated at this college, all belonging to the old noblesse, had smashed a bust of the Emperor, and shouted "Vive Henry V!"

At the last ball at the Tuileries, few were the *man-toux de cour*. These few were too warmly received to desire to re-appear.

M. de Kisseleff makes no apparent preparations to depart. It will be a hard case for him, a bachelor saturated with Parisian life and a great man here, to go back to Russia, where he is nothing, and where he will find nothing but *ennui*!

The Russians have again been signally defeated. The action took place, I am inclined to think, on the 26th ult., not on the 7th ult., as the telegraph asserts. In my last letter I announced a great movement of the right wing of the Russian forces on Kalafat; my information seems to have been correct. The Russians advanced on the Danube in three columns. The right column, 22,000 men, advanced by Kraiova on Kalafat; the centre by Karakal on the Danube; the left descended the Aluta on Turnul. The total of the Russian forces engaged in this movement is estimated at 50,000. Omer Pasha is said to have attacked their right column in the front with 15,000 men, and to have thrown himself with 20,000 men on the left flank of that column, which he routed. The centre column tried to get up to the support of the right, but was too late, and was routed also. S.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE following circular to the diplomatic representatives of France appeared in the *Moniteur* of Friday week:—

Paris, Dec. 30, 1853.

"The affairs of the East are taking a too serious turn not to recal your attention, even at the moment when circumstances impose new duties upon the Government of his Imperial Majesty, to the efforts which we have not ceased to make, for the purpose of preventing the complications with which Europe is so seriously menaced.

"The question about the Holy Places, either misrepresented or misunderstood, had excited the apprehensions of the Russian Cabinet; we have tried to calm these alarms by frank and complete explanations. It did appear to us that in preserving the rights of the Porte, a question of such a nature might well be cleared up at a distance from the scene where it originally arose. Our opinion, however, was not shared by Russia, and Prince Mentschikoff received the order to repair to Constantinople. I will merely say, that had we really entertained the exclusive views which are imputed to us—if the claiming of our ancient and incontestable rights had not been sustained by so much moderation—the mission of that Extraordinary Ambassador would at once have become the object of a conflict, which we knew how to avoid.

"The affairs of the sanctuaries at Jerusalem were hardly settled, and, by the admission of Count Nesselrode himself, regulated in a satisfactory manner, when another difficulty presented itself. Prince Mentschikoff demanded guarantees for the maintenance of the privileges of the Greek Church. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg did not prove by any particular fact that these privileges had been violated; while the Porte, on the contrary, confirmed solemnly the religious immunities of her Christian subjects. Animated by the desire to appease a difference which, if it concerned on one hand the sovereign rights of the Sultan, touched on the other the conscience of his Majesty the Emperor Nicholas, the French Government, in concert with the English, have assiduously tried all means to conciliate the interests, at once so delicate and so complex engaged in the affair. The Russian Cabinet cannot have forgotten the zeal and loyalty with which we have endeavoured to accomplish this difficult task. Neither can it deny that the resistance of the Porte

to accede to a first plan of arrangement, as emanated from the Conference at Vienna, was not the only cause of our failure. In the course of these various negotiations serious events took place. A Russian army had crossed the Pruth and invaded in full peace two provinces of the Ottoman empire. The fleets of France and England ought to have approached the Dardanelles at that moment; if the French Government had desired to do so, its naval forces might have anchored in the roadstead at Constantinople. However, though it thought it necessary to establish its right, it showed all the more its moderation in the step. The nature of the relations of Russia with the Porte had become too abnormal not to allow war to succeed peace, or rather, to call the subject by its real name, that the aggression on the Turkish territory should not produce its natural consequences. This change in the situation has necessitated a new movement of our fleet, and, at the instance of the Sultan, the French flag has appeared in the Bosphorus simultaneously with the British.

"However, Sir, we had not renounced the hope of an arrangement, and, together with Austria and Prussia, as already previously with England, we pursued once more a pacific end. New propositions, for the success of which we shall not cease to employ our efforts, have been addressed to the Porte by the representatives of the Four Powers.

"None of the treaties concluded with Russia interdicted to our men-of-war the navigation of the Black Sea. The treaty of the 13th of July, 1841, in closing in time of peace the passage of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, reserved to the Sultan the right to open them in time of war, and from the day when the Sultan gave us free permission to enter the straits the Euxine became equally open to us. The same motives which had kept us for a long time at the Bay of Besika, stopped our fleets in the road of Beicos.

"The French Government was most anxious to manifest its friendly sentiments towards Russia, and to reject before the world the responsibility upon aggravation in the actual state of things, which, despite all considerations, could not be modified. The French Government thought, moreover, after the contents of the recent despatches of General Castelbajac, that the Russian Cabinet, satisfied with the possession of what she considered as a pledge, would not have taken any offensive part in the struggle which she has so unhappily commenced with Turkey. It seemed to us sufficient that the presence of our flags in the waters of Constantinople ought to have attested our firm resolution to protect that capital against a sudden danger, and we did not wish that its premature appearance in the quarters nearer the Russian territories should pass for a provocation. The state of war rendered, no doubt, possible a collision between the belligerents both by sea and land, but we had a right to think that our reserve would be imitated by Russia, and that her admirals would avoid with equal care the occasion for a rencontre, in abstaining from proceeding to aggressive measures, when, had we supposed the Russian Cabinet to be animated by different sentiments, our fleet would certainly have exercised a more active vigilance. The event of Sinope, Sir, has realised all our apprehensions, and this deplorable fact modifies equally the attitude which we ought to have taken. The agreement which has recently existed at Vienna between France, Austria, England, and Prussia has established the European character as regards the difference existing between Russia and Turkey. The four Courts have solemnly acknowledged that the territorial integrity of the Ottoman empire was one of the conditions of their balancing policy. The occupation of Moldavia and Wallachia constitutes the first attempt against that integrity, and there can be no doubt that the chances of war might still more endanger it. Count Nesselrode represented, a few months back, as a necessary compensation of what he has since called our 'maritime occupation,' the invasion of the Danubian Principalities. On our part, Sir, we believe that it has become indispensable for us to measure ourselves the extent of the compensation to which we are entitled by right as the Powers interested in the existence of Turkey and the military positions already taken by the Russian army. We must have a pledge which assures us the re-establishment of peace in the East on conditions which do not change the distribution of the respective forces of the great States of Europe. The French and English Governments have consequently decided that their fleets should enter the Black Sea, and combine their movements in such a manner as to prevent the territory or the Ottoman flag from being exposed to a new attack by the Russian navy. The Vice-Admirals Hamelin and Dundas have just received orders to communicate to all those to whom it concerns, and we hope that this loyal step will prevent conflicts which we should see but with deep regret. The French Government, I repeat, has but one object—that of contributing to bring about honourable conditions and a reconciliation between the two belligerent parties; and, as circumstances oblige us to arm ourselves against terrible casualties, we still hope confidently that the Russian Cabinet, which has given such numerous proofs of wisdom, will not expose Europe to useless wars—to trials of war from which the Sovereigns have saved her for so many years.

"DROUYN DE LUYA."

The following is the text of the Note officially presented to the Divan by the Ambassadors of the four European Powers on the 15th ult.:

"The undersigned, in accord with the representatives of —, has the honour to make known to the Sublime Porte, that their Governments, having still reason to believe that the Emperor of Russia does not regard the thread of the negotiations as broken by the declaration of war, and the facts which have been the consequence of it, and knowing, moreover, from the declarations of his Imperial Majesty, that he only desires to see secured a perfect equality of rights and immunities granted by the Sultan and his ancestors to the Christian communities, subjects of the Sublime Porte; and on its side the Sublime Porte replying to that declaration by the declaration that it regards it as being for its honour to continue to maintain the said rights and immunities, and that it is constantly disposed to put an end to the differences which have arisen between the two empires, the negotiation to be followed shall be based—1st,

on the evacuation of the Principalities as promptly as possible; 2nd, on the renewal of the old treaties; 3rd, on the communication of the firmans relative to the spiritual advantages granted by the Sublime Porte to all its non-Muslim subjects—a communication which, when made to the Powers, shall be accompanied by suitable assurances given to each of them. The arrangement already made to complete the accord relative to the Holy Places and to the religious establishments at Jerusalem shall be definitively adopted. The Porte shall declare to the representatives of the four Powers that it is ready to name a Plenipotentiary, to establish armistices, and to negotiate on the bases above mentioned, with the concurrence of the Powers, and in a neutral city, which shall be suitable to them. The declaration made in the preamble of the 13th of July, 1841, shall be solemnly confirmed by the same Powers in the interests of the independence and the integrity of the Ottoman empire and that of the European concert; and the Sublime Porte on its side shall declare, in the same interest, its firm resolution to make effectually develop its administrative system, and the internal ameliorations which may satisfy the wants and the just expectations of its subjects of all classes.

"S. DE REDOLLE."
"BARAGUAY D'HILLIERS."
"L. DE WALDENBUCK."
"DE BRUCK."

"Paris, Dec. 12, 1853."

The following is the despatch from Belgrade, announcing another defeat of the Russians by the Turkish troops under the command of Omar Pasha:

"On the 6th of this month a Turkish division, 15,000 strong, with 15 pieces of artillery, attacked the entrenched position of Citala, not far from Kalafat, and took it by storm. The Russians lost 2500 men. A reinforcement of 19,000 Russians, marching from Karaul, was forced to retire with a loss of 2500 men."

The news of this important victory was officially announced to the representatives of the Powers.

A convoy, carrying 15,000 men, to reinforce the army of Asia, was to set out for Batoum on the 3rd.

The weather was not so bad at Constantinople on the 1st inst., and the wind was veering to the south.

It was on the 30th ult. that decisive orders reached the French and English Admirals to enter the Black Sea, to the great joy, as may be supposed, of the combined fleets, who since the Sinope disaster, had been placed in a most humiliating position, called the "Undertakers," etc., for having carried surgeons and lint to the remains of the Turkish squadron after the massacre. The squadrons were detained by contrary winds and bad weather at the mouth of the Black Sea till the 3rd, on which day they proceeded to sea, leaving six ships (three of each squadron) to protect the Bosphorus, and a detachment of the Turkish fleet at Therapia. It is probable that Balthik, north of Varna, is the first place at which the fleets will touch.

Not a Russian ship has ventured out of Sebastopol since the massacre at Sinope, and now a telegraphic despatch from Odessa of the 24th ult. informs us that all Russian ships of war have been ordered to "assemble at" (read "retire to") Sebastopol. The weather had been very tempestuous throughout December; it usually moderates within the first fortnight of January. A small convoy, which had sailed from Odessa on the 18th of December for the Sulina, with provisions and stores for the Russian army in the Danubian provinces, had been dispersed by a storm. A circular of the governor of the Crimea, addressed to the merchants in the ports of the Black Sea, recommends Russian vessels not to put out to sea, unless with great precaution. It informs them that regular escorts are about to be organized at Sebastopol to protect the convoys, and that a squadron of war will be placed at the strait of Yenikale to accompany the Russian vessels which are to proceed to the different maritime points of the sea of Azoff.

On the other hand, a letter from Constantinople of the 26th ult. states that a Russian squadron, composed of three sail of the line and several frigates, had been cruising for several days in the Black Sea. On the 22nd, they were seen at a distance of three or four miles from the entrance of the Bosphorus.

Preparations were making at Odessa for the reception of the Grand Duke Constantine.

Three Turkish steam frigates had succeeded in conveying arms and ammunition to the Circassians and had returned to Constantinople. Sahami has obtained brilliant successes in Daghestan. He was only prevented by the indolence and incapacity of Abdi Pasha (who has since been superseded and disgraced) effecting a junction with the Turkish forces at Gumri (called in the Russian Alexandropol). The Turkish defeats at Akiska and Alexandropol are confirmed. Abdi Pasha lost 25 pieces of artillery, 3,000 killed, and 4,000 wounded. The courier, who arrived on the 15th of December at Erzeroum, from Kara, brought news to Trebizond that the Russians were within six hours' march of Kara. The Russian agents expected that they would march against that fortress, but it appears that the Russians did not enter the Turkish territory, either because they were not supplied with the means of conveying their artillery, or on account of the excessive cold and the heavy fall of snow. General Guyon (Kursid Pasha), who distinguished himself in the Hungarian insurrection, had arrived at Kara, furnished with full authority, and he had immediately adopted measures to improve the organization of the army. The troops appeared to have full confidence in this General.

Instructions have been sent to the Turkish commanders in Europe and Asia to carry on the war with all possible energy.

From the Danubian provinces we learn, under date, Bucharest, the 4th inst., that since the 29th of December there have been 40,000 men of the corps under Osten-Sacken in Wallachia. In Bessarabia a new concentration of troops is going on. Near Kremanzoff and Charcow preparations are made for the establishment of two camps of cavalry. Each will be composed of 10,000 men. The park of artillery near Giurgevo is composed of 100 guns of large calibre; that of Galatz consists of 120 guns. The construction of the

intrenchments near Bucharest continues north and south. Two companies of Sappers have arrived for that purpose from Giurgevo from Bucharest. The offensive movements of the Russians have commenced on a grand scale. The corps of Osten-Sacken advances in the midst of ice. The Russian forces in Lesser Wallachia advance in three columns. The corps which will operate against Kalafat is estimated at 22,000 men. The second marches through Karakal, and the third along the Aluta. The insurrection of the peasants in Lesser Wallachia may be considered as quelled.

The defeat of the Russians at Citala may be considered the first reply to these "offensive movements on a grand scale" of the Russian army.

From Persia the intelligence is still contradictory. While on the one hand we are told, that in consequence of the anti-Russian attitude of the population, and of the energetic conduct of the British Minister, the Shah had made it up with England and Turkey for the moment; on the other, we are informed by the *Trieste Zeitung*, under date of Constantinople, January 2, that three Persian corps were marching against Erzeroum, Bagdad, and towards the Persian Gulf. The immediate pretence for the rupture with England is reported to have been the demand of the British Envoy to take under his protection a man claimed as a subject of the Persian Government.

A recent despatch from the French Ambassador at Constantinople announced that the united squadrons were on the point of conveying 15,000 Turkish troops to Batoum, and that Sahami had safely received all the ammunition and military stores which had been forwarded to him.

General Prim, who has returned to France by the steam-packet *Quiria*, which sailed from Constantinople on the 25th ult., paid a visit to the Sultan at his Imperial Palace of Tacheragan on the 19th ult., accompanied by his staff, and by Mr. Rhodes, a captain in the British service. They were received by Noureddin Bey, the dragoman of the Divan, and by Kiamil Bey, the master of the ceremonies, who conducted them into a waiting-room, where Redschid Pasha received them with due honour. They were next presented to the Sultan, of whom General Prim took leave in the following terms:

"Sire,—Being about to leave for Spain, to give an account to my gracious Sovereign of the mission which she deigned to confide to me, my first duty is to take leave of your Imperial Majesty, and to receive your sovereign orders. Permit me at the same time, Sire, to present to your Imperial Majesty my most sincere thanks for having permitted me, together with the officers under my orders, to assist at the operations of your valiant army of Roumelia, which placed me in a position to appreciate all the brilliant qualities of the Ottoman soldier. I have seen him indefatigable in all marches and labours—in privations and sufferings of every description. I have seen him resigned, as I have found him brave and enthusiastic, when, in the magic name of your Imperial Majesty, he fought against the enemies of his country. The illustrious captain to whom your Imperial Majesty has deigned to confide your army of the Danube is worthy, Sire, according to my judgment, to command such soldiers, from his intelligence, activity, and coolness in the hour of danger. I leave with the hope of returning next spring. At that period your Imperial Majesty will be at the head of your brave troops, and we shall have the happiness of assisting at the brilliant triumph of your Imperial Majesty, for God alone can know, Sire, all that your soldiers will be capable of performing on that day of battle, when commanded by your Imperial Majesty in person."

The demonstration of the Softas (theological students), turns out to have been grossly exaggerated, in consequence, no doubt, of the preposterous alarms of the ambassadors. There were some tumultuous crowds, no doubt, of a few students, young enough to be sincere, against the decision of the Grand Council, authorising the ministry to continue negotiations. After all, as the *Siecle* says, very truly, "these devoted young men, unaccustomed to the chicanery of state affairs, only raised a protest, to which the French and English Governments have since implicitly acceded by ordering the fleets into the Black Sea." The indignation of the Softas was chiefly directed against Redschid Pasha. Their language was violent, and their demeanour menacing. The demonstration began on the night of the 21st, when the Softas invaded the residence of the Harif Effendi, Maffi in the Supreme Council of Justice, and whose department relates to the application of the Koran. Harif Effendi succeeded in escaping. On the following morning the Softas assumed a more menacing attitude; they assembled in considerable numbers in the places contiguous to the principal mosques. Harif Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief of the garrison of Constantinople, marched, with two battalions of infantry, to the mosque of the Sultan Ahmed, where the discontented held the strongest muster, and where the tumult was highest. The Pasha ordered the Softas to disperse instantly; if not he declared that he would treat them as rebels. They took the hint, and retired. The Supreme Council of Justice met the same day, and two Cabinet Councils were held in the great hall of the Palace of Top-Kapu and at the War-office. The Grand Vizier, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister at War repaired several times in the course of the day to the Palace of the Sultan, who, it is said, was determined the moment anything serious occurred, to mount on horseback, and proceed to the thick of the insurrection. Nothing took place, however, to require his presence. On the 22nd, the Softas formed fresh *atroupements* in the vicinity of the mosque of the Sultan Bajazid, which is close to the official residence of the Seraskier. General Osman Pasha presented himself, with a battalion of the line, to the rioters, and, riding out in front of his men, whom he ordered to halt, exhorted them to refrain from such assemblages, but at the same time informed them that if they had any communication to make to the magistrates they were free to do so, but in a becoming, orderly manner, and in small number. The ringleaders only followed half his advice; numbers entered the War-office, and it is stated their language was so strong that there was nothing left for it but to arrest them. They were arrested, and their comrades, who were still in considerable numbers outside, retired at once. During the night of the 23rd several of the most violent were arrested,

in all amounting to about 150. The prisoners, after undergoing an examination, were sentenced to exile to the Isle of Candia, and were embarked the same night in the steam-frigate the *Sciaki-Sciade*, which, after landing the prisoners, was to proceed to Alexandria to take on board the troops that Abbas Pasha had ready for the service of the Sultan. On the morning of the 24th, the Softas attempted to renew the scenes of the previous days. Mehmet Ali Pasha, Minister at War, proceeded to the spot where the insurgents were assembled, and arrested about 800 more, the greater part of whom were armed with poniards, pistols, and even carbines. The rest of the day passed off tranquilly, except that (as already mentioned) the Softas or Ulemas petitioned for the release of the last who were arrested, and the pardon of the others.

General Baraguay d'Hilliers behaved as might be expected of that favourite *sabreur* of the *coup d'etat*, talking with gusto of grape-shot and barricades. He posted off in hot haste to the Sultan's palace, where the Ministers were in close conference, and offered his services against disorder. Redschid Pasha declined his offer with thanks, assuring him that the Government was sufficient for the emergency. It is said that the Sultan, on hearing of the offer of assistance, exclaimed that "he would rather abdicate than accept foreign aid against his own subjects." Three steamers of each squadron came down off the city to protect the English and French inhabitants, but no sign of insult or threat was offered to any Christian. The boats of the ships of war patrolled the Golden Horn during the night.

Lord Dudley Stuart had been presented in due form to the Grand Vizier and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and had left for Schumla. He intended to be in London again at the opening of Parliament. Mr. Milner Gibson is also mentioned as having been at Constantinople.

On the 23rd ult., Riss Pasha, the new Turkish Minister of Marine, went on board the Admiral's vessel, the *Mah-woudieh*, and delivered an address to the staff of the fleet.

The news of a Russian ship of the line having gone to the bottom at a few miles' distant from Sinope is, it appears, confirmed.

The Turkish Admiral, Osman Pasha, made prisoner in the affair of Sinope, has, we deeply regret to hear, died of his wounds at Sebastopol.

The Sultan has manifested his intention to establish a military hospital on the plan of the Hotel des Invalides, and that the remnant of the force at Sinope are to be the first to be received into it.

From Servia we hear that the political parties there are beginning more and more to separate themselves. While that at Kragujevatsch, on the occasion of the feast of the holy Andreas—the same as at Belgrade—the usual prayer for the Sultan was read, but not that for the Emperor of Russia. At Belgrade the Russian sympathisers got up a counter-demonstration on the day of the feast of St. Nicholas, on which occasion divine service was solemnly performed; and not only the prayer for the Emperor Nicholas Pavlovitch was read, but also the hymn, "Na vragi ze pobjedu" (May he vanquish his enemies!) was sung. The French and English consuls immediately protested against this proceeding.

An adjutant of the Sultan has been sent commissioner of the Porte to Servia. He is the bearer of two Imperial hattis-scheriffs, which are intended to regulate the future political condition of Servia. In the first hattis-scheriff it is explained how the Sublime Porte, since the war has commenced between it and Russia, no longer holds itself bound to respect the treaties with Russia, and that, therefore, all treaties hitherto concluded with that Power—as that of Rutchuk Kainardji, Bucharest, Akerman, and Adrianople—are not to be regarded as valid.

In the second hattis-scheriff the Sublime Porte confirms, out of consideration for the loyalty and fidelity of Servia, the rights granted on the basis of the Russo-Turkish treaty, the independent internal government of the land, free election of their princes with reserve of the approval of the Sultan. It also declares Servia free from all duties towards Russia as a protecting Power, and it leaves it open to Servia to place itself under the protection of the Four Powers.

The Servian Government (without the consent of which doubtless this hattis-scheriff would not have been issued) will seize upon this opportunity to place the political existence of the land under the protection of the great Powers, so as to establish it on a firm basis for the future.

Many of the Wallachian militia, which effected their escape from Major Barileanu's corps, have been re-captured by the Russians and brought back to Krajowa. The rest have succeeded in joining the Turks. The Wallachian officer who commanded the corps under Barileanu is in prison at Krajowa, and is charged, firstly, with not preventing the "desertion" of the men; and, secondly, with having had the boldness to declare that he considered the Sultan as his liege lord, and the Czar as only possessing the rights of a protector; that consequently he did not feel bound to fight for the second against the first. There are in Little Wallachia a few Greek farmers who sympathise with Russia, and endeavour to win over the people to the same way of thinking. The peasants have seized some of these, bound them, and delivered them to the Turks.

A letter from St. Petersburg, received this week says, that it is difficult to give an idea of the rage of the Emperor Nicholas on learning the resolution of the Vienna conference. He was so affected that for two days few cared or dared to approach him.

Immense preparations for the war are carried on. The 6th corps, stationed at Moscow and the environs, has received orders to move towards the south; the first columns are already in motion. The first corps, formed of Grenadiers, has been cantoned in Finland, Livonia, Esthonia, and Courland. The German nobility of Courland, professing the Lutheran religion and oppressed in the Baltic provinces, have solicited permission to send their children as volunteers, and at their own expense, to combat for the orthodox faith.

The Russo-Polish authorities have announced to the Prussian government the discovery of a political plot, which

had come to light through numerous arrests in the kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Posen. The Emperor Nicholas has expressed a desire that the Prussian papers should abstain from all communications on the movements of the Russian army. It is said that a Note from Count Nesselrode has been remitted to the Austrian cabinet in answer to this demand.—Will Russia consent to the establishment of a European Protectorate over the Christian population of Turkey? The Czar, it is said, has answered that he will never allow any foreign intervention in his differences with the Sultan, and that he will admit no participation in a right which he has so well acquired.

The recall of General de Castelbajac from St. Petersburg is spoken of as not unlikely to take place before long, the gentleman designated as his successor being the Count de Reiset, his first secretary of embassy. It is said that Louis Napoleon was exceedingly displeased at the conduct of the representative of France at the Court of Russia—particularly at his strange act in going to offer his congratulations to the Czar, on the victory of Sinope. "It is not, Sire," he is represented as having said to the Emperor of Russia, "it is not as ambassador of France that I felicitate you; but as a military man." "It was precisely as a military man," was the remark of an august personage in France, on hearing of this saying of the ambassador, "that M. de Castelbajac ought not to have offered congratulations on such a victory."

The *National Gazette* of Berlin states that the sailors of the Baltic fleet, who had been sent to their homes, have received orders to return to their posts in March.

An ill effect has been produced by the receipt of intelligence that the Austrian Government has furnished arms and ammunition to the Russian troops. The explanation given by the Austrian Minister is that it was a mere commercial transaction, and that the Government merely imitated the example of the French Government in furnishing a certain quantity of arms to the Turks. It may be observed, however, that the cases are not precisely the same, and that Austria professes strict neutrality, while France, though not as yet at war with Russia, is anything but neutral in the quarrel.

The news from Finland states that the glorious Navarino massacre of Sinope was celebrated in Helsingfors, on the 18th of December, by a *Te Deum* in the churches, a ball at the palace of the Governor-General (Rokassowskij), and a general illumination.

A letter from Stockholm of the 20th ult. states that a commission composed of officers and engineers had just left the capital, to visit different parts of the coast, and put all the military points in a state of defence. The country every day declares itself more and more against Russian policy, and has decided on making its neutrality respected by force of arms, in the event of its being violated.

In the Danish Ministry we hear of a difference on the Russian question. The majority, who decidedly represent the public feeling of the country, advised a junction with England. The President of the Ministry, on the other hand, had insisted upon Denmark's adherence to her old terms of amity with Russia.

The Prince of Canino, Charles Lucien Bonaparte, has sold all his possessions in Rome and Ronciglione to the banker, Alessandro Torlonia, for 450,000 and one scudi.

The Rev. James Cook Richmond, an American clergyman, having been brutally treated by the Austrian police in Hungary, has appealed for redress to his Government. The American minister at Vienna has behaved, it is said, with pusillanimity unworthy of the country of a Captain Ingraham.

On Board a Turkish steamer captured at Sinope, the chief engineer was Mr. Bell, an Englishman. The Russians offered him his liberty if he would take the crippled steamer safely into Sebastopol. He did so with immense difficulty, but on her reaching the harbour the ship sank, the wonder being that she had not sunk long before at sea. Instead, however, of Mr. Bell obtaining his release as promised, he, with his sub-engineers and stokers, was thrown into close confinement with the miserable pittance as stated allowed him.—Prince Menchikoff, the commander at Odessa, paying not the slightest regard to the promise made by his admiral.

The repair of the Russian ships at Portsmouth was published to the Russian people in this form: "That while the English dare not send one ship into the Black Sea, we order them to receive our ships into the very inside of their dockyards, and the miserable islanders obey." This is the language in which England is held up before the Russian serfs.

The *Moniteur* of Thursday contained a letter addressed by the Emperor to M. Ducos, the Minister of Marine, appointing him grand officer of the Legion of Honour, and thanking him for having, on so reduced a budget, prepared resources which will allow the Government any day, the moment it may become necessary, to double or even triple the naval forces of France. The Minister of Marine is at the present moment organising a third squadron, to be called that of the reserve, and to consist of seven line-of-battle ships and six frigates. The expense is calculated at ten millions of francs; and it is said that M. Ducos, who is one of the firmest supporters of war in the whole Ministry, is displaying great activity in effecting this increase to the French navy.

Orders have been sent to Lorient to put in commission four steam frigates.

M. Armand Bertin, so long the chief editor and director of the *Journal des Débats*, died on Thursday morning of quinsy. His loss leaves a serious void in French journalism, to which, however we may dissent from his political opinions, he certainly gave an unimpeachable reputation for integrity, sound judgment, and the most exemplary personal worth.

The letter of the King of the Belgians to Louis Napoleon is supposed to have been apologetic on the subject of Orleanist intrigues and the Austrian alliance of the Duc de Brabant.

The British squadron was in the Tagus by the last ad-

vices, except the St. Jean d'Acre, which had sailed for Modena.

It is stated that the young King is about to marry his Coburg cousin, the Princess Charlotte of Belgium.

The ordinary session of the Cortes was opened on the 2nd inst. by the King Regent in person.

Lisben is perfectly quiet, and is likely to be, as long as the British squadron remains in the Tagus.

While Mr. Gladstone is in power, his client Count Poerio is rapidly sinking to the only rest or release he can hope for. The atrocities of the prison discipline and the unusual rigours of the winter are bringing him to the grave. But he has been allowed to receive 1s. 4d. from his family again, as before.

The indulgent and considerate Neapolitan Government has actually permitted Mr. Baggio, a British subject (whose case we mentioned some weeks since), to enter Naples after three weeks delay and expense. Is Mr. Baggio, or the Government of Naples, to pay the cost of this flagrant violation of treaties?

A letter from Rome of the 2nd inst. states, that on the afternoon of the 1st the principal streets in that city were lighted with gas.

At ten o'clock in the morning of the 10th inst. her Most Catholic Majesty of Spain was delivered of a daughter. The British Legation was represented on that interesting occasion by Mr. Loftus Otway, Secretary of Embassy. The people of Madrid generally, we hear, manifested perfect indifference about the event: an indifference easily explained, when we consider the ambiguity of the parentage of the royal infant. Peace be to it! It was taken away again from the evil to come on the 8th inst. Letters from Spain declare that public affairs are still in as critical and dangerous a state as ever, and that an explosion may occur at any moment.

The Berlin journals contain long accounts of the funeral of General Radowitz. The ceremony was conducted with almost regal pomp. At Berlin, on the 4th, before the body was sent to Erfurt for interment, there was a religious service in the church of the garrison, at which the King was present. His Majesty approached the coffin, and prayed in a low voice, after which he kissed on the forehead the four sons of the deceased, two of whom are officers in the Prussian army, and who were standing near the coffin.

AMERICAN NOTES.

Recent news from the United States, extending to the 28th ultimo, brings some interesting reports.

An important piece of news comes from Washington in relation to the probable departure of another expedition for Cuba. This intelligence comes from the Government itself, and is to the effect that an expedition has actually been arranged, and that it has two branches—one to leave New York, and the other to start from New Orleans. It is so fully believed by the Cabinet that instructions have been sent north and south to arrest certain parties said to be engaged in the enterprise. The Cubans in America assert that a formidable expedition of at least four thousand men, with a distinguished southern general as leader, is in existence, only awaiting an opportunity to invade the Queen of the Antilles.

Bishop Bedini, the Pope's nuncio, had been the occasion of a violent demonstration in Cincinnati. It seems that a party of Germans, known as the "Society of Freemen," took umbrage because he officiated in the church of Bishop Purcell on Sunday. Accordingly, a body of five hundred of the disaffected spirits assembled in the evening, and marched in procession to the house of the bishop, where the nuncio was a guest, with the supposed intention of summarily avenging the martyrs in the cause of Italian liberty by doing personal violence to Bishop Bedini, who, it is alleged, betrayed the leaders in the revolution of 1848. The police having been advised of the intentions of the Germans, stationed themselves in full force in the vicinity of the scene of the contemplated hostilities, and as the procession came up the officers rushed forth and a most desperate conflict ensued, in which many shots were fired, and the air was made to resound with the shouts of enraged combatants and the lamentations of the wounded. After a severe struggle sixty of the Germans were captured, and the remainder were put to flight. Fourteen persons were wounded, one of whom died the next day.

The two hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers on Plymouth Rock was celebrated by their descendants, the members of the New England Society, by a dinner at the Astor-house.

From Honduras it is announced that the contract for the new inter-oceanic route to the Pacific, through Honduras, has been completed with Mr. Squiers, and that a special agent has been sent by the Honduras Government to Washington, to effect a treaty with that country for more intimate relations, and to perfect the arrangements for the opening of this new communication with the western shores of the Continent.

GREAT FIRE AT NEW YORK.

The capital of the Empire State seems also the civilised head-quarters of conflagration. Almost every mail, at this season of the year, we hear of terrible fires. One such occurred on the 26th ult., the great interest of which centres in the fact that three ships

were destroyed, the loss of one of which—the *Great Republic*—is felt to be a national calamity.

The fire broke out in Front-street, about twelve o'clock at night, in a bakery. In spite of the daring and energy of the New York firemen, the flames spread, and in an hour the whole block of houses were on fire. We extract the graphic account of the progress of the catastrophe from the *New York Herald*:

"While the fire was raging in Front-street, the sparks were so thick in the vicinity as to assume the appearance of a shower of fire. The streets and docks along the East river were literally alive with burning coals. The pier at the foot of Dover-street was at one time covered to the depth of some inches with fire, and the rigging and masts of the numerous vessels lying in the stream were completely enveloped in flying sparks. The seamen and others strenuously exerted themselves to prevent the canvas from igniting, but in most instances the high wind rendered their efforts useless.

"About half-past one o'clock, the rigging of the stupendous new ship *Great Republic* took fire. Owing to the immense height of her masts, it was impossible for the engines to play upon the flames, and the consequence was that the falling sparks soon set her deck in a blaze.

"Some of the sails on the vessel were bent and when they once became ignited no human power could save her. It was melancholy to see the noble ship, almost instinct with life, the work of months, destroyed in a few brief hours. She was a perfect wonder in naval architecture, being the largest merchant-vessel ever constructed in this or any other country. But a few days ago we recollect with what pride and admiration she was regarded by admiring thousands, and the Governor, members of the Legislature, and other prominent citizens, as they were engaged in examining our harbour encroachments last week, paused awhile to look at her gigantic, yet graceful proportions. Nothing now remains of the noble vessel but a charred hull, her stately masts having fallen before the fierce blast of the fire king, and her white wings are consumed in his breath.

"Although there was sufficient water around to extinguish a city in flames, the thousands who crowded the docks could only look on hopelessly, while the terrible work of destruction was going on.

"The foremast was the first that went by the board. It fell with a terrible crash, threatening the lives of some firemen and others who were standing on the side of the vessel.

"The mainmast shortly afterwards went over, and the mizenmast fell across the pier into the dock, striking a small boat, which it capsized, knocking its occupants, four men, into the water. All of them escaped with a bath of cold water.

"The sailors, apparently regardless of their lives, rushed up the ladders, and did all that men could do, but the inflammable nature of the materials rendered all their efforts utterly useless.

"The *Great Republic* cost, it is said, about 800,000 dollars, and was insured in various marine offices for about 180,000 dollars. The value of the cargo was estimated at 300,000 dollars; on this freight insurance had been effected for about 275,000 dollars. The various marine offices of this city had full lines, either on the ship or cargo. The Mutual Atlantic had the largest amount—probably about 90,000 dollars. The Mercantile Marine, Sun Mutual, and other offices, it was said, had a lien of about 30,000 dollars each. The remainder of the policies were divided among offices in Philadelphia, Boston, and other places. Considerable portions of the cargo were ordered by the previous steamer to be insured in England.

"We subjoin a list of the *Great Republic's* cargo at the time of her destruction, obtained from Messrs. Grinnel, Minturn, and Co., the consignees of the ship:—

"*Memorandum of Cargo on board the Ship Great Republic*.—896 tierces beef, 92 tierces and 58 barrels lard, 23,406 bushels wheat, 33,500 bushels corn, 6620 barrels flour, 1023 bales cotton, 639 half chests tea, 4040 barrels rosin, 14 hhds. tobacco, 10 casks argols, and 867 pieces maple and cedar wood.

"The burning brands thrown from the *Great Republic* set fire to the rigging of the magnificent clipper *White Squall*, as she lay moored at pier No. 27, East-river, since her return for California, upon the 20th instant. Owing to the high wind which blew at the moment, the flames spread over her tracery of masts, spars, and rigging, in an incredibly short space of time, and all became convinced that the only hope of saving her, or preventing her adding to and extending the fire by the like calamity which befel herself, was to cut her adrift, and let her go before the wind. This act was performed by her mate, Mr. Poole, who had previously arrived on board, and she was towed into the stream by one of the Fulton ferry-boats.

"Once freed from her lashing, the *White Squall* was taken out by a stiff north-wester, and went clear into the East River, advising the astonished people of Brooklyn that the calamity was about to approach their city.

"The *White Squall* stood up the river, and was soon such a mass of flame that any attempt to scuttle her was found to be impossible, as the falling previously of her rigging and mainmast had set the entire hull on fire from aft to her forward parts, at least all the surface space which was above water. Her course was anxiously watched by thousands in Brooklyn, and every preparation was made by them to help her when she would touch land.

"As the *White Squall* was in ballast, and without cargo, except some tons of copper, she sent forth a dense, thick penetrating smoke from her timbers, but not a very clear flame until about half-past five o'clock. At this hour all her bulwarks were burned away from the aft quarter, up to about six feet of the forward part of the hull, which seemed as if protected by the heavy gale which was then blowing in the opposite direction, coming right over the jib. Her jib-boom, with the ropes attached to it, stood perfectly whole and sound, but her masts, and everything else, had long before crumbled into the hold, leaving nothing standing excepting the bare and naked stanchions ranging on either side aft.

"A stream was still kept up from the hose of the gas company, but when the sun came out clear, it was evident that no human aid could save her; and by, nine o'clock, nothing remained of the *White Squall* except her shaking and creaking hull, which was being quickly levelled to the water's edge. The heat was so intense that her coppers were crumbled up like brown paper, and the water evaporating from her hold made a spray which extended half-way across the river, and upon which the reflection of the clear sun formed a perfect rainbow, which presented a very extraordinary sight."

"The *Joseph Walker* was set on fire by sparks which were wafted from the burning buildings in Front-street. She took fire almost simultaneously with the *Great Republic*, and is now burned almost to the water's edge. The masts and rigging were destroyed in less than an hour after the vessel caught fire. The stem appears to have suffered most, and the whole after part is burned down almost half-way into the hull. Many attempts were made to scuttle her while the rigging was in flames, but the intense heat defeated every attempt to save her. Strange to say, the *Constellation*, which was lying at her bows, escaped without having even a single spar scorched. The *Joseph Walker* is now a total wreck, and all her cargo is destroyed. She was a Liverpool packet-ship, and was owned by Messrs. Thompson and Nephew. She was not more than two years old, was valued at about 90,000 dollars, and was fully insured in the Atlantic, Mercantile, Mutual, New York, and other offices in this city."

"She was loading for Liverpool, and had taken on board about 20,000 bushels of grain, 400 bales of cotton, and 500 brls. rosin, valued altogether at about 42,000 dollars, making a total loss, for vessel and cargo, of about 132,000 dollars. Her register was 1450 tons, and she was built in 1850, by Mr. W. H. Webb, of this city, for Messrs. Thompson and Nephew's Black Star line of Liverpool packets, in which she has been trading since she was launched."

The total loss is estimated at nearly a million of dollars—about two-thirds of which are insured.

INDIA AND CHINA.

THE news from the East brought by the last mail is of much interest. From Burmah there are still indications of the unsettled state of the country. Conflicting rumours represent the robbers as at once strongly stockaded in many places, and as disappearing—a sure sign that the country is disturbed; while other reports assert that the younger brother of the King of Ava was about to sweep the British from the annexed territory at the head of 100,000 men. This is no doubt an exaggeration.

In the North West there has been some fighting. The large force sent to fortify the Kohat Pass, had met with resistance from the Afreedies. They had been beaten and starved into submission. The details may prove interesting.

"The force, consisting of about 3,000 Bungeesh Affghans, with four companies of the 1st Punjab infantry, and two guns, under the command of Captain Coke, proceeded to the site selected for the erection of the work; but upon their arrival the place was vacated, the Afreedies having fled to the adjacent mountains. The Kohat men marched up the Kohat, and entrenched themselves without meeting any resistance. On the following day the Afreedies made a sudden descent on the Bungeesh, and fairly put them to flight. Coke and his men arrived too late on the scene of action; they, however, checked the onslaught, and prevented the Afreedies from getting at the fugitives, with their swords. Captain Coke was wounded in four places during the skirmish by pieces of lead and stone, and was obliged to be led off the field by his men. The Afreedies continued the pursuit until they were about half way down the hill, where they were checked by two companies of the Punjab Infantry. Upon observing four other companies doubling up, and the guns getting into position, they slowly retired, and gained their shelter at the crest of the hill. The Bungeesh lost eight men, and Coke had three slightly wounded. Four of the Afreedies were killed. It was determined to blockade the pass and stop all supplies, as a punishment for the perfidious conduct of the enemy; but the evening before operations were to commence they came to terms, and the Chief Commissioner consented to remove the blockade on their agreeing to our holding military occupation of the pass. The declaration of peace made on the part of the Afreedies had to be ratified by one or two of the subordinate tribes, and the erection of the fort at Bazeed Khel had in consequence to be delayed. Of these tribes, the most hostile was the Borees, who occupy an almost inaccessible valley in the vicinity of the main pass. It was found necessary to dispatch a strong force against them, and chastise them in their own defiles. Accordingly, on the morning of the 2nd of December, nearly all the available troops in camp started for the Boree valley. A writer who accompanied the expedition says:—"The force consisted of 450 Guides, the Mountain Train Battery, about 400 of her Majesty's 22d, 450 Goorkhas, and 180 of the 20th Native Infantry. The whole were under arms at 4 a.m., commanded by Colonel Boileau, of her Majesty's 22d. The party, after crossing the hills between Kundao and the main Afreedie range, defiled into the valley without opposition at half-past 10. A snug, peaceful-looking spot it is, with its four prosperous and comfortable villages, each defending the other, and flanked by three or four towers, immediately under the hills on the further side of the valley. The two villages to our left were carried and fired by the 22d boys and a party of Goorkhas, who made uncommonly short work of it, whilst the two on the right were similarly disposed of by Turner's division of the Guides, under cover of the mountain-train guns, whose practice was first rate. Their occupants were soon expelled, closely followed by Turner's men, who eventually drove their adversaries up the hill side to the left and over the crest. Meantime, these almost

inaccessible heights, which by the way commanded the aforesaid village, were, in spite of a most determined opposition on the part of the Afreedies, who disputed the ground step by step, carried into the right in splendid style by Hodson's division of the Guides and the Goorkhas. No description of mine can give you an idea of the admirable manner in which these gallant fellows, Guides and Goorkhas, did their work; depend upon it this crowning of the Boree heights was one of the finest pieces of light infantry performance on record; it was, moreover, one which Avitabile, with 10,000 Sikhs, was unable to accomplish. The skirmishers were recalled at about three o'clock, the Goorkhas descending by a gorge in the steep front of the hill, closely followed by the Afreedies, who kept up a galling fire to the last; the steadiness of our skirmishers in their descent was the admiration of all. The Guides, Goorkhas, and part of the 22d were warmly engaged in the rear as the column retired, which it did by a more practicable route than it had entered by, and finally reached camp at ten p.m., pretty well done up, as you may fancy. Our day's work cost us the lives of 5 Guides, 4 Goorkhas, and 1 private of her Majesty's 22d; with 9 Guides, 8 Goorkhas, 4 her Majesty's 22d, 1 artilleryman wounded; not a heavy loss, considering what was effected in the face of a determined resistance on the part of our enemies, who are the bravest fellows and the best marksmen of all the Afreedie tribes."

There were 13,250 men at Peshawar with 48 guns, and altogether 60,000 men in the Punjab.

The *Times'* correspondent at Bombay says, that "Lord Dalhousie's re-instatement of Outram at Baroda, though confirmed by the Court of Directors, has not yet been carried into effect. The Bombay Government has recently made a most ill-advised and ineffectual attempt to injure Colonel Outram in the opinion of the Governor-General. It appears that during the height of the Baroda intrigues documents came into Colonel Outram's hands which he forwarded to the Bombay Government, with the request that they would endeavour to discover their authenticity and origin, but he did not mention that (as subsequently appeared by a comparison of dates) he had himself at the time of writing a clue to both; this reserve (for which Outram subsequently gave reasons, which the Governor-General considers satisfactory) was construed by the Bombay Government into a charge of falsehood and duplicity; and they communicated their views to Lord Dalhousie's Government by means of a despatch, appending thereto—which is quite unusual in such cases—the minutes of Lord Falkland and his members of council on the matter, in which Outram's character was very roughly attacked. The vindictive character of the whole proceeding elicited (as might have been expected) a most severe reprimand from the Governor-General, who expressed himself perfectly satisfied with Colonel Outram's explanation. The general remark at Bombay regarding Outram's re-instatement is, 'It is a very plucky thing of him to go back to Baroda; he will certainly be poisoned there;' and I have been surprised to hear this remark, not only from Colonel Outram's partisans, but from grave and reverend seigniors high in the civil service, who are no friends of his, and have all along been disposed to take the part of Lord Falkland in the quarrel. If there are any real grounds for such apprehensions, the annexation of the petty State of Baroda should no longer be postponed."

Lord Elphinstone was expected at Bombay on the 22nd, and Lord Falkland was to leave on the 28th of December.

The greatest activity prevailed in the Bombay army. Lord Frederick Fitzclarence has assembled a camp of instruction at Poonah; he has instituted military schools for officers and men, offered prize medals to all three arms for firing at a mark, has ordered examinations of officers in their duty on their promotion to each grade, and altogether, by his personal activity and thorough knowledge of detail, was doing more towards raising the efficiency of the army to its utmost than any other Indian commander-in-chief has done for twenty years.

The railway and the electric telegraph were attracting many native chiefs from the interior to Bombay. The young Holkar has been to Bombay *incog.*, and encamped on the island, with 2000 of his followers, was the Rajah of Dhar—Rao Jeswunt Powar, a Rajpoot chief, with a revenue of about 65,000, but principally remarkable for being the head of the great family of Powar, of which (as antiquaries suppose) Porus, the antagonist of Alexander, was a member.

The news from China informs us that Amoy has fallen; that Taeping Wang was on his march to Peking; and that an invasion of Mogul Tartars was expected. The Imperialists committed horrible atrocities at Amoy.

DR. BOWRING AT MANCHESTER.

An interesting and highly influential meeting was held at Manchester, on Thursday, in the Mayor's parlour, to which the members of the Chamber of Commerce and Commercial Association were invited to be present, along with the leading merchants and manufacturers, to meet Dr. Bowring, previous to his departure for China. Amongst the leading gentlemen present were:—Mr. James Heywood, M.P.; Mr. J. Kershaw, M.P.; Mr. George Hadfield M.P.; Mr.

Alex. Henry; Mr. Thomas Bazley; and Mr. J. A. Turner. Mr. B. Nicholls, the Mayor, introduced Dr. Bowring, who having expressed the gratification he felt at meeting so many gentlemen eminently connected with the industry of the country, delivered an address, of which decimal coinage and our commercial relations with China were the more prominent topics.

He believed the empire of China was destined to fulfil a great mission by the emigration which was now going on from thence through all the Eastern nations. Such was the population of China that there was not a foot of it scarcely but was cultivated. Such was the over population, in fact, that, notwithstanding the most violent interdicts against emigration, its surplus streams were overflowing the countries of the East. In the island of Java he found 25,000, in the islands of the Indian archipelago he believed there were not less than 70,000 Chinese; whilst in San Francisco there had been settled 25,000 more, and great numbers were emigrating to Australia, and the islands of Polynesia, or wherever there was a field of labour open to them. It appeared to be a law of Providence that the superior races of mankind should supplant the inferior, and we saw in the progress of time the inhabitants of the West India islands swept away—that the Anglo-Saxon population was invading and removing (he would not say destroying) the red Indian tribes of America. So the Chinese race was setting aside the Malay in the same way that they (the Malays) had set aside the Dyaks. He ought also to have referred to the great and growing importance of the opening in Western America, in the great changes taking place in Australia and in India, which had opened a trade with India equal to that between Great Britain and China. All these subjects afforded topics for reflection and for encouragement, and he would say that he had seen in China an exemplification of its value, to which he might be excused for referring.

When he first reached China many ships came there from this country, which were an opprobrium to the name of England. Such was the character of craft from this country, that when, two years ago, the Americans introduced their magnificent clippers, they could obtain no more than two guineas, whilst the Americans obtained seven-guinea freights to load tea for England. At that time the gentlemen present knew what were the apprehensions of merchants as to the results of free trade, if it were allowed to touch its last stronghold of monopoly—the shipping interest. (Laughter.) It was introduced into shipping, however, and as all were aware, there was no interest which had been so benefited. (Cheers.) And when he left China the ships built in England under this system were some of the finest that ever glided over the great waters, and the freights which they were able to command were equal to the average of those given to the finest clippers of America. (Cheers.)

Some alarm had been expressed, he was told, that if we opened the tea trade more fully lest there should be an insufficient supply; but he could assure them there was no fear of that. The quantity used here was but as a drop in a bucket to what the Chinese themselves used, and to what was necessarily therefore produced. Tea was drunk in China by three hundred to four hundred millions of people as many as three or four times a day; and there was not a cottage at which you could call where it could not be supplied. They did not use it as we did; they did not fire up black tea to the blackness of ours, and they did not paint their green tea to the extent we required—(laughter)—but it was nevertheless an article of universal request. He had no fear but China would be able to supply any amount of tea we might ever require; as to silks he would only call attention to the progress in exportation which was already taking place in that article. Its value was more fully recognised he believed every day, and strange to say, this country has almost a monopoly of its importation. When he was in France the other day this was mentioned to him, and he believed the reason was the singular trait in the French character which so soon discouraged them. He had been asked how it was there was not a single French merchant at Canton? They had sent orders to Shanghai for silk, but those orders had not been preceded by the arrangements which the English merchants had made to secure a supply. He was of opinion, however, that they would have French merchants there ere long, and thought we could hardly expect to retain the whole trade of that important branch of Chinese exports. He admitted that great mists and doubts and darkness overhung the future of the Chinese empire, but at the same time believed that our own relations with that country would yet assume a more important and beneficial character. (Applause.)

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

WAR AND PESTILENCE.

The following table is made up from official returns for the use of the General Board of Health, and from

me which I cannot afford to pay, or whether it is fair that I, the member of no association, should be made the victim of a combination. I desire to avoid impugning the motives of any man, but it must be evident to every one that the object of the placard put forth this morning by the Weavers' Committee was to prevent, by violence and intimidation, such hands as were desirous of accepting work from doing so. In conclusion, I announce to the operatives of Preston that I am willing to provide work for any hands that may apply for the same at the terms which may be seen on application at my mill—terms which, I pledge myself, will enable any good weaver to earn off a pair of looms 11s. per week."

Mr. Hollins' manifesto elicited a lengthy reply from the Power-loom Weavers' Committee, the chief paragraph of which is as follows:—"Mr. Hollins (say the committee) has given a list of the average earnings of six weavers in October, 1847 and the average earnings of six other weavers in the month of October 1853; and in 1847, he gives it as 7s. 6d. per pair of looms, and in 1853 as 12s. 6d. But he forgets to explain that the six weavers he gives in 1847 were probably working inferiorly paid reeds, whilst in the list of 1853 he has taken care to give those who have been working the best-paid sorts, and who are only two-loom weavers, and consequently, according to the arrangements at the Sovereign Mill, those who have received a bonus of 10 per cent., because they had averaged more than 10s. per week during the month of October. Four loom-weavers were not allowed this bonus, whatever their average earnings might be; so that it is only a fraction of the hands who receive any benefit from it. If Mr. Hollins had given the average earnings of those weavers without the bonus, or the advance he was giving during the month of October, 1853, we presume that it would be found that the average earnings of these six weavers upon his best-paid sorts would only have been about 10s. per week; whilst we have the authority of his own hands to state that the average earnings of the whole weavers, with the advance paid in October last, would not exceed 9s. 9d. per week. But it appears that Mr. Hollins' weavers cannot understand what he intends to do. In October last, he was paying prices that were satisfactory to his workpeople. They are prepared to resume work at those prices at any time. In referring to the average wages earned in October, 1853 (that was the last month he worked his mill before turning his workpeople out), he says:—"I have offered, and still offer, to pay the rate upon which the latter statement of wages was earned; higher than that I cannot afford to pay, having reference to the demand for that particular class of goods which I manufacture." We ask Mr. Hollins what he means by this? Our understanding of it is this—that he has offered, and still does offer, to pay the prices paid during the month of October, 1853; and if he does mean this, and is intending doing so, why not inform his workpeople when they waited upon him of such intention? Had he done so, we feel confident that he would have had a full complement of hands before this; but he does not mean this; if there is some other arrangement not fully specified, we think that we are not presuming too much to ask Mr. Hollins to inform the public clearly and explicitly what that arrangement is." Unfortunately no arrangement was come to.

MEETING OF COMPOSITORS.

The usual quarterly delegate meeting of the London Society of Compositors was held on Wednesday evening, at the Harp-alley Schoolroom, Shoe-lane, when upwards of 500 delegates attended, when it appeared by the Report of the Trade Council that the society is in a very flourishing condition, having increased within the last four years from 1300 to 2600 paying members; that the funds of the society show an increase on the quarter of 233l. 14s. 7d.; and that there has been plenty of employment for the members—more than in the corresponding quarter of 1852. We may, however, remark that since Christmas the business has been slack, though not so much so as at the same period in previous years. No doubt within the last few years the printing business has been considerably expanded, but the report observed, that among other items of relief which the London compositor now experienced, was the emigration within the last four years of some 300 or 400 of his fellow-workmen. Besides discussing certain trade matters, interesting only to themselves, the meeting discussed

London Assistance to the Preston Strike.—A deputation attended from the Factory Operatives of Preston, soliciting pecuniary assistance, which was heartily responded to by the compositors voting them a sum of 20l. per week, for the period of ten weeks, should this unhappy dispute not be brought to an amicable settlement sooner. Mr. Matthews, the delegate from Preston, informed the meeting that within the last six or seven weeks the trades of London had contributed upwards of 1000l. towards the same object, among the items of which amount was a sum of 200l. contributed by the Amalgamated Engineers. The circular which the Society of Arts, John-street, Adel-

phi, has lately issued, inviting a Conference of the representatives both of Capital and Labour interested in the above strike, was hopefully alluded to, as affording an important opportunity by which both parties might eventually settle these serious differences, which have continued so long, and created so much acerbity and estrangement of feeling, both on the part of employers and employed, and which have brought the latter to the lowest depths of poverty and misery, immensely aggravated by the present greatly enhanced prices of the principal necessities of existence.

Belfast Compositors.—The compositors also contributed 50l. towards assisting the Belfast printers to remedy a growing evil, which has been long prevalent among them, namely, the employment of boys only, in preference to journeymen, by some employers; and in all the other offices in Belfast, including the *liberal* and *popular* newspapers, the proportion of men and boys is in some instances 9 men and 17 apprentices! The number of journeymen in Belfast is 67, and the number of apprentices 176!

An Endeavour to Delete Overtime.—A suggestion was laid before the meeting from the chapel of Messrs. Savill and Edwards, in reference to an evil which inconveniences the compositor very much, without yielding him adequate compensation: the employers having the power (according to the Compositors' Scale of Prices) of requiring the journeyman to work from six in the morning till ten in the evening, without extra emolument, which the employers, when in a rush of work (which in some offices occurs for considerable periods at various seasons of the year) invariably require. Before six in the morning and after ten in the evening the compositor has per scale a certain amount extra per hour in addition to the price of his work, newspapers excepted, which bear a uniform price per thousand types, whether done during the day or during the night. The subject was moved to stand over to the annual general meeting of the trade, shortly to be held. But we have no doubt that others might assist the compositors in endeavouring to correct this evil of unpaid overtime, if those in the commercial or literary world who require to have recourse to the services of the compositors, would time their orders more judiciously, as it is not wholly the employers' blame, but the blame rests in a great measure with authors, editors, publishers, and others, whose business it is to supply copy.

State of the Preston Strike.—According to Mr. Matthews, the delegate from Preston at the printers' meeting, the strike, which has now lasted twenty-one weeks, has been made for the restoration of 10 per cent., which the employers deducted from the wages of the employed in 1847, with the promise and understanding that they would restore the 10 per cent. when prosperity again enabled them to do so, which, as we understood Mr. Matthews, thirty-two out of thirty-eight firms did add previous to the strike; but the remaining six firms declining to do the same, the thirty-two who had made the advance of 10 per cent. withdrew it, and hence the Preston strike and lock-out. Mr. Matthews stated that Blackburn is fully employed, and that there the employers are now paying 12s. per cent. more than Preston was paying previous to the strike. He also remarked, that the maximum earnings of adult factory operatives in Preston, when fully employed, was only 18s. and the minimum 12s. 6d.; that Blackburn manufactures similar fabrics to that of Preston; and that when the reduction took place in '47, in the wages of employment, the manufacturer was not subjected to reduction in the price of his goods; and that seeing by the building of factories and the erection of additional machinery by the manufacturers, that matters were in a prosperous condition, the operatives were encouraged to ask for the restoration of the 10 per cent., and hence the present exile of 2000 of them from employment.

X. X.

MR. PANIZZI ONCE MORE.

ALFRED JONES, the driver of one of Thompson's cabs (No. 350), was summoned before Mr. Hall, of Bow-street, to answer two complaints preferred by Mr. Antonio Panizzi, keeper of the printed-book department of the British Museum.

Mr. Panizzi stated that he charged the defendant with insulting behaviour, and with neglecting to give him a ticket. On Wednesday afternoon, the 4th instant, he sent a porter from the Museum to get him a cab, but he returned with the answer, "No one will come." Witness walked to the stand in Southampton-row, it being then between seven and eight o'clock, and saw four or five cabs, but no drivers. Supposing they had gone into public-houses, or something, he continued for some time to bawl out for the cabmen, but the waterman, apparently, and two or three other men, only laughed at him. Eventually, on seeing defendant with his cab, witness desired him to come to the pavement to take him up. He did so very slowly, and witness went behind the cab to look at its number, upon which defendant exclaimed, "Don't be in a passion," and puffed the smoke of a cigar in his (Mr. Panizzi's) face. Witness said, "This is not respectful conduct, and you know it," at the same time demanding the number of his badge. The cabman stood in such a position that witness was obliged to put his face close to the man's breast in order to see his badge, and while doing so, defendant blew another puff into his face. Witness ordered him to desist, but he replied, "I

have paid for it (the cigar), and shall smoke it." All this time the other men were laughing and jeering at him, and when witness had taken his seat, and directed the cabman to drive him to Belgrave-square, they cried out, "You'll never get there." The defendant would not ring or knock at the house where witness alighted, and never delivered up a ticket of his number.

The defendant said the occurrence happened on the first afternoon after the great snow, and the gentleman came up in a great passion from not being able to get a cab. Witness could not pull up close to the kerb-stone, owing to the snow, and this excited him very much. He (defendant) was certainly annoyed at the gentleman's manner, but he took the cigar out of his mouth when the gentleman was taking his number, and also when he opened the door of the cab. [To complainant]—Did I not ask you to partake of a ticket before starting, nor at any time?

Mr. Panizzi—Certainly not; and you did not take the cigar out of your mouth.

Samuel Wright, a journeyman watchmaker, of 37, Windsor-terrace, City-road, said that he happened to be passing at the time, and was attracted by the crowd. The gentleman was very much excited, but the cabman did not puff his cigar in complainant's face, nor use any abusive language. When the gentleman got into the cab the driver offered to give him a ticket, but the gentleman said, "You be damned," and refused to have it. Witness on hearing the gentleman say that he would make the cabman pay for it, called at the stand next day and left his address, stating that he would attend as a witness, if necessary.

Mr. Panizzi stated that this evidence was wholly false.

Mr. Hall said it was perfectly ridiculous to suppose that any gentleman of common propriety would make such a false charge against a cabman; and the witness, in making out a case for the defendant, had even gone further than the cabman himself, who did not say that Mr. Panizzi refused to take a ticket. Besides, the defendant was liable to a penalty of 40s. for smoking at all while on duty.

The cabman was fined 30s. for the two offences, and costs, or 21 days.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

It has been stated that several abductions of young persons of both sexes have recently occurred, and some alarm has been felt. A servant girl was seized at Hammersmith by a ruffian. She was not far from home. Fortunately the sound of coming footsteps made the scoundrel jump into a cart and drive off. The girl was much hurt. An old woman has been severely beaten and injured in Hatton-garden. The murder of the boy Medhurst, whose body was found at East Acton, has caused the Government to offer a reward of 100l. for the discovery of the murderer. A man named Wildbore, publican, of Bishop's Stortford, has been arrested on the information of a man who made a chaise-cart for him, similar to the one in which Medhurst was driven away. Wildbore does not answer to the description of the driver of the cart as given by the boys who were witnesses. He is portly and has grey hair. The man in the cart was described as having bushy whiskers. One of the boys, Jackson, identified Wildbore, but not with great certainty. The other boy said he did not know him. Wildbore himself said he had not been in London in the cart for two years. Mr. Corrie, the magistrate at Clerkenwell, remanded Wildbore after having had a private talk with the police.

The inquest was resumed on Monday. The evidence of Dr. Glover and Mr. Francis showed that violence had been used; but the former thought poison might have been employed. The inquest was adjourned.

The "West End Refuge for the Houseless Poor" has been carried on by one Guyonette with a sham committee. He made about five-and-twenty shillings a week by it. He was "the proprietor." The dodge was shown up by one of the collectors being accused of fraud and forgery.

At the Worship-street office Michael Regan appeared to answer a charge of brutal assault upon his wife. He had beaten his wife about the head and face with his fists, knocked her down, then jumped upon her body and head, and finally cut her head open by repeated blows of a spade. She was taken to a hospital, and he was remanded for a week, but upon his being again brought up, the wife was pronounced too much injured to attend, and he was therefore again remanded, when the poor woman was in attendance. She still seemed very weak, and spoke with great faintness, but only said enough to intimate that she had no more to state against the prisoner, declared that he was not in the habit of ill-using her, although she had before stated the reverse, and apologised for the man's ill-usage of her by saying that he was intoxicated at the time, the policeman having as positively stated them both to have been perfectly sober.

Mr. D'Eyncourt said—From the evident reluctance with which the complainant even now comes forward, it would be manifestly useless for me to send this case for trial, as I at first intended to do, for I entertain no doubt whatever that, if I did pursue that course, she would not appear against him, and he would escape altogether without punishment. I shall therefore exercise the summary powers with which I am invested, and sentence the prisoner to be committed to the House of Correction for six months and to be kept to hard labour. The prisoner heard the sentence with indifference, and without remark.

Scenes in Barnsbury-park remind one of stories told of Italian brigands rifling brilliant guests at a ball. There is there a set of ruffians who terrify alike the weak and the strong. At Belitha-terrace lives Mr. Russell; from his window, on Christmas-day, he saw two men, named Mortimer, illusing a man, and he interfered, and being himself assailed, knocked his man down. Shortly after this scene, and while Mr. Russell, with his father and brother, and other members of his family, were regaling themselves on Christmas cheer, the prisoner, with another fellow and two women, entered his house by wrenching the lock off the street-door, and on Mr. Russell hastening from his parlour into the passage to ascertain the cause of the outrage, he encountered the gang, and three times felled the first-named prisoner before he was overpowered by the others,

who then pinioned him, and suffered the accused persons to beat and kick him severely, and he was not released until he gave them money to leave his abode. Mr. William Russell, a very powerful man, brother to this gentleman, stated that he was enjoying the festivities of Christmas with the members of his family at the time the disturbance took place, and he had to stand guard with a poker in his hand to prevent the ruffians rushing into the parlour, where several ladies were in the utmost fear and excitement. He certainly expected that life would have been sacrificed, for he most assuredly would have used the weapon with deadly effect had he been attacked. These facts being told to Mr. Tyrwhitt, he said it was a case of felony; but the valiant Mr. Russell, who had felled his man in single combat, was now inclined to be merciful. The police magistrate repeated several times that it was a "most mysterious and serious affair;" but eventually gave way to the gallant Russell, and instead of committing the Mortimers to gaol, fined them 8l., or six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour. They got the latter.

An old ruffian, of 61, a law writer, named Willis, has stabbed his wife in the throat. The story of the deed was told at the Bow-street police-court, by his wife, Mary Willis, of 5, Lee's-buildings, Chancery-lane. She had been married to the prisoner about 23 years, and within twelve months after her marriage he was committed for seven days from the Hatton-garden police-office for assaulting her with a poker. They had lived together very unhappily ever since, and had had six children. For the last three or four years they had slept in separate beds, and for more than eleven months past he had not contributed a penny towards her support. She had worked for her own living, and had paid the rent of their lodgings herself. On Christmas-eve she went to bed shortly after twelve, and about two hours afterwards was aroused from her sleep by her husband, who came into the room without a light, and got into her bed. He said, "Poll, I am come to you, for I am so cold." She replied merely, "Then why come to me if you are cold?" In the next moment she received a violent stab from a sharp-pointed knife, which severed her ear and entered her throat; and, in raising her hand to resist him, she received a severe cut upon her fingers. She then called, as loudly as she was able, to a Mr. Hyatt, who lived at the bottom of the house, exclaiming, "My husband has stabbed me." Hyatt and his son came to her assistance, the prisoner, in the meantime, having gone back to his own room. A surgeon was sent for, and her wounds were dressed under his direction. The next morning her daughter found the carving-knife produced in her bed, stained with blood. Hyatt confirmed this account. When he spoke to Willis, the latter observed, "If she is not dead, my hand must be nervous." Willis is a great drunkard. Committed for trial.

William Neal, gamekeeper to Mr. Newdigate, M.P., saw two men in a field at Harefield. He went up to them, when one of them struck him several times on the head, making it bleed. A man, named Ives, came up and released Neal by beating his assailant about the head. The case was tried at the Clerkenwell sessions, and the jury found Joseph Bluff, the prisoner, guilty of a "simple assault." Bluff had received "provocation." This verdict surprised the whole court, judge, barristers, and all. Some of the jury were for acquitting him; the judge sentenced him to three months in gaol.

A strange incident is reported at Hunslet, Leeds. A young man, named Longbottom, recently married, brought his bride home to his father's house. One night, the father heard a noise. He went out, and found the house leaked and no one about. He found the bed-room window of the newly-married couple open; and on the steps the body of the wife bleeding from a wound in the head. Further search disclosed the body of the husband: he had drowned himself. Both were in their night-dresses.

A beer-shop-keeper, named Spriggs, and his wife, got drunk at a ball in the house. After the guests were gone they quarrelled, and Spriggs shot his wife. He gave himself up; and a verdict of "wilful murder" has been found by a coroner's jury.

CONVOCATION.

THE Archdeacon of Taunton has given notice that he will move the following resolutions in Convocation:—

"Resolutions to be Moved in the Lower House of Convocation, Feb. 1, 1854:—

"1. That it appears to this House that the education and training of candidates for holy orders is, very generally, defective and inadequate; especially in respect of a course of (theological reading and practical preparation for some time previous to their presenting themselves to the bishop to be examined and inquired of, with a view to ordination.

"2. That this House do make a humble representation to his Grace the Archbishop and the Lords the Bishops of the Upper House, respectfully calling their attention to the urgency of the case, and praying their concurrence in appointing committees of both Houses to consider conjointly of the best means of remedying this defect, and supplying this want in our church system.

"3. That a committee of this House be now named with instructions to prepare a draft of such representation, and to submit it to this House for approval at their next session."

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE Queen renewed the dramatic performances begun before Christmas, with the play of "Money," on Thursday night. The Lord Chancellor and Lady Cranworth, the Earl and Countess of Derby, Lord and Lady Bloomfield, the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury, were present.

The Convocation of York will meet in the Chapter-house at York, immediately after divine service in the Minster, on Wednesday morning, February 1. The canon in residence (Rev. W. V. Harcourt) will preside as commissioner for the archbishop.

A Cabinet Council was held at the Foreign-office on Tuesday. It sat four hours.

All the Ministers attended a second Cabinet Council held on Thursday. They sat two hours and a half.

We understand, from the best authority, that the Derbyites have made a move within the last few days with a view to commencing the session in a manner becoming an Opposition prepared to be something more than merely obstructive. To this end, as we gather from a very competent informant, letters have been sent, some to Lord Derby, some to Mr. Disraeli, but in the aggregate numbering not less than 260, from members of the lower house, proffering an unsolicited support to those leaders on political grounds generally, but more especially in a policy the reverse of that which is supposed to have hitherto actuated, and to be likely to continue to actuate, the present advisers of the Crown, responsible and irresponsible, ostensible and actual, in respect to Russia and the East. Besides these 260 avowed adherents, there are also, we understand, some twenty others, who, for lack of a more distinctive designation, we may call contingent auxiliaries, whose support on certain points is not to be held as binding them to any other than a defensive alliance.—*Liverpool Albion.*

Mr. John Sadleir, a Lord of the Treasury, has resigned his post.

Lord Clarendon received, on Monday, a deputation from the Protestant Alliance. They presented to him the memorial, agreed on at the meeting held some time since in the Freemasons' Tavern, on the persecuting enactments of "Tuscany, Portugal, Spain, and Malta.

Lord Brougham is to leave Cannes in time to be present at the opening of Parliament. Lord Brougham is in his 75th year.

The *Globe* mentions Lord Harris as likely to be the new Governor of Madras. He is now Governor of Trinidad.

The Emperor of the French has sent 40l. in aid of the funds of the Société Française de Bienfaisance, founded in 1842 for the relief of the French poor in this country.

A correspondence, worthy of both parties, has passed between the Rev. Frederick Maurice and the professors of the Ladies' College, called Queen's College, which he was so instrumental in founding, and in which he lectured on moral philosophy and English literature. The regret and affection displayed on both sides is consolatory in these days. Mr. Maurice leaves money he subscribed towards obtaining the charter, and other expenses, as the property of the college; and the pupils send him an inkstand. Mr. Maurice, we learn from the letters, resigned because he was not unanimously elected by the council—a most honourable act.

Mr. Stephenson, the engineer, arrived at Cairo in his yacht *Titanic*, on the 1st January. He is there to look after the railway which has been inundated by the Lake Meotis.

The Prince of Canino, Charles Lucien Bonaparte, has sold all his possessions in Rome and Ronciglione to the banker, Alessandro Torlonia, for 450,000 and one scudi. The prince, who is well known as a man of exalted political opinions, has stipulated in the contract that the one dollar should indicate the value of his title as Prince de Canino, which he now sells, together with his estates.—*Cologne Gazette.*

Dr. Collyer, the eminent congregational minister, died on Monday morning, at an advanced age.

The orphan child of one of the oldest of the Irish baronets was admitted a few days since into the Wanstead Infant Orphan Asylum.—*Standard.*

Marshal Viscount Beresford, famous for his military exploits, died at Bedgebury Park on Sunday. He was the illegitimate son of the first Marquis of Waterford; and being born in 1770, was consequently 84 years old. He served at Toulon, when Bonaparte gained his first laurels; but his chief distinction rests upon his services in Spain. He drilled and organised the Portuguese with great promptness, and made them efficient soldiers. Usually he acted as a general of division in the Peninsular war; his only separate command being at the bloody battle of Albuera, where he defeated Soult. There were only 6000 British soldiers present, and at the end of the fight only 1500 "stood triumphant on the fatal hill." It is generally held that Marshal Beresford committed an error in fighting this battle. Instead of watching and directing the conflict, he mingled in it, fought hand to hand, and led the charges; at one time lifting a Polish lancer up by his collar; at another, picking up a Spanish officer and flinging him at the head of his men. In 1814 he was made a peer, and an annuity of 20,000l. was conferred on him by Parliament. In 1830, at the ripe age of sixty, he married the widow of Mr. Hope, of Deepdene. He was a general in the British, and a marshal in the Portuguese, army.

We have to add another to the list of deceased general officers in the person of Major-General Thomas William Taylor, C.B., Colonel of the 17th Lancers, and Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Military College. Major-General Taylor entered the army as cornet in the 6th Dragoon Guards in 1804, and, after passing rapidly through the junior grades of the cavalry service, became Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel on the 18th of June, 1815, having served during the campaign, the great event of which took place on that day. There are now three colonelcies—the 60th Rifles, 16th Regiment, and 17th Lancers—at the disposal of Lord Hardinge, besides the Lieutenant-Governorship of Sandhurst.

The Queen has granted a charter of incorporation to the new Wellington College, for the education of the children of military men who have served either in the Royal army or the East India Company's army. Among the governors are Prince Albert, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Wellington, Lord John Russell, Sir James Graham, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Hardinge, Sir Sidney Herbert, and Lord Gough.

The Bishop of London, with Sir John Patteson and Dr. Lushington, as assessors, has been holding an inquiry into

the constitution of St. Paul's relating to the minor canons. Two of them, Mr. Lupton and Mr. Packman, had prayed for the inquiry. They demand a more equal share of the stipend fund; the reduction of their number 12, to 8; and the option of taking livings in rotation. Counsel argued the case on either side. It is one of great complexity and intricacy. The Bishop takes time to give his judgment.

An inquiry into the treatment of the poor in Westminster is going on before Mr. Austin, Poor Law Inspector. The immediate object of the investigation is to discover the circumstances under which a pauper named Caroline Calloway died in the workhouse. From the evidence it would appear that she was refused admission to the workhouse on the 9th December last, on the ground that it was full; that she wandered about all night, and was found nearly senseless on the pavement of York-street the next morning by a policeman, who took her to the workhouse and insisted on her being admitted. A concussion of the brain resulted from the fall, and she died. The defence of the workhouse authorities is, that she was drunk, or had been drinking, when she applied; and that the house was full.

A very full and spirited meeting was held at Chester, on Wednesday, under the presidency of the Mayor, on the Eastern question. The resolutions adopted are a credit to the citizens of the fine old city, brief and to the purpose. They declare "that it is absolutely necessary, for the maintenance of the honour and safety of Europe, that Russia should immediately evacuate the Danubian principalities, and give to Turkey full compensation for past injuries and satisfactory guarantees against future aggression." (Cheers.) And that "it is the duty and interest of England to assist the Sultan in obtaining full justice from Russia by the strongest warlike measures, and without delay." (Cheers.)

A public meeting was held on Wednesday, in the Town-hall, Ormskirk, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means for establishing a library in that town. The chair was occupied by Lord Stanley. There was a large attendance of gentlemen from the surrounding district, as well as of the inhabitants of the town. Lord Stanley, in opening the proceedings, referred to the success of the free public libraries established in Liverpool, Manchester, Belfast, and elsewhere. As to the selection of books he advised them to exclude all works of theological controversy, and all works bordering on party politics. He recommended that, in the first instance, it should be a lending library only, and at a future time a reading-room might be added, if adequate support was forthcoming. They would require at least 400l. for the purchase of 1500 or 2000 volumes, selected from the best standard libraries of the country, to begin with, and yearly subscriptions to the amount of 40l. at least, and the library should be open without restriction to all who choose to apply. If sufficient funds were not voluntarily subscribed, they should have a low rate of subscription, not exceeding 4s. or 6s. a year. This plan had been successfully adopted in Prescott. He concluded by announcing that 2204, or four-fifths of the amount required in the first instance had been subscribed. The list of contributors was then read. It included the names of Lord Stanley 100l., Sir G. J. Heathcote 25l., Rev. J. A. Kershaw, 26l., Mr. W. Brown, M.P., 20l., &c., the total amount subscribed being 322l. A provisional committee having been appointed, with power to add to their number, a vote of thanks to Lord Stanley terminated the proceedings.

The annual meeting of the Royal Humane Society was held on Wednesday, Mr. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, M.P., in the chair. The report stated that during the half-year ending 31st December last, the society had brought under its notice 102 cases of drowning, involving the risk of 105 persons, of whom 8 had been beyond recovery, and 24 had been attempted suicides. The circumstances attending 10 of the above mentioned cases had been so extraordinary, as to induce the committee to refer them to the General Court, with a view to the society honouring those who at the peril of their own lives humanely rescued their fellow-creatures from a watery grave. The total number of cases during the year had been 152, and the persons attended to 165, of whom 158 had been recovered, 12 had been beyond recovery, and 31 had attempted suicide. The total number of cases referred had been 19. During the same period the society conferred the following rewards, namely 24 silver medals, 36 bronze ditto, 9 testimonials on vellum, 6 on parchment, and 108 pecuniary gifts. There had bathed in the Serpentine, during the last season, 223,250 persons, or about 40,000 fewer than the average of some years past. The casualties, none of which had proved fatal, had been 21. In the interval, between the 19th of last month and 6th of the present, there had been on the frozen waters of the Royal Parks about 253,000 skaters, several of whom had suffered immersion, and would probably have perished but for the assistance afforded to them by the society. Of these only 49 left their names and addresses. The thank offerings for rescue were confined to one poor boy, who, with gratitude greater than his means, subscribed 2d. to the funds of the society. Mr. H. Goring one of the vice-presidents, presented the society with a donation of 105l.

For some time past a good deal of excitement has been produced by the refusal of the curates of Barking to admit the bodies of Dissenters into the church, in that place, previous to interment. In consequence of the unseemly scenes which have been witnessed, the parishioners determined to memorialise the Bishop of London upon the subject, and it is stated his lordship has recently intimated to the curates that they are not on any account to refuse admission of such bodies into the parish church.—*Chelmsford Chronicle.*

Lord Palmerston has ordered the authorities at Bristol to build a new lunatic asylum in place of the present, which is inadequate.

The lunatics at Colney Hatch, 650 in number, were entertained, on Wednesday week, with cakes and fruit, and dissolving views.

There is at Newcastle a juvenile reformatory school in operation. It contains eleven boys.

The Marylebone Free Library, containing 8000 volumes, was opened to the public on Monday. The rooms are at 27, Gloucester-place, New Road.

The directors of the Electric Telegraph Company gave a supper on Monday, at Radley's Hotel, to 135 of the clerks employed in the metropolitan stations. The health of M. J. Ricardo, M. P., the founder and chairman of the Company, and the directors, was drunk with enthusiasm. It may be interesting to mention, as a proof of the progress of the Company's operations since its establishment in 1846, that the total number of *employés* in London is 310, and in the provinces 940.

The Great Metropolitan Poultry show was held this week. The total number of pens of poultry, including fowls, ducks, geese, and turkeys was 1189; of pigeons 425; of rabbits 50. Prince Albert's Bramah Pootras were "highly commended" by Mr. H. Davies, of Spring-grove, Hounslow, who carried off the first prize.

The project of a staff corps is about to be carried out in India early in the year. It is to commence experimentally with the commissariat, who are to form a distinct corps, separated from these regiments, but with the privilege of effecting exchanges with other staff officers.—*United Service Gazette*.

The Russian war-steamer *Pruth*, lately engaged in the destruction of Turkish villages, with red-hot shot, was built by Mr. Laird, of Birkenhead. The *Wladimir*, which captured an Egyptian steamer early in the war, was built by the well-known ship-builder, Mr. Mare, in the Thames.

The merchants of St. Petersburg are already suffering by anticipation the inroads which war with England will make upon their trade. The usual advances made by British houses to growers of produce for this country have not been made.

The *Cressa*, a steamer belonging to the General Screw Steam Shipping Company, left Southampton for Australia on Wednesday. She takes out 140 passengers, 800 tons cargo, and 10,000 letters and newspapers. She is only to stop at Hobson, and thence go on without stopping to Melbourne.

The Admiralty have resolved to send the *Phœnix* out to Beech Island in the spring, to convey stores and communicate with Sir Edward Belcher's expedition in search of Sir John Franklin.

The latest news from Australia is of little general importance. In New South Wales, the gold licence fee is fixed at ten shillings a month. Mr. Hargraves, the gold discoverer, is to be rewarded with 10,000*l.*, a small sum considering the immense wealth placed at the disposal of the colonists.

The *Forerunner* brings news from Lagoo to December 6th. Kossako, the rebel chief, was again in arms; and a large British naval force was at Lagoo to assist the King Doemo. President Roberts, of the Black Republic of Liberia, had assured his Parliament of the support of France and England, and had notified the arrival of 1000 stand of arms and accoutrements for a militia.

The Chinese labourers imported into Guiana and Trinidad have given satisfaction; and the experiment is considered successful. They are considered equal to Coolies on all points, and superior in some.

Richard Lambert, Queen's pilot, of Deal, has been tried by a Naval court-martial on board the *Waterloo*, for having permitted the *Medea* steam-sloop to go ashore near the Spinn Head, at the mouth of the Humber. His excuse was that the weather was thick, and a strong current running, and that he had been on deck for thirty-three hours in severe weather. The vessel had been taken off by a pilot from Hull. He was reprimanded, and admonished to be more cautious in future.

There were serious food riots in Devonshire last week. At Crediton the mob seem to have had it all their own way; the police, as usual, were powerless, and the rioters, after doing great damage, only fled on the report that soldiers were coming.

Similar riots broke out at Exeter on Tuesday, and the dragons were called out. Several shops were destroyed. At Alphington and Axminster they destroyed two shops. Twenty-five rioters were arrested.

Twenty-four men and four women, engaged in the riots have been committed for trial.

A sheep-stealer, sentenced to eight years' penal servitude, and one month's imprisonment in Derby gaol, hung himself last week with his handkerchief.

A young Irish ruffian, convicted of robbery, flung a scrubbing-brush at the head of the judge. Fortunately it only struck the judicial wig. Another said he would fling his shoe at the judge. They were both punished severely.

Some scoundrel fired a bullet into a first-class carriage of a train on the Bristol and Exeter line. The five passengers fortunately escaped.

Captain Eyre, 47th Regiment, who was tried before a court-martial, at Malta, on charges of fraudulently appropriating several sums, has been under arrest ever since (nearly five months), without learning his sentence, which has but recently been sent out. He is sentenced to seven years' transportation, and has been removed to the Corradino Gaol, prior to being sent to England.

A pauper in Bishop Auckland workhouse has beaten her illegitimate child to death, apparently by striking it against the mantelpiece.

A terrible encounter of two trains, each drawn by two engines, and proceeding in opposite directions, on the Eastern Counties Railway, occurred between Thetford and Harling last week. A corps of labourers, accompanied by three superintendents, and drawn by two engines, went on the up line, in defiance of danger signals, at the order of the superintendents, Latham and Ashcroft. Meanwhile Mr. Howard, an inspector, had directed a passenger train from Thetford, drawn by two engines, also to go on the up line. He rode on the engine, and on seeing the train coming said it must be on the down line, because a man had been left at Harling to protect it. On the other hand, Latham believed the up line was encumbered, and was going to clear it. In the tremendous collision five lives were lost. The drivers jumped off.

The inquiry terminated on Thursday in a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. Ashcroft.

A train on the Midland Railway at the Trent junction, owing to a defect of the points, got on the wrong line and ran into a waggon train. Several passengers severely injured.

An experiment for the purpose of testing the efficiency of a self-acting break, invented by Major Robins, took place on the South-Western and Windsor line on Wednesday. The merit of this invention consists in its being able to effect a stoppage in the train, without manual labour, within the short space of from 15 to 20 yards, the break being self-acting and worked entirely by the engine-driver. Prince Albert was present, and approved of the invention.

It is impossible to enumerate the losses by the gale at the close of last week. Wrecks strewn the eastern coast; coals were so scattered and plentiful that the poor of Tynemouth were allowed to take them away. Many lives were lost in sight of shore. In a wreck off Balbriggan, Mr. H. Hamilton performed a gallant action; he made three efforts in a life-boat manned by volunteers, among whom was an American seaman, to save five lives. The heavy sea defeated him twice, but a third time he saved the men. Off Shields many ships were lost; but the gallant crews of the life-boats saved scores of lives. A large fleet of colliers ran into Leith roads. It is said that a hundred vessels went ashore between Lowestoft and Leith roads.

The weather has become mild again. The thaw on Saturday last has continued, and the snow has disappeared. Numerous deaths have occurred from cold.

A man, name Humphries, of Lavington, was frozen to death on Salisbury Plain, on the 3rd instant. He was overtaken by the snow-storm, when driving a waggon, and seems to have lain down to sleep. The body was found by a keeper and his dog.

A great fire at Montreal has resulted in the destruction of property worth 29,900*l.* It occurred on Christmas-day.

A building, used as an ice-house, at the station of the Eastern Counties Railway, Norfolk, was burnt down on Saturday. At the time it contained 800 tons of ice! When the roof fell in and the flames reached the ice, the only effect produced was the emission of dense clouds of smoke and steam.

Two girls were destroyed by fire at Westbury, in Wiltshire, on Monday. They were standing near the fire, when their clothes ignited. Their parents were from home at the time.

It would seem that four attempts have been made recently to burn a convent at Bristol.

On the evening of Monday (week) last, the Emperor of all the Russias was publicly burned in effigy in the marketplace of Cupar. He was carried to the place of execution in a cart drawn by an ass, and accompanied by a band of music and torch-bearers. The demolition of the autocrat was greeted by the hearty cheers of the bystanders.—*Edinburgh Advertiser*.

There was a fire last week at Raglan Castle, the property of the Duke of Beaufort, but it was soon extinguished. A servant rose at four, thinking it was seven, and half asleep at the time set fire to some dresses.

Three lives were lost at the iron colliery, South Wales, by the breaking of a chain.

According to the census tables on religious worship, there were, in 1853, 11 colleges, and 88 religious houses, of which 15 were for men and 13 for women, while the number of the priests was 875. The estimated attendance on census Sunday was—morning, 252,783; afternoon, 53,965; and evening, 76,880. The sittings were 186,111. The attendance was greater than the number of attendants. There are more than one morning service attended by different individuals. It is estimated by the same tables that the number of men engaged in London alone upon omnibuses on the Sunday is as many as 6400.

Postscript.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14.

We believe that no official report of the entrance of the fleets into the Black Sea, on the 3rd inst., as announced by telegraphic despatches, had reached Paris up to yesterday.

We are indisposed, without the most positive proofs, to attach credit to the statement of a morning contemporary, that the Divan accepted the propositions of the Four Powers, under the threat of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, that England would abandon Turkey to her fate, if she declined to succumb to the conditions imposed by the Ambassadors. Our contemporary is only correct in demonstrating that if the *quasi* joint protectorate over the Christian subjects of the Porte were to hand over the 800,000 Catholics to the protection of France and Austria, the 200,000 Protestants to England and Prussia, and the 10,000,000 of the Greek Church to the Czar, then indeed the abandonment of Turkey would be complete. We refuse to believe any English Government capable of so base a treason, disguised under forms of a colourable justice. Perhaps our vigilant contemporary forgets, in common with the Ambassadors, that all their diplomatic *rengaine* (as the *Sicé* energetically expresses it) on the propositions dated December 5, has become a mere anachronism since the massacre at Sinope. The *crecendo* of decisive orders despatched to the Admirals on the 13th (to make a demonstration), the 19th (to "convo Turkish troops"), and on the 31st ult. (to "occupy the Black Sea"), have strikingly changed the situation, both at Constantinople and at St. Petersburg. After the circular of M. Drouyn de l'Huys, insisting that throughout the negotiations Russia had been the aggressor, in the embassy of Prince Menschikoff, the invasion of Moldo-Wallachia, and the massacre

at Sinope, is it possible that France and England should force Turkey, at the sword's point, to bind herself over hand and foot to Russia: or that Turkey should consent to renew the treaties with Russia, which have served as a continual pretext for Russian encroachments? We rather believe that the conditions on which alone Turkey would treat, are, the abrogation of existing treaties, virtually annulled as they are by the war—the evacuation of the Danubian Principalities as soon as possible by Russia, guaranteed by the Powers—the withdrawal of the pretensions of Russia as comprised in the note of Prince Menschikoff—the prohibition, in future, of Russia interfering in the internal concerns of the Ottoman Empire—and the understanding that if any reclamations be found necessary they shall proceed from the four Powers together.

We repeat, however, that the *venue* of the question has been finally removed to St. Petersburg, by the last instructions of the French and British Governments.

Full information of the defeat of the Russians by Omer Pasha near Kalafat, had not reached Constantinople on the 1st inst.; all that was known was, that Omer Pasha for several days past had attacked in succession the different Russian corps, the entire force of which formed an aggregate of 30,000 men; that the Turkish troops had intentionally fallen back on their centre, had lured on the Russians as far as Kalafat, a position now formidably entrenched, but which at a distance seemed to be abandoned. The Turkish batteries suddenly unmasked, caused great carnage among the Russians, while at the same time the Ottoman reserve that had crossed the Danube by night, and masked itself behind a wood, took them in flank, and compelled them to retreat. It was also known that the inhabitants of Little Wallachia, who had every day been declaring more and more in favour of the Turks, had powerfully contributed to the success of the Ottoman army.

It was reported at Vienna that the Emperor of Austria was going to Warsaw to confer with the Czar on the eastern question. This is at least improbable.

The Diet of Baden was opened by the Regent on Thursday last. In alluding to the conflict now existing between the State and the Church, the Regent stated that no effort would be spared, while asserting the rights of the Crown, to bring about an amicable adjustment of the misunderstanding, and to secure to the Church a safe and dignified position.

Schamyl, the Circassian chief, has sent to Constantinople one Mured, to assure the Sultan of his entire sympathy and devotion. He had been very badly off for ammunition till he received the ordnance and stores sent by the Porte.

The reverses sustained at Akiska and Alexandropol are far from being of that importance that persons seem inclined to attach to them. Since the appointment of a new Commander-in-Chief, and the adoption by the Divan of another plan for the campaign, everything has changed. A few successes have already crowned the efforts of the Turks, and others are being prepared.

It is stated that the Afghan Envoy left Teheran before the arrival of the new Russian Plenipotentiary, with a threat that if Persia formed an alliance with Russia the Afghans would invade the Persian territory.

The great educational meeting in Edinburgh, fixed for Thursday, has been postponed. The chairman, whose position in the Free Church makes his presence especially valuable, Lord Panmure, is at this moment suffering from an attack of the gout. It is thought advisable not to move without him.

The Attorney-General, instructed by the Honourable Francis Scott, chairman, and seven directors of the South-Western Railway, obtained, yesterday, from the Court of Queen's Bench a rule to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against Mr. W. Harrison, the publisher of the *Times* newspaper, for a libel in that journal on the 22nd of November.

The Bourse at Paris closed on Thursday evening with a fall. The Three per Cents. closed at 70*l.* 50*c.* for the end of the month, and the Four-and-a-Half per Cents. at 98*l.* 90*c.*

The *Morning Herald* of yesterday states that Sir Fleetwood Pellew, whose distinguished services have consisted in creating mutinies wherever he has been in command, has been recalled by the Admiralty, and that Rear-Admiral Sir James Stirling proceeds immediately to assume command of the squadron on the East India station. This appointment looks well in this critical moment. Sir James Stirling is one of the youngest of the admirals, and generally esteemed as an able, energetic, and popular officer. Such appointments will carry us well through a naval war.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1854.

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.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

RUSSIA is making insidious approaches towards our Indian possessions. This same strategy was invented some years back, when Sweden and England were allied against Russia, and Russia conceived the idea of attacking England in India. Russian agents then penetrated, as they have subsequently, not only to the Khan of Khiva, but to the Court of Aurungzebe. But the state of those possessions has materially altered since that time: they are more extensive, and they are not less vexed by disorderly tribes on the border; but their internal condition is by no means what it was.

What is it that would counteract any attempt of Russia to win India from England? It is, that the leading natives have not only become much reconciled to the English rule, but have learned to appreciate English institutions, and are, to no small extent, Anglicised. There are now in all the presidencies of India cultivated men, who would be the last to transfer their country from English to Russian rule, because they are well able to appreciate the difference between English and Russian institutions. They know the suppression of commerce, the tyranny, and the meanness of Russian government. The great safeguard of England, therefore, in that quarter consists in the intelligence, the love of freedom, and the love of commerce in the natives. And the consideration of that principle may perhaps assist the spontaneous effort of opinion in this country to develop Indian liberties.

A beginning no doubt has been made in the Government of India Act of last session; but much remains to be done. That Indians are perfectly able to appreciate that Act and to take its measure is proved by the proceedings of the Bombay Association, at its first annual meeting on the 9th of November. The report is remarkable for being no mere enumeration of grievances. It quite distinctly recognises what has been done for India in the Act, showing how it provides for a better informed Government at home; how it commences legislation in India, and opens the door, technically at least, to the employment of natives; promises to secure law reform, and so forth. The very points of improvement which we have mentioned in the Bill, as it passed in Parliament, are recognised by the Bombay Association as explicitly as they could be by the most intelligent English politicians.

It is shown, however, that the technical admission of natives is likely to be little approved, while there is no examination provided in India; that the complicated system of government is retained, although improved; that the natives have no representation in their own Government, with other shortcomings in the Act considered as a Reform Bill. These objects are stated as temperately as the improvements are stated candidly. The Association recognise the amendment introduced into the Bill even before it came into Parliament, through the exertion of the petitioners in India and their friends in England. In short, the report proves that the Bombay Association is perfectly able to understand an Act of Parliament in all that it secures, in all that it omits, in the method of modifying it, and in the sequel—the work that remains to be done for the purpose of completing Indian reform.

Politicians thus accomplished are, indeed, the very best security that the English Government possesses against any tampering of foreign intrigues. How desirable, therefore, is it to encourage this English feeling amongst the natives; to cultivate their closer connexion with English institutions, and thus to increase the reliance which our Government must feel in the impulse which would make them repel any alien intrigues. They

understand their own position as well as we do—better. You could not, out of the whole round of English literature, pick out a better description of the complicated and imperfect Government of India than in the speech of Dr. Bhawoo Dajee, in a speech after the reading of the report:—

“For the next twenty years the natives of Hindustan were, as heretofore, to be in a great measure excluded from public employment in their own country, although pronounced by Act of Parliament as equally eligible for this as Europeans, and proved by the testimony of the Duke of Wellington, Lord William Bentinck, the Earl of Ellenborough, Sir George Russell Clerk, Mr. J. Sullivan, Mr. Holt Mackenzie, and all the ablest statesmen of the age, to be eminently qualified for office. We were to have, till the close of the present century, a Constitution which was framed during the end of the last. We were to have three separate sets of the Government of India, the principal function of each of which seems to be to thwart and retard the operations of the others—the Leadenhall-street division costing 130,000*l.* a year, being merely the ministers of patronage, and place of record, without one atom of power beyond this, that of suggesting, criticising, and obstructing the Board of Control, costing 250,000*l.* a year, managed by a president appointed without any necessary qualification to the office, whose average tenure of office has since 1820 fallen short of two years, void of all responsibility, endowed with absolute power, governing in secret, and presenting to Parliament, when asked for information, collections of papers so infamously curtailed and garbled as to mislead in place of enlightening, and whose main contributions to the policy of India during the past twenty years have been wars which have cost thirty millions sterling, including amongst them the Scinde infamy and the Cabul disaster. We have three Governments in India costing half a million sterling annually amongst them, so completely under a parcel of London clerks as to be compelled to send home particulars of everything they say or do, to be commented on, checked, or controlled by parties incapable from position of forming a correct opinion on what they decide, and finally, in India, we have had public education neglected, improvement thrown aside, irrigation and the means of communication overlooked: though to neglect such as this we have, since the Charter Act of 1833, been indebted for famines which have swept away nearly two millions of human beings, and sacrificed to Government above eight millions sterling—a sum which, if properly expended, would have been sufficient to have averted for ever the calamities by which in a few years its loss was occasioned. Against things so monstrous as these, in reference to which the Ministry seemed deaf or unheeding, were the petitions directed, as well as against local grievances. Appeals to the people of England through the press were also made by the India Reform Society, and the result has been that the Ministers were obliged to grant more reforms than they at first intended. The double government still remains, however, slightly modified, but its days are numbered. The report just read has given the prominent innovations in the last Charter Act, and we ought no doubt to acknowledge with thankfulness the few improvements which have been introduced by the Ministry, while we cannot help lamenting to notice, in common with our Calcutta brethren, the absence of any provision for the extension of public works,—for the admission of even a single native into the Legislative Council, and the virtual exclusion of the educated natives from the Civil Service by the continuance of the Haileybury College, as the exclusive medium of admission into that service. The British Government professes to educate the natives to an equality with Europeans—an object worthy of the age and of Britain; but if Englishmen, after educating the natives to be their equals, continue to treat them as their inferiors—if they deny the stimulus to honourable ambition, and show the natives that there is a barrier over which superior native merit and ambition can never hope to pass, and that these are considered traits to which a native cannot hope to exhibit—are they not in effect undoing all that they have done, unteaching the native all that he has been taught, and pursuing a suicidal policy, which will inevitably array all the talent, honour, and intelligence of the country ultimately in irreconcilable hostility to the ruling power?—will not the British nation be breaking its pledged faith? The time has come when these things should be considered.”

This is capitally said. When the English Government spends as much in maintaining a Governor-General as it does in Indian irrigation, we can understand how little imperial England has yet done for the greatest of her dependencies. Irrigation, indeed, would do little for India compared to what England can do for her by combined measures. However you may cultivate land, you may bring out its value but little, unless you supply by roads the means of transit. No district will cultivate more than for its ordinary wants, unless it has the means of exporting the surplus; and thus a district isolated from the rest of the world is liable to famine, because a bad harvest converts the closely-measured supply into a scarcity, while the want of roads prevents the ingress of auxiliary supplies. Give India roads, and her land will be able to cultivate a surplus available for trade with England. We have already remarked that English capitalists are withholding the money which they have been in the habit of sending to Russia: where could they employ it better than in road-making and irrigation for India? We believe there is no investment which would return so full a profit; and we are certain that there is nothing which could so thoroughly bind India to England as its complete union, commercially and politically, with our trade and our institutions.

OUR NAVY, ITS STRENGTH AND IMPROVEMENT.

UNDER the administration of Sir James Graham, with the concurrence of his colleagues, our Navy is rapidly developing itself into one of great strength, and it will be an instrument of power in the hands of the English Government. Among the sources of its power are improvements which will considerably elevate the condition of the sailor, and give him a more active interest in the success of the Navy. Independently of the bounty for continuous enlistment, there has been an increase to the pay, and the chances of promotion have been multiplied. Even the distribution of prize-money has been placed under more equitable rules, which, by withholding portions heretofore given to functionaries who had no practical share in the engagement, reserve a larger portion for the actual conquerors. The character of the ships is altered; they are larger, safer, more commodious, better ventilated; and life on board is proportionately more comfortable than it was. A ship is no longer a prison with a chance of being drowned, as it really was in Samuel Johnson's days; but, thanks to the genius of Cook, and the improvement worked by subsequent reformers in the *régime*, as well as in the build and machinery, a ship is now a floating palace, with very little chance indeed of incurring any mischief; save when the sailor encounters that danger which is his opportunity and his glory. Although the use of corporal punishment has, perhaps with some judgment, not been entirely laid aside, it has been placed under such restrictions, in regard to consideration and reporting, as will limit it to being the desperate penalty for the desperately incorrigible. And the general improvement in the condition and character of the men renders it more than probable that the number of incorrigible sailors for punishment will be in itself greatly diminished.

Our great marine, the Admiralty is rapidly converting into a steam navy; and it has been stated on authority that Ministers intend to ask the next Parliament for 8000 more men than the number voted last year. It has subsequently been observed by a contemporary, that the vote of last year has already been exceeded; and if we are not mistaken, the officers of the Admiralty have already made considerable way in the additional 8000 for which the consent of Parliament is justly assumed.

There are, however, certain hindrances still existing, which might be removed with present advantage, and a still greater advance to the Navy in future. Candidates for admission as boys procure their names to be put down in the list for examination; but in order to get accepted, they must present themselves personally, and the best will be chosen out of the whole number appearing. That is all fair; but it is not fair to oblige a poor man, or a youth, whose very application shows that his circumstances are humble, to make a journey to the port of inspection for the mere chance of being accepted or rejected; with the knowledge that many *must* be rejected. It follows that the number of candidates presenting themselves for inspection is more limited than it should be; and, so far from having any reason to suppose that only the least eligible stop away, we believe that absence is dictated much more by distance or want of means for transit, than by conscious unfitness. Now this difficulty would be got over by multiplying the posts for inspection, and by admitting candidates into a list of “past” seamen.

A still more serious improvement would effect a very desirable change in our Navy. The condition of warrant officers has been improved, but how slight are the chances that a warrant officer can ever attain to a commission? It is said, indeed, that the character of education and habits in the class is such as to render it ineligible for admission to the gun-room. It may have been so under old circumstances, with trained-like common seamen; but education is to be encouraged in the Navy, and a different system would promote that improvement of education by calling into the force a number of youths already educated and often trained in the bosoms of educated families.

Intelligent officers no longer expect to rely upon the plan of impressment, and for a reason new to our time. The injustice of the practice would alone have condemned it; but naval men have at last recognised the truth, that the training of the merchant service is not so good as that which the navy can form for itself. This is a great step in

advance. Henceforward a great and growing reliance in the navy will consist in the boys who are admitted as apprentices; but the most is not made of that resource, while the regulations and practice of the Navy tend to keep out a very eligible class of candidates. The altered state of our social relations, the growth of moneyed classes, the decay of the landed gentry, the excessive multiplication of "the uneasy classes," have conspired to call into existence a numerous order of young men, possessing considerable spirit, who would be a valuable contingent for any force. Many a man in the position of a gentleman, either with or without professional means, has sons whom he would gladly push forward in a venturesome career, if there were a fair chance that by fidelity, courage, and capacity, the son could work his way from an apprenticeship to a commission. Were that done, not only would an additional number be brought within the available resources of the Navy, but another effect would ensue. A class of educated youths would continually be filtering through the ranks of the common men to the quarter-deck; and it is most probable that with a judicious, but not very difficult supervision, this class would rather lead a higher spirit to the men, than be in itself contaminated by the intercourse. Such a practice works well in the American navy. If a Franklin Pierce felt no reluctance to take the brown musket of a volunteer in the ranks, it was because a Franklin Pierce thus enlisting might rise to be Colonel, General, and President; and in like manner every apprentice in the American navy has a chance of rising to the highest rank in the force.

A SELF-SUPPORTING WAR AGAINST RUSSIA.

At last the time seems to have come when England can no longer continue the sacrifices which she has made to maintain the legitimist system in Europe. That system to which she devoted so much money and men during the long war, and for which she has subsequently sacrificed her political principles and her honour, is so inherently vicious that, even after nearly fifty years alliance, England finds herself unable to endure it longer; and she is rapidly drifting, by the force of streams of which others have opened the sluices, into a new state of European relations. Some amongst us are alarmed at the prospect. For our own part, we are inclined to think that scarcely any change could be for the worse, with a country so powerful and so endowed with instinctive self-reliance as England, and so long waiving her own power in order to tolerate iniquity. While we believe that a feeble policy, by trying to retain profitless relations, might sacrifice the opportunity that is now offered to us, we are convinced that a bold but practical policy would not only enable England to come out of the contest with honour and advantage, but would positively return a commercial profit.

In the first place, is it worth while to continue the present system? What is its object? The main object of the present system is to retain upon the thrones of Russia, Prussia, Austria, and some smaller states, the persons who occupy those thrones, and also to prevent what is called "disorder" in Europe. The purpose of maintaining the throned individuals is, to secure "stability in the state," and a certain sacred immunity for royal persons; and the purpose of preventing disorder is to secure the safety of persons, the freedom of individuals to act within the law, security of property, and the opportunity of growth for commerce. Now it is a remarkable fact, that in proportion to the power concentrated in those crowned individuals, they appear to become more incapable of maintaining the stability of their own thrones; while in the government of their subjects they inflict slavery upon all, personal danger upon the individual, and actually keep down the growth of commerce. There is no exception to that in proposition. As Prussia is moderate and constitutional, her King is stable, her subjects are free, and commerce extends,—the latter not very greatly. But Russia and Austria, which are the great exemplars of concentrated power, are also the exemplars of unstable thrones, terrorism, and anti-commerce. The present Emperor of Austria is a cadet, forced into the throne by a revolution which displaced an idiot; and he occupies one state, Hungary, without having taken that oath that should qualify him for being its Sovereign. The Emperor of Russia aspires to be "the finest gentleman in Europe," and he

almost rivals our own specimen of that commodity.

The Russian system, with its immense grasping of territory, its enormous armies, its unbounded lying, its innumerable intrigues, its army of spies, its bad faith, its cruelty and barbarism,—that system is maintained to keep up the Emperor that sits at the top of it. The Emperor is the object of the whole; and what, then, is he? He is a very tall man. If you cannot, by taking thought, add a cubit to your stature, neither can envy take a cubit from his stature,—save in a way which has been used to shorten monarchs. At present he remains his full length. He also boasts being a very fine man, of noble proportions—large in the chest, small in the waist, dignified in bearing, unknown to fear. It is said, indeed, that when the revolution which succeeded the murder of one brother and displaced a mad brother to make way for the cadet, called Nicholas, to the throne, he was so panic-stricken, that his friends dragged him forth from his places of refuge, pale and trembling, and that doubts were expressed whether anything could ever be made of "such an Emperor." However, he was thrust into the place endowed with power, and the exercise of power has given him some sort of vigour. Nevertheless, even after long years of practice in bravado, fear could reach the imperial soul. When the floating bridge broke down on his way to Warsaw, alarmed at the omen, he turned back. He usually travels with a Peterborough celerity, not as rushing to business or to victory, but as incessantly flying to outrun an intercepting fate. In the last Turkish war, when at Varna, he prudently kept a steamer of his own off the port with the steam up; and his guards could tell how, in the dead of the night, the dread potentate has called them in with imaginary fears, and resented the dulness that could find no danger to justify his panic.

In chest he is a Theseus—by favour of military padding; in waist an Adonis—by favour of military tight-lacing. The waist has been the great anxiety of the imperial mind. Somebody had the audacity to let the sound reach the imperial ear, that the imperial person was growing fat; on which Nicholas rushed about his court in his dressing-gown, demanding a denial of the assertion from everybody he met. When Louis the Fourteenth deplored the loss of his teeth, a complaisant courtier, flashing his own ivories, exclaimed, "Ah! Sire, who has teeth?" But the Russian courtiers were much more able to satisfy the occasion: instead of denying their own teeth, they asserted the teeth into the imperial head, and would have asserted good digestion if it were necessary: the waist was declared to continue "fine by degrees and beautifully less." But there is a secret sorrow that even the imperial padding cannot keep off. The Marquis de Custine states, that Nicholas labours under the usual effects of tight-lacing, and that, as often happens with schoolgirls addicted to the practice, when he unlaces, which is sometimes necessary, he faints. "Uneasy lies the waist that wears a corset!" And that is the flower of the Russian system! It is to keep that cruel, although doll at the top, that the cruel Russian system is maintained; and our Government has helped to maintain it.

The doll has been costly to us; though not quite so much so as it has to the Russian people. A remarkable phenomenon is observed in the English trade. It has been customary to make advances of English capital upon the Russian crops of the following year—advances which practically supply the capital for bringing those crops into the market. The Emperor, however, by blockading the Danube, and by refusing any guarantee to merchants in St. Petersburg, has effectually frightened our moneyed men; and no man now speculates in Russian crops. Contrary to the practice, there has not been a single transaction for the North or South of Russia. Englishmen can turn their money to other occupations; can employ it profitably, in the American trade, in Australia, or in India; but the Russian peasantry will bitterly miss the timely assistance which has enabled their trade to go on. They do not miss those other millions yearly which might come to them in a free exchange of trade with England, because the cruel doll at the top has constantly prevented that trade from existing. If once we could throw down the idol, and set free the people of Russia, an immense commerce would start into existence as the consequence of the freedom.

In the last war, England spent nearly a thousand millions for the purpose of keeping dolls like

this seated upon thrones; and is suspected of our Court that it would gladly enter into the same speculation, even to set upon the throne of France another imbecile doll called Henry the Fifth. In keeping Europe a vast toy-shop, a continent has been sacrificed to a petty human idolatry; and with the sacrifice of a continent, the trade of a continent has been denied to England. It is time to cease that policy, or rather to reverse it. In the last war, England became the champion of the Austrian system; throughout the peace she has been, in fact, the aider and abettor of the Austrian system; and the penalty to us has been the destruction of constitutional powers on the Continent—a menace to our own freedom, a loss of influence, and prevention of commerce. In any new war, our course should be exactly the opposite. If we support principles which we have proved to be conducive to freedom and to the stability of the State, it is our duty to champion those principles abroad as well as at home; the more so, since by doing that we constitute every state on the Continent a brother state of ours, with sympathies, interests, and principles in common. We have formerly shown that constitutional freedom in England and America is conducive to extension of commerce. No country can compare with us in that respect. Ours is the land of order as well as of freedom; and we are not the safer for permitting disorder to extend its tyrannical sway upon the Continent. In the last war we paid a thousand millions—a thousand millions, it is an item worth remembering—to establish our enemies. In the next war we must seek to establish our friends; and assuredly we may, with perfect honesty and justice, seek to regain the equivalent of the false and wicked sacrifice we then made. Russia and Austria have forced us into this great action, and conscience as well as opportunity permits us to take from them the costs of the action. If the people of England watch their Government well they may make the next war a positive profit to England, as well as a blessing to the Continent, and a safety to all.

THE RIGHT OF BREAD.

WESTMINSTER is a city famed for its liberal principles, and especially for that kind of liberalism which boasts of being wise, discreet, and just. But how does it treat the poor? Let us look to the dignified parish of St. Margaret's, and see how the poor fare close under the wing of Parliament. We find that in that parish the poor, seeking shelter in utter destitution, are driven away. The giddy infirmity of hunger is treated as profligacy; and the incompetency for hard work is prosecuted as a crime. Early last week Mary Ann Hewitt came before Mr. Arnold, the magistrate, and told him that, after wandering for three nights in the streets, she was refused admission to St. Margaret's workhouse. The magistrate sent her with an order for admission. On Wednesday last, however, she was brought up before the magistrate as a prisoner, accused of refusing to work. She pleaded illness, after a broken leg, as her excuse for not executing the work of blanket-washing; which Mr. Lavers, the parish surgeon, admitted to be beyond her strength. So, here are the authorities of a parish persecuting a wretched woman.

Their defence, however is worse than their act. Mr. Elliott, the workhouse-master, stated vaguely that the parish doctor "had considered her competent to work;" that she was a drunkard and a prostitute; a defence which implies the doctrine that workhouse-masters may sit in judgment on the dissolute, and condemn them to the horrible sentence of death by starvation or exposure to the weather. Mr. Arnold corrected the master's notion of law: the woman's destitution constituted an absolute right to relief.

The master pleaded another excuse, still more monstrous. "I admitted," he said, "until the place was full;" so that relief for the destitute and houseless is to be measured by an arbitrary allowance of house-room in the very parish where Parliament sits!

But, it appears, the case is not singular. "It was hard," said Mr. Elliott, "that the parish should be maligned by such a statement;" and then again he said, for the feelings of the man were evidently touched, "It can be proved that the woman is a notorious drunkard and prostitute, and it is a shame that the parish should be slandered and maligned by such a person;" and even a third time he cried, "She speaks against a parish that is famed for its good treatment of the poor." Mr. Arnold contradicted the assertion on the

instant, and backed his contradiction by some excellent advice, which the guardians of the poor and parish officers would do well to take to heart. Mr. Arnold denied the good treatment of the poor at St. Margaret's:—

"Indeed! I do not find it has any fame for that. Complaints of persons in a most necessitous condition being refused admission, are of almost daily occurrence, and that does not look as though it was famous for being good to the poor. I find, although persons are refused admission when they apply themselves, that they obtain it if they are sent from this court. If there be good reason for their admission then, there could have been no good reason for the refusal to admit before."

Mr. Arnold is right. Really this subject of refusing relief begins to wear a very serious aspect. We not only have the strikes in the North, with an increasing claim on the poor-rates, while great numbers of the working classes stand to watch the administration of the law by other classes from whom they are alienated; but we have bread riots in Devonshire. The bread riots are put down by the soldiery; soldiery stand ready to maintain the peace in Lancashire; and what is the spectacle presented to the poor by this contrast? While they see dragoons and infantry ready to enforce the law upon their flesh and blood, with sword and bayonet, they see the guardians of the poor refusing bread and shelter to the starving in cold and hunger. What does this contrast mean, save treason against law by its administrators? Of all inherent rights the right of getting bread is the most commonly recognised; constituted law and usage admit it as well as natural reason; and those who deny it break a fundamental law of society. In other words, they nullify government for the poor. How, then, can they enforce it against them? Bread riots began the French Revolution, which ended in results that statesmen and sacred princes do not like to contemplate even from a distance; and the underlings should be taught the danger of proclaiming, by the refusal of bread and shelter, that the fundamental law of society is abolished, and that government lies only with the strong or the desperate.

THE GOVERNING CLASSES.

No. XVIII.

SIR BENJAMIN HALL, BART.

When you have an aristocracy you will have Tories and Whigs. Wherever there has been an aristocracy there has been a Tory party and a Whig party. When Shakspeare presented his immortal and eternally true picture of a state of society, in which the mass of a people is ruled by a class of the people, he drew the Tory and the Whig—Coriolanus, who addresses the mobs as "you dissensious rogues, that rubbing the poor itch of your opinion make yourselves scabs"—and Menenius Agrippa, of whom the mobs say he is "one that hath always loved the people"—being nevertheless privately more Tory than Coriolanus. But our English aristocracy has furnished a third species of aristocratic politician,—the aristocrat who repudiates his class altogether and affects more democracy than the democrat. The titled Radicals are an important section of the Governing Classes; and Sir Benjamin Hall may be regarded as an exquisite specimen of the species. He is a very remarkable man, Sir Benjamin Hall.

There is nothing more easily comprehended than democracy: that is based on an idea, unsound no doubt, for the mass of mankind will certainly always be in need of masters, but precise and tangible. And you can consequently understand the reality and the earnestness of a democratic leader—when he happens to be a democrat. You can understand (let us, that we may not attempt the profound, confine ourselves to our own history) a Wat Tyler, or a Captain Rock, or a Jack Cade, or a William Newton.* Such men agitate to gain not by the agitation itself, but by the result of agitation. You can understand, also, a Sir Joshua Walmsley, who springs from the people, and who consecrates his life to the cause of the class with which he never ceases to identify himself. For the same reasons you can comprehend Cuffy, tailor, and champion of journeymen, and can respect the motives of Mr. William Williams, who makes no disguise of his instinctive abhorrence of young noblemen. But you cannot comprehend, and you cannot esteem, men who make sacrifices of natural position in order to head a clamorous mob-public. You cannot well under-

stand "gentlemen" and "scholars" who seek the sweet voices and exult in the bad atmosphere of a democracy. You don't believe in a Feargus O'Connor, who would tell you "I am of a race of kings;" or in an Orator Hunt, who could say to Peel, "I am the first tradesman in my family, while the Right Hon. Gentleman is the first gentleman in his;" or in a G. W. M. Reynolds, who, well born and bred, takes to the mob merely because he has shut himself out from all other parties. You may suppose there is the respectability and the earnestness of theorists in a Colonel Cartwright, or in a Colonel Thompson; but you know that they had, or have, delicate tastes, and would not like a great country to be governed in the marketplace. You admire Mr. Grote or Mr. Warburton—their Greek or Italian point of view in politics is at least picturesque; but you don't credit their Radicalism, suspecting that they know they are just the men to go down before an avalanche of the "people." You cannot consider that a "gentleman" like Sir Francis Burdett could ever be really otherwise than Tory; and you take for granted that a man who is both born to a good estate, and cultivated to scholarly philosophy as Sir William Molesworth, is only a Radical for the sake of taking an artistic position in the House. You wonder, and only wonder, at an Honourable Tom Duncombe or an Honourable Charles Villiers, affecting indifference to their class and their class's interests—you set down their eccentricities to the influence of that sort of wretched ambition which makes no account of material success. But what you don't understand is, the assumption of Radicalism by men like Sir Benjamin Hall; creatures of the most villanous vanity; who do possess material, very material, ambition; who only live for "honours,"—who only live to die peers. The sham in such a case is so grotesque that explanation is impossible, unless at the expense of an enlightened metropolitan borough.

Both by position and by nature, Sir Benjamin Hall is essentially of the class of Pharisee in modern times denominated "Snob." His profound complacency, visible in the perpendicularity of his strut, breathing in a face of polished lead, which is cleft with an august smile, is precisely of that character which includes contempt for all mankind—except that portion of it which he can see only by turning his serene gaze upwards. A personal appearance was never so little "Liberal;" and the facts of the career correspond with appearances; and a study of the man induces astonishment at his conversion into a Radical metropolitan member. He is a well-acred gentleman, so squirearchical in his tendencies that it is reported his tenants are getting up a petition to the House of Commons praying it to sit all the year round. And his exertions, social and political, in the metropolis, are solely with a view to obtaining greater consideration when he returns to his Welch estate to awe the Joneses and Lloyds, who venerate Parliament men—and especially Parliamentary men, who get peerages by bullying the aristocracy. It is not very well known how Sir Benjamin got his baronetcy; but it dates from 1838, and it is supposed that he was caught at that period when, according to Mr. Bernal Osborne, the "whip" was used as a fishing-rod, and the Whig Government made a miraculous draught of baronets. How he got Marylebone is better known. The weakness of that borough, which excels in small meeting-houses, is an aversion to bishops; and Sir Benjamin Hall obtained political fame by arithmetical demonstration that episcopacy was not apostolical. He insulted the Church for several successive sessions with such safe éclat that Hiphurrah, the furrier, Poison, the chemist, and Itchhard, the doctor, who manage these things for the great borough of Marylebone, took for granted Sir Benjamin Hall must be a Radical; took also a cab between them one morning, and drove up to Sir Benjamin's door in a great square, and requested of the porter, by whom they affected not to feel intimidated, to see the baronet. "Them ere sentiments of his about them there black slugs had," they stated, "impressed them with such respect for his ve-ews that they were willing to offer him Marrybonn—supposing all right in other respects." Sir Benjamin, satisfied them that he thought a plentiful supply of water a good thing, graveyards unpleasant, centrali-

* Not a mythical name, but the leader in the "Amalgamated Engineer" movement—a man with a future, also.

zation an impropriety, as long as the Home-office rejected Itchhard's application for place, and that "Reform"—yes—decidedly—Reform was required. "There was a lot of small voters in Marrybonn, and Sir Benjy can't get on no how unless he would start that there dodge." Sir Benjy consented. What extent of Reform? Oh! he should say—on the whole—adequate Reform—a full and fair measure—yes, decidedly—a full and fair measure! By-the-by, would these gentlemen have a glass of wine? It was all settled. Sir Benjy borrowed an old coat from his valet, left his leaden face unpolished for once, dirtied his fingernails, and, walking on to the hustings at Langham-place, was cheered uproariously as a crack Radical by the butcher-boys and scavengers assembled to perform those functions of free and independent election, which are peculiar to our noble constitution. When the session opened, and Itchhard, who has no practice, and is therefore so fond of public affairs, went down to the House to talk over that there Sewage Bill with Sir Benjy, he actually let Sir Benjy pass in without recognising him! For Sir Benjy had covered the dirty hands with straw-coloured kids, had the polish on his countenance, and the strut in his manner; and having been accosted at the Charing-cross crossing by Hiphurrah, more knowing than Itchhard, Sir Benjy had waved his glove, and said, "I have no copper, my man." He was somewhat abstracted, it is true: for he was conning over the celebrated speech in which he proved, with complete statistics supplied by his new constituent, Billyham, the selling-off draper, that the original apostolic aprons only cost twopence a yard, and that the country ought to make the Church contract for lawn. The *Dispatch* reported that speech very full; and Sir Benjy invited the Editor of the *Morning Advertiser* to dinner, in consequence of which a leading article appeared in that organ, comparing the member for Marrybonn to Luther, and insinuating, in italics, that such a man should be placed in a position where he could meet the Bishops face to face. The family footman was said to have posted a copy of the paper to the Prime Minister—with what results we do not yet know; but it is known that a new Welch paper—the *Orb of Wales* (the frontispiece on the title was a portrait of the Sun, said by the tenants to be like the landlord)—was immediately started, and copied that paragraph with the same assiduity with which it inserted certain pill advertisements. Certainly, it must be admitted that the way in which Sir Benjamin dragged to light the doings of the Derby Board of Admiralty demand some acknowledgment at the hands of the Coalition. Sir Benjamin has a great knack in seizing that sort of case:—for instance, he is sure to rush at the notice-paper on the 31st with questions and returns about Sir Fleetwood Fellow. In this way he manages to please Governments and convince Marrybonn that he is a ruthless Radical:—in fact, being merely ill-natured.

Doubtless the titled Radicals do a vast deal of good: they are actors, but they get the authority meaning put before the world; and they make a greater sensation, with the principles of Radicals, than the mere untitled Radical, in the existing House of Commons. They do run a certain risk to their class in stepping out of the ranks of their class; and that ensures them attention. Why was the Hon. Tom Duncombe the most effective speaker in the Reform debates of '30 and '32? Because he represented a family which had much to lose by Reform, and because, in deserting his family to gain popularity, he indicated how strong was the popular will—its approval being so tempting. For a similar reason, Mr. Villiers, with a Whig clan to offend, did in the House of Commons, for the cause of Free Trade, what an unaristocratic Mr. Cobden could never have done. And, instead of being reviled as deserters by the aristocracy, such men should be encouraged: they are not deserters to the democracy,—they are spies in the camp of the democracy. If the Charter must be agitated, is it not better that a young lord should be sent among the Chartists to lead them? Socialism is a dangerous thing; but it is surely safest to have a Lord Shaftesbury as its champion? Sir Benjamin Hall is said to be always smashing the Church: but as it is quite certain that the Church must be smashed by some one, it is obviously discreet in the governing classes to have a genteel Radical to do the work. In our political system, a *tirailleur* thrown out like Sir Benjamin Hall is a security to the line of the governing classes.

The moral of such a career as Sir Benjamin Hall's is twofold. In the first place, it suggests to the aristocracy that as popularity is so easily gained, they are very unwise ever to be unpopular—or Tory. In the next place, it suggests that our metropolitan boroughs have a good deal to learn—in self-respect. It is despicable, perhaps, in a politician who is an aristocrat to affect the democrat. But what is more contemptible, is the faith of the democrats who believe in the aristocrat. Menenius Agrippa is only a man of the world; and we laugh not at him, but at the people who cheer him.

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*.

In the new number of the *Westminster Review* there is a notice of my work on COMTE, which, for various reasons, I cannot pass in silence. Appearing in pages where it is well known I am also a writer (the very same number containing an article by me on philosophic anatomy), this attack will have more than usual significance; and being founded on the natural but false assumption that, because Literature is my profession, therefore in Science I can only have "book knowledge," it will fall in with the all but universal tendency of not allowing any man to be heard on more than one subject. Once for all let me say, that it is eighteen years since I first began to occupy myself—practically and theoretically—with Biology, and that it is only within the last four years I have ventured to publish any opinions on that subject. Although pursuing the study with no professional views, and consequently allowing other subjects to wean me from it, and occupy a larger share of my life, yet have I at times worked hard enough to consider it not altogether unbecoming if now, as occasion offers, some results are put forth.

What value any such opinions may have is another matter. The Reviewer contemptuously treating me as a "bookman," and not even as a respectable "bookman," proceeds underneath a thin disguise of praise to specify the blunders he has discovered. Blunders, I am sure, there must be in that book, for as HALLER says, it is only in novels that heroes are always victorious, and as MARTIAL notes of his own book:—

sunt mala plura
Quæ legis: aliter non fit, Avite, liber.

But I cannot compliment the sagacity nor the knowledge of the Reviewer exhibited in his selection. The first cited—that, namely, of sulphuric acid for sulphurous acid—is a blunder. Not a doubt of it. But of the rest you shall judge:—

"It is—but just also to remark, that a writer who claims to present us with the 'very latest facts and ideas of 1858' in organic chemistry, should have known, when setting up crystallizability as a distinctive character of inorganic principles, that Reichert discovered and described in Müller's Archiv. for 1849, a crystalline albuminous substance. We are taking advantage of no accidental mistakes, although those already cited would suffice to show, if demonstration were needed, how impossible it is for even so acute a thinker as Mr. Lewes to succeed in scientific speculations, without the discipline and knowledge which result from being a worker also."

This is a ludicrous passage. The "discovery," which I ought to have known, was known to me through the work of ROBIN and VERDEIL (*Traité de Chimie Anatomique*, 1853), which I principally followed; but it was also known to be no discovery at all, according to these great authorities! Precisely because I was giving the "latest facts and ideas of 1853" I did not remain—as the Reviewer does—in the error of 1849. He is referred to ROBIN and VERDEIL—he is referred, also, to LEHMANN's *Lehrbuch der Physiologischen Chemie*, 1853—where REICHERT's mistake is explained. These chemists not only set aside the "discovery of 1849," but distinctly declare that noncrystallizability is the most obvious property of these organic principles. Thus it appears that book knowledge, however contemptible, is on the whole safer than book ignorance.

His next assertion is, that a statement he finds in my book cannot be passed over without an affirmation of its being "unworthy of a place in any work claiming to be on a level with the science of the present day." Perhaps not; but as the statement is a simple translation from one of the acknowledged great men of the day—MULDER (In his *Physiologische Chemie*, i., p. 93)—I prefer his authority to that of my random Reviewer.

Having quashed MULDER with a sarcasm, he adds:—

"Nor in his so-called general laws does Mr. Lewes display less inaccuracy than in his particular propositions. At pp. 33, 34, for instance, we meet with certain 'Laws of Embryology' thus stated:—

"1. That everything which is primitive is only provisional, at least in the higher animals, and everything that is permanent has only been established secondarily, and sometimes tertiary."

"2. That, consequently, the embryo of the higher animals successively renews its organs and its characteristics through a series of metamorphoses which give it permanent conditions, not only different, but even directly contrary to those which it had primitively."

"Whatever be the authority upon which Mr. Lewes makes these statements, we are convinced that they are in direct contradiction to the most fundamental and best-established facts of embryology. What provisional organ precedes the permanent heart, the liver, or the intestines? And yet these would surely be somewhat momentous exceptions to Mr. Lewes's 'General Embryological Laws.'"

Here he affects to ignore, and is simply ignorant. He speaks of these laws as if they were figments of mine; but I ask him whether he has ever heard of ISIDORE GEOFFROY ST. HILAIRE, and of a certain work called *Histoire des Anomalies de l'Organisation*? In vol. i., pp. 272 sq. of that work, he will find these laws first enunciated as the result of embryological investigations. Has he ever heard of FLOURENS, and of his *Mémoires d'Anatomie et de Physiologie comparée*? At pp. 23 sq. he will see the first law restated, with the promise of detailed development in a special memoir. Has he ever heard of COURTY? In a special *Mémoire* (*Gazette Médicale*, 1847, pp. 880 sq.) he will see the same law once more treated. Has he ever heard of LONGET? In his *Traité de Physiologie* he will find a reference to these views with fresh illustrations. Now even supposing (*c'est une très forte supposition!*) that the Reviewer had knowledge of his own to overturn these authorities, I surely may be excused having quoted their laws as illustrations of the development of thought? But, in truth, the Reviewer's objections only display the super-

ficial knowledge he has of the subject. He asks what provisional organ precedes the permanent heart? Why, the heart, as WAGNER truly says, presents such diversities that it may be said to be in a state of ceaseless metamorphosis, both as regards form and position. "A knowledge of the different stages," says Dr. CARPENTER, "enables us to explain many of the malformations which they present in man, these being for the most part due to arrest of development, whereby the circulating apparatus is permanently fixed in conditions characteristic of coldblooded animals." Every tyro knows that the development of the human heart is through forms which are permanent in lower animals, transitory in man. The Reviewer asks also about the liver. Is he not aware that, besides its transformations, it changes its place: the mass of hepatic cells being gradually removed to a distance from its original position on the wall of the intestinal canal, "the cæcum being narrowed and lengthened so as to become a mere connecting pedicle, forming in fact the main trunk of the hepatic duct" (CARPENTER). Indeed, I can only repeat what FLOURENS says, that "the organs of vegetative life are all doubled in the fœtus, one taking the place of the other." If the Reviewer means that the Heart is always a Heart, and the Liver a Liver, he is only playing with words.

I fear this enumeration is becoming tedious, and will not pursue it further than to notice the disingenuousness of this passage:—

"Mr. Lewes has stated his proposition with regard to the existence of three successive and distinct sets of circulatory organs in such a manner, that we are not sure of his meaning, and therefore prefer not to advert to it further than to remark, that the putting together as contemporaneous, events so widely separated in the order of development as 'the formation of the blastodermis and of the umbilical vesicle,' or again, that of 'the lungs, intestines, and organs of relation,' is not excusable even on the plea of mere book knowledge."

Any one who reads the passage here adverted to will see that I do not place the two events as contemporaneous, but as coincident with the first form of circulation. Sucking and forming mud pies are not contemporaneous events in infancy, but they both belong to that interesting epoch. Finally, to show how apposite the concluding sneer, I may mention that the passage in question is taken from LONGET, one of the best physiologists of our day.

G. H. LEWES.

Turning from the profitless task of polemics to the pleasanter task of rapidly indicating to our readers what is notable in the periodicals, we have to draw attention to this number of the *Westminster*, as one quite equal to the reputation the Review has of late acquired. The opening article on *Constitutional Reform* has already been noticed in these columns. The concluding article on *England's Foreign Policy* is an eloquent application of the philosophy of history to present politics, and will be much admired. An elegant scholarly paper on *Propertius*—a very striking survey of the origin and present types of *English Religion*, the authorship of which none will fail to recognise—and an article on the great subject of *Strikes* will attract various readers. The new feature in this number is the treatment of contemporary Literature, which is now divided into six sections: thus the Theology and Philosophy of Europe are treated by one writer in one article; so of the Science, the History, Classics, Belles Lettres, and Art. To make this scheme quite successful, however, we should suggest that more space be devoted to the important works, and only the titles of the others given.

The *British Quarterly* opens with an article of sixty pages on NIEBUHR, narrating the biography of that writer, and adding some temperate yet telling criticisms. A delightful article on *Scientific Ballooning* follows, which we commend to our readers. *Strikes* of course are treated of; as also the *War—its seat and prospects*. *Coleridge as a Theologian* is an able paper and *Dante's Beatrice* will be a popular one.

We may once again call attention to the *English Cyclopædia*, which also is a periodical now, this eighth part concluding the first volume of the *Natural History* division and the *Geography* division. It is worth remembering that, besides a profusion of woodcuts, some of the best English naturalists are to be met with in this volume of *Natural History*: in Botany, the names of LINDLEY, ROYLE, and LANKESTER; in Geology, those of DE LA BECHE, HOBNER, and PHILLIPS; in Mineralogy, R. PHILLIPS and W. TURNER; in Zoology, FORBES, BRODERIP, OGILVY, WATERHOUSE; in Comparative Anatomy, PAGET, DAY, and SOUTHWOOD SMITH. It is the cheapest as well as the best work on the subject.

The first number of *Orr's Circle of the Sciences* commences *The Physiological Series*. The Editor has, we think, committed a great mistake in making this compilation follow so closely the language of the works from which it is compiled. A treatise on Physiology, sold in twopenny parts, should be intelligible to all readers; we suspect, however, that the technical terms, and the absence of popular exposition in this series, will repel the majority. There is still time for our hint to be taken. The success of the series depends on the writing being intelligible as well as sound.

The last *Edinburgh Review* is out of print; but the demand for the article on *Church Parties* increasing rather than diminishing, the publishers have reprinted it in a small shilling volume. No article has produced such a sensation since MACAULAY ceased to write for the *Review*. Apropos of MACAULAY, we may mention, as falling in with the Reform literature of the moment, that his *Speeches on Parliamentary Reform* in 1831 and 1832, have been reprinted in the *Traveller's Library*.

DRYDEN.

The Poetical Works of John Dryden. Edited by Robert Bell. Vol. I. Price 2s. 6d.
J. W. Parker and Son.

THE *Annotated Edition of the English Poets*, of which the first volume is before us, promises to be of permanent value: one which can be lovingly carried in the studious pocket as a companion, and which also claims a place on the shelves of a library. It is essentially a literary edition; produced with the patient zeal of passionate delight in literary excellence for its own sake, and not of mere erudite display. Robert Bell has taken enormous pains to save us trouble, not to show how much he has read. If he continue as he has begun, the work will endure.

Dryden was a good name to begin with, when once the chronological order was given up. We did not expect any novelty in the Biography; but patient zeal has been rewarded, and novelty there is, some of it valuable, in the *Life* prefixed. Dryden's descendants have been liberal, as several hitherto unpublished letters testify; and the discovery of the Exchequer warrant sets at rest a long disputed point. We cannot follow the Biographer through all the pleasant stages of the poet's career, but must content ourselves with a rapid glance at a few passages.

Dryden believed in astrology, as his intimacy with its secrets in *The Mock Astrologer* leads one to suspect. There is a charming naïveté in this passage from one of his letters—"Towards the latter end of September, Charles will begin to recover his perfect health, according to his nativity, which, casting it myself, I am sure is true." Robert Bell notices the effect of this superstition on the poet's writings, where the influence of the planets over human affairs are frequently apostrophised in a style we are not to accept as mere poetic artifice; when Robert Bell adds, however, that "it is undoubtedly surprising that a mind so acute should be enslaved by doctrines so absurd," his pen glides into careless commonplace, for there is nothing at all surprising in the fact, as his subsequent remark clearly proves.

Dryden's dedications are often referred to, reflecting on his character, but their real significance is indicated in these passages:—

"The Dedication, with its preposterous tropes and bombastic flattery, was as much a part of the manners of the day as the Chadreux periwig, or the laced steinkirk. It would be as reasonable to measure the morals of a writer in the reign of Charles II. by his costume as by his Dedications, since he obviously followed the fashion in both, without being in the slightest degree responsible for its absurdity. The greater his command over the artifices of rhetoric, the more likely he would be to excel in the language of compliment and eulogy; and if Dryden went beyond all his contemporaries in that respect, as he unquestionably did, it was simply because he could not help going beyond them in everything. It is not then in his Dedications that we shall trace the true character of his relations with great people, but in his published writings, and, still more, in his personal conduct.

He never asked a favour, although favours, according to the usage of patronage in those days, were conferred upon him, which it was not only not considered derogatory to accept, but honourable to deserve. On the contrary, his life, for which he appeals in this letter to the testimony of those who knew him best, was 'blameless and inoffensive.' Nor was this the virtue of indifference or a languid temperament, which suffers opportunities to pass away unregarded, and then takes credit to itself for being superior to them. A man who occupied so prominent a position; and wielded so great a power, could not fail to have had temptations thrown in his way, which it required no common firmness to resist. His biographers have collected few facts to enlighten us on this subject. They seem to have taken it for granted, that he who had renounced the Commonwealth, and changed his religion, was hardly entitled to a vindication, and they have either left his personal integrity an open question, or touched upon it with timidity or distrust. It is certain, nevertheless, that Dryden, when the political storm lulled, received offers of place and emolument, by way of peace-offering, from his old adversaries, and that he refused them; and that when his sons, and other friends, urged him to dedicate his *Virgil* to King William (at a time, too, when he was involved in worse distresses than had ever befallen him at any former period,) he could not be persuaded to follow their counsels, although Jacob Tonson used all his influence to prevail upon him, and even tried to entrap him into the Dedication by preparing the book for the purpose, and having the figure of *Æneas* in the plates drawn like King William, with a hooked nose. There was reason to believe that this Dedication would have reconciled all differences between Dryden and the court, and brought him a large pecuniary reward. He thus alludes to it in a letter to his sons at Rome:—

"My *Virgil* succeeds in the world beyond its desert or my expectation. You know, the profits might have been more, but neither my conscience nor my honour would suffer me to accept them; but I can never repent of my constancy, since I am thoroughly persuaded of the justice of the cause for which I suffer."

"If he compromised his taste in the season of prosperity by addressing his patrons in the language of extravagant adulation, it must, at least, be allowed to his honour, that he inflexibly maintained his principles under the last pressure of adversity."

Robert Bell has a good remark on what he happily calls Dryden's "impetuous candour," in reference to his changes of opinion:—

"The frankness with which he acknowledged an error was as characteristic of his open nature as the boldness with which he vindicated it in the first instance. Whatever he thought it right or just to do, he did thoroughly and heartily. He never had recourse to half measures to cover his retreat. His recantations were not softened or compromised by apologetic sophistries. He was not ashamed of admitting a mistake, but eager to make full amends for it—his eagerness sometimes even carrying him too far on the other side. To this impulsive temperament, this impetuous candour (for which he has never got the entire credit he deserves), may be traced those contradictions of opinion on questions of criticism that are scattered over his prose writings—contradictions, however, which always conduct us to new trains of thought, and even in their fallacies are entitled to respect."

It has been all but universally believed that Dryden's change of religion was *interested*; and until the discovery, now first made, of the fact that Dryden's pension was given him two years before the change, the interested motive did seem obvious. We cannot here enter into the details, but refer to Robert Bell's pages, where the reader will find the whole case temperately and cogently argued. The following remark is worth quoting:—

"Dryden's change of religion must ever remain an open question, to be discussed with such candour as the prejudices of men will permit them to bring to the consideration of topics of this nature. The apostate is always exposed to distrust. The community he joins is hardly more charitable in its constructions than the community he deserts; and the least instructed of mankind, whose profession of faith is a matter of habit and inheritance, and not of inquiry and conviction, stands on his *barren steadfastness*, and believes himself entitled to impugn the motives of him who, in the face of social obloquy, deliberately renounces the creed in which he was educated."

That is finely said.

A critical letter, written by Dryden, will be read with interest:—

"You command me, Deare Sir, to make a kind of critique on your Essay: tis an hard province; but if I were able to undertake it, possibly, a greater proof of friendship is scarcely to be found; where to be truly a friend, a man must seem to exercise a little malice. As it happens I am now incumberd with some necessary business, relating to one of my Sons; which when it is over, I shall have more leysure to obey you, in case there appeare any farther need. There is not the least occasion of reflecting on your disposition of the piece, nor the thoughts. I see nothing to censure in either of them. Besides this

the style is easy and natural; as fit for Dialogue, as if you had set Tully before you; and as gallant as Fontenelle in his plurality of Worlds. In the correctness of the English there is not much for me to animadvert. Be pleased, therefore, to avoid the words, don't, can't, shan't, and the like abbreviations of syllables; which seem to me to savour of a little rusticity. As for Pedantry you are not to be taxd with it. I remember I hinted somewhat of concluding your Sentences with prepositions or conjunctions sometimes, which is not elegant, as in your first sentence—(See the consequences of.) I find likewise, that you make not a due distinction betwixt that, and who; A man *that* is not proper; the relative *who* is proper. *That*, ought always to signify a thing; *who*, a person. An acquaintance *that* would have *undertook* the business; true English is, an acquaintance *who* would have *undertaken* the business. I am confident I need not proceed with these little criticisms, which are rather cavillings. Philareque, or the Critique on Balzac, observes it as a fault in his style, that he has in many places written twenty words together (en suite) which were all Monosyllables. I observe this in some lines of your Noble Epigramm: and am often guilty of it myself through hastinesse. Mr. Waller counted this a virtue of the English tongue, that it could bring so many words of the Teutonique together, and yet the smoothness of the Verse not vitiated. Now I am speaking of your Epigramm, I am sure you will not be offended with me for saying, there is some imperfection in the two last lines.

"Blend 'em together, Fate, ease both their paine; And of two wretches make one happy man. The word *blend* includes the sense of *together*; ease both their paine: paine is Singular, both is Plurall. But indeed *paine* may have a collective and plurall signification. Then the Rhyme is not full of pain and Man. An half rhyme is not always a fault; but in the close of any paper of verses, tis to be avoyded. And after all, tell me truly, if those words, *ease both their paine*; were not superfluous in the sence, and only put, for the sake of the rhyme, and filling up the verse. It came into my head to alter them, and I am affrayd for the worse.

"Kind Fate, or Fortune, blend them, if you can: And, of two wretches, make one happy man. Kind fate looks a little harsh: fate without an epithet, is always taken in the ill sence. *Kind* added, changes that signification. (*Fati valet hora benigni.*) The words (if you can) have almost the same fault I tax'd in your ending of the line: but being better considered, that is, whether fortune or fate, can alter a Man's temper, who is already so temperd: and leaving it doubtful, I thinke does not prejudice the thought, in the last line. Now I begin, to be in for Cakes and Ale; and why should I not put a quere on those other lines? Poor Shift, does all his whole contrivance set, To spend that wealth he wants the Sence to get. All his whole contrivance, is but all his Contrivance, or his whole Contrivance; thus, one of those words, looks a little like tautology. Then an ill natur'd man might ask, how he could spend wealth, not having the sence to get it? But this is trifling, in me. For your sence is very intelligible; which is enough to secure it. And, by your favour, so is Martial's: Viribus hic non est, hic non est utilis annis: and yet in exactness of Criticism, your censure stands good upon him.—I am call'd to dinner, and have only time to add a great truth; that I am from the bottome of my Soul, Deare Sir, Your most humble Servant and true lover

JOHN DRYDEN.

"Your apostrophe's to your Mistressse, where you break off the thrid of your discourse, and address youareself to her, are, in my opinion, as fine turnes of gallantry, as I have mett with anywhere.

"For My Honour'd Friend,
"William Walsh Esqr.
"These."

We must find room for another excellent bit of advice given to dramatic writers:—

"It is an ill ambition," he says, "of us poets to please an audience with more than they can bear; and supposing that we wrote as well, as vainly we imagine ourselves to write; yet we ought to consider that no man can bear to be long tickled."

On Dryden's merits as a poet, the editor says, after noticing the contrary opinions which have been put forth by critics:—

"Now, out of this conflict of judgments comes an indestructible fame, commanding the common assent of all. There must have been a permanent element in his genius to produce this. What was it? In one word—power. This power, inclusive of many modes of excellence, and never failing him in its application, was his great characteristic. A more precise definition might be given; but for a succinct and general answer to the question, What was it that raised Dryden above all his contemporaries, and preserves him on his elevation? this is sufficiently close and comprehensive. He was distinguished, above all things else, for strength of thought, strength of purpose, strength of diction. He was a strong man in verse and prose; bold, energetic, self-reliant, and wide in his reach. There was no weakness in Dryden; no compromise of means or ends. Perhaps there was not much tenderness; yet he had a certain manly sweetness at times, that was all the more precious and affecting from its rarity, and because it seemed to come from the depths of his nature. There was real physical passion—undisguised sensuousness; no love. Robust in all things, his poetry has a weight and an earnestness that take it out of the atmosphere of the imaginative. It is never airy, never sportive. He made poetry the vehicle of politics and controversy, not of feeling or of fancy. There is not a single love passage throughout the whole, such as we find in Shakspeare or in Fletcher, touching the spring of tears in the heart, and awakening in the reader the emotion its depicts. When he ventures in this direction, it is to exhibit highly-wrought artificial turns of gallantry, as in the *Lines on the Duchess of Portsmouth*; or luscious descriptions, as in the *Cymon and Iphigenia*. He treads heavily, and every foot-fall crushes the earth beneath. He has none of the characteristics of the cavalier party to which he belonged, except their licentiousness, and that only when it suits his purpose on the stage. He has none of their grace, their sophistry, their lacework. Even his licentiousness differed from theirs. It was too lusty for their showy and volatile spirits."

We intended saying something on Dryden as man and poet, but our space is already run out, and scarcely a line remains for criticism. We said this was a *literary* edition. So truly is it, above all things, literary, that in the Memoir we have scarcely a glimpse of the man beyond the writer. Dryden at home; Dryden moved by his household affections; Dryden at the coffee-house (one of the most familiar images we have of him), is not seen in these pages. And, while touching a weak place, let us also note that the style, in general so clear, elegant, and sometimes epigrammatic, is in three or four passages lax, confused, and acquiescent of commonplace, such as a more careful revision would not have permitted to pass. If our criticism is microscopic in this respect, it is evidence of the value we attach to this edition of the *English Poets*; the stains which are unnoticed in earthenware attract attention in porcelain.

THE CAUCASUS.*

THE Caucasus was recently described by the *Times* as almost a *terra incognita*. Yet, if we include in that general designation, which more strictly belongs to the mountain-range, all that once famous territory stretching from the Euxine to the Caspian, we are speaking of a land renowned before Europe had a history, and even now the theatre of events in which the battle of East and West may have to be fought out. To the English mind the name of Circassia brings fantastic visions of veiled and captive beauty, and Georgia seems a synonym to all that is voluptuous in the most languishing and lazy of the daughters of the Harem. But from time to time, through the veracious bulletins of the *Invalide Russe*, we catch stray

* *The Caucasus.* By Ivan Golovin. Trübner and Co., 12, Paternoster-row.

glimpses of a struggle unsurpassed in the annals of national heroism. If we believe Prince Woronzow, Russia has been achieving countless victories, marked by prodigies of valour, over those pertinacious mountaineers who have not had the wit to confess themselves beaten. The remoteness of the operations, and the comparative inattention of Europe absorbed in commerce, have contributed to throw a halo of magnificent uncertainty around these Siyphrean exploits. The Lesgian chief has been killed we know not how often by the pen of the Muscovite, whose sword he has defied and broken; but Schamyl has as many lives as Russian generals have lies to dispose of. Accordingly, year after year, we find him not only not killed nor conquered, but ever more sudden in the flashing onset, more obstinate and wary in resistance. Swift as his sword and stubborn as his fastnesses, Schamyl has been to Russia in the Caucasus what Abd-el-Kader was to France in Algeria. Gifted with a vitality so mysterious, boundless in resources, eloquent, he has all the qualities to inspire enthusiasm. To his followers he is almost a prophet. While Western diplomacy has been yielding everything to Russia in Europe, and extolling the magnanimous conservatism of the Czar, the successor of Peter the Great has been doggedly working out the Asian half of that imperial testament which bequeathed to his successors nothing less than the conquest of the world.

When Peter the Great settled on the Caspian he looked towards India. When Catherine II. seized upon the Crimea she remembered Peter's will. The governing class of England has allowed the eastern coast of the Black Sea to fall into the hands of Russia, and it was under English mediation that Persia abandoned Daghestan. Even now, when Turkey is struggling for life, and England is supposed to be defending the independence of her ally, Russia has been permitted to blockade the Asian coast of the Euxine, just as she has been permitted to seduce by favours and corruption the trading populations of Eastern Circassia. They have been long vaguely dreaming of deliverance by England, but in Asia as in Europe, the promises of England have proved deceptive. We do not share the apprehensions of anxiety for our Indian possessions, but at least our trade at Trebizond is worth preserving.

But let us not, like extempore evangelists, forget our text in the ardour of discourse. Mr. Ivan Golovin has peculiar claims upon the subject of his present work. He is a near relative (a nephew, if we are not mistaken) of that Russian General Golovin, who was Commander-in-Chief in the Caucasus from 1838 to 1842, and who gave his name to an important fort on the Black Sea coast. He, therefore, may be said to write with a certain authority. He has given us, in a few pages, a rapid and picturesque summary of the Russian war in the Caucasus, from its commencement to the latest date. In a well-digested compilation of the works of the distinguished travellers, philologists, and naturalists who have visited Circassia, such as Bodenstedt, Moritz, Wagner, De Montperreux, Koch, Spenser, Bayle, St. John, we obtain, in half-an-hour's pleasant reading, a minute and accurate description of the whole region lying between the two seas.

We learn the natural and commercial resources, the vegetable and mineral productions of Daghestan (the immediate seat of war), and of Russian Armenia. We are interested to hear, for instance, that the "governing class" of British birds, the aristocratic pheasant, takes its name from the ancient river *Rhasis*, whose banks afford excellent sport to gentlemen who have no "preserves" at home. We find—but let us quote our author himself:—

"The Caucasus is, in general, one of the finest countries in the world. It vies with Switzerland for the imposing majesty of its sites, and with Italy for the beauty of its climate."

"The Emperor Nicholas, on visiting that country in 1837, exclaimed, 'I now understand better than ever the words in Genesis,—"God said, Let there be light, and there was light."—In fact, the sun shines on the Caucasus more splendidly than it does in any other part of the Russian Empire."

"Vegetation especially displays there extraordinary richness and beauty. There are, in Daghestan, walnut trees under the foliage of which two companies of soldiers may encamp; and there stands near Erivan a plane tree, hollow inside, offering a room, the dimension of which is seven feet and a half. People go there to play at cards or to take tea."

"The most beautiful and rare flowers enamel the meadows, and the most esteemed plants grow along the rivers."

"Wines and silk are the two productions of the Caucasus which are destined to acquire the greatest importance. The province of Kakhetia produces alone 2,000,000 *Vedrost* of excellent wine."

"The cocoons of the silk-worms reach to a dimension of eight centimetres; and experienced men of Lombardy have been engaged to go there for the purpose of rearing silk-worms."

"The Circassians sow Indian corn, cultivate rice, and make bread with kuruss. The product of their tobacco is valued at 15,000 roubles; and their exportation of madder amounts to 80,000 roubles. Excellent saffron is gathered in the district of Bakou."

Russia may well struggle for the possession of such a region, but it is melancholy to see a land so rich by nature desolated and wasted by perpetual war.

M. Ivan Golovin, the author of the work we are now considering, has been a Russian emigrant for ten years, and since 1846 a naturalised Englishman. He enjoys the distinction, we believe, of being the first Russian emigrant who dared to publish political works on Russia, and to brand the governmental system of the Czar. Of a high Russian family, a career of distinction lay open to him in the service of despotism. His brothers are generals in the Russian army, and he commenced public life himself in the Chancery of M. de Neesselrode. The story of his abrupt departure from Russia is so characteristic that we cannot forbear telling it here. M. de Neesselrode complained more than once that M. Golovin's writing was illegible, and recommended him to take some lessons in caligraphy; it is only permitted to the highest rank of officials to be illegible. Even Plenipotentiaries begin with round hand. At length wearied, no doubt, with these incessant reproofs, M. Golovin asked for a short leave of absence to Paris, to study caligraphy. He obtained leave, and went to Paris, and there wrote and published a stinging brochure on the Russian system. When this reached the ears of the Czar, the illegible *frondeur* was peremptorily ordered to return to St. Petersburg, en route, probably, to Siberia. But he had

* See the Memoirs of the Academy of St. Petersburg, Vol. viii. † Fails.

† Count Bronzo-Bronski has discovered the art of crossing silk-worms, a process through which he obtains silk of a splendid whiteness. Baron Mejdorf has made him brilliant offers for the purpose of securing for Russia the benefit of his invention. But the Polish emigrant has refused through patriotism, and has offered his secret to the India Company.

the singular taste to prefer remaining out of reach of the Imperial favours, and he wrote to decline to re-enter Russia, on the plea that he was still studying caligraphy: in short, *learning to write a better hand*. Since then, M. Ivan Golovin has published a variety of works in French, some of which have been translated into English, laying bare to the heart the corruptions of that hideous despotism: and it is to his credit that he has never allowed his implacable hostility to Nicholas, and to the execrable system of the Russian Chanceries, to wean him from the love of his country and of his race. This is the first occasion of his appearing in the character of an English writer, and he deserves encouragement in his new career. Had he loved liberty less, he might have lived to be—we will not say a Brunow, but—an ambassador; he has preferred the hardships of exile to the degrading livery of bondage. He dedicates the present work to the memory of Alexander Bestoujev, the Russian soldier-author, who was sentenced to Siberia for participation in the insurrection of 1825, and after many years found a soldier's death in the Caucasus.

We may judge from this dedication alone what sort of reception M. Ivan Golovin's work on the Caucasus will meet with at the hands of the Censorship in St. Petersburg.

DOYLE'S FOREIGN TOUR.

The Foreign Tour of Messrs. Brown, Jones, and Robinson. Being the History of what they saw and did in Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. By Richard Doyle. Price 21s. Bradbury and Evans.

THIS book is already on almost every table where we go; a suddenness of success which makes criticism superfluous. Still for those who have not seen the work, a word may be necessary.

The *Foreign Tour* is a work which only Thackeray or Doyle could have written: it has the strangely blended elements of grotesque humour, graceful fancy, close observation visible through pervading mannerism, and deliberate exaggeration. There is poetry in it—as witness that sunset on the *Lago Maggiore*; there is Comedy of the highest kind fashioned out of minute observation, representing character in its typical forms—as witness that marvellous Englishman who is calculating how many thousands would be needful to keep up one of the Rhine Castles; or that English nobleman delighting himself with the literature of his country in his lonely carriage; there is also broad farce—farce riotous—farce pretending to be no more than whimsical exaggeration.

The designs are not done justice to by the engravers: they want unity of treatment. Nor indeed are the individualities of the three travellers always sufficiently marked. We recognise them as distinguished one from another, but we do not sufficiently recognise them in themselves, the likeness is often imperfect. Perhaps the most marvellous thing in the book is the prodigality of invention displayed in the forms and faces of the crowds; a dot and a line are enough to present individual character, and the immense variety of characters Doyle contrives to group together is astonishing.

With regard to the *nationality* of the types, there is no mistaking the English and German; but the others are less distinctive, although some capital heads may be found even there. In a mere whimsy, having fun and exaggeration on the face of it, it may seem hypercritical to notice any such drawbacks; but really one cannot help taking Richard Doyle *au sérieux*, he is so wonderful. To those who know the value of a large book of prints as a means of beguiling the tedious hours of an evening party, this *Foreign Tour* is particularly recommended; nor is it less so to those who love humour, fancy, and invention. It is the Christmas book of 1854.

CASTELLAMONTE.

Castellamonte; an Autobiographical Sketch, illustrative of Italian Life during the Insurrection of 1831. 2 Vols. G. Westerton.

A BOOK of strange eloquence and interest, tinged with sadness, as of one in the autumnal evenings of life looking back upon passions denied fruition, loves that were never returned. The writer is an Italian patriot; one who in 1831 was actively engaged in the Revolution of Parma, and who shared the aspirations and glorious dreams of a nation to be regenerated. He recounts for us in graphic narrative the hopes which he then shared, the agitations which moved him and his countrymen, and the disappointments they had to undergo. It reads like a romance, and is a romance; for, as he says:

"Is this a biographical sketch, or a novel you are writing?" the reader may ask; and the question is in itself condemnatory of my performance; for every man's history, well told, is a romance, and every fiction, well contrived, is real life. "If it is not true, it is well invented," says the oft-quoted Italian adage; and the inverse sentence must be equally correct: "If it be well invented, it is true."

"I sit down before the glass and profess to paint my own portrait. I may unconsciously flatter and idealise it. But I contend that no artist can do otherwise: that all picture is portraiture. It matters little, to all but the parties concerned, how like the original the work is. It is only important to decide how faithful a representation it is of nature."

"The error must be in the choice of the original or in the manner of its delineation. But I chose my subject upon conviction of intimate acquaintance with it, and reproduced it with what struck me as servile fidelity, even at the risk that it may be found a 'fame and painful likeness.'"

"And yet, even the insipidity and repulsiveness of the picture is by no means the test of its correctness. The glass does not always tell the truth, at least to the eyes that consult it. I can only say that I honestly give my countenance such as I see it; such as I see it, too, through the medium of long years of bitter experience; with a sneer, half of contempt, half of envy, for the warmth of genuine enthusiasm and sanguine confidence with which it then beamed."

But while he thus writes the romance of his early life, he writes it without the illusions of youth, and hence it is that the sneer of contempt somewhat Mephistophelically mingles with the Faust-like aspirations. This makes the book curious. It shows enthusiasm and mockery; the tragedy and the farce of the revolution: 1830 is controlled by 1850. Imagine a man reading his early love-letters, and thinking over the follies—exquisite follies!—to which his passion impelled him; imagine the half-tender, half-contemptuous feeling with which he would look back on such an epoch in his life, remembering and regretting its fervour and illusions, even while seeing beyond them into the cold reality; imagine this, and you have imagined the tone of *Castellamonte*.

It is dangerous to look back, especially on revolutionary periods. Things scarcely noted then become painfully vivid; as in the following very just observation, which we doubt whether the writer would have made at the time:

"But mingled with those schoolfellows, with those well-known faces of old comrades there were other countenances, either totally new, or ominously familiar to me; men whose addresses I would only a few weeks before have resented as a mortal affront, whose contact I would have shunned as contagion, and whom I now saw seated or standing side by side with my best friends, throwing their arms round each others' necks, and pledging each others' health in reeking bumpers, with a sort of bacchanalian intimacy."

"This is republican equality with a vengeance," thought I, not knowing that the downfall of a government must needs bring into notoriety all those who were ever at variance with it, no matter from what cause. I had yet to learn that, indifferent as those persons' reputation might have been previous to the 13th of February, they had been brought forward as victims, or on immediately after that memorable day, and put forth their claims to public sympathy and gratitude."

"There is always a scapegrace even in the best-regulated family; and there is even in the most orderly community a set of desperate characters whose native element is mischief—ruined nobles, half-pay officers, briefless lawyers,—men whose business is a mystery, and whose existence a riddle,—a meddling, fretting, scandal-mongering race—great café orators, great spreaders of startling news and alarm, seizing upon any pretext, real or fictitious, of discontent—stirring, poking, blowing, until they have kindled a few sparks into a general conflagration."

"These individuals, most formidable to the most honest government, had now risen into a class—into an active, numerous, powerful class. Some of them were supposed to have stained their worthless lives in the great conflict—to have redeemed their characters by daring exploits—or by the zeal they had displayed in the cause of liberty after its success. The day seemed to have come when brute force and reckless daring were to assume at least a temporary ascendancy over all moral and intellectual excellence; for a revolution, however sacred in its aims and its results, however otherwise unimportant, has at first always the effect of bringing the dregs to the surface."

We had marked several passages for extract, but must content ourselves with this one.

ITALIAN SCEPTICISM.

"It must not be thought, after all, that there is any very great harm in this short period of rash scepticism. It is honest, disinterested inquisitiveness. Every student in Italy must needs go through this fearful ordeal of doubt. It is the necessary consequence of the too harsh enforcement of a blind, bigoted authority. Compel a man to believe more than he can honestly swallow, and if there be any soul in him, he will turn against the whole creed with loathing. Our priests present us with a God as hideous as themselves. Our zeal for truth is necessarily indiscriminate. We pull to pieces the idol, together with its altar and tabernacle. Unbelief is with us matter of pride, of virtuous disdain. It is the licentiousness of sudden and violent emancipation. There is little more than wanton spirit of contradiction at the bottom."

"But hasty theories are no less hastily demolished. We find no rest in our sweeping conclusions. We run our chain of arguments over again; once more weigh matter against intelligence—nature against a God; and the issue is a maze of perplexity: all rests on a chilling, forbidding Pantheism."

"Such is the philosophy of Italian schools at the present day. I should say, the back-stairs philosophy; for such subjects are never, unhappily, fairly mooted from the professor's chair. There is heartless religious enthusiasm in all that godless inquisitiveness. It is from no profane motive, from no rebellious spirit, that the student tries 'how far it can satisfactorily be made out that God is not.' But he has too vaguely been told that there is guilt in the investigation; he is apt to identify mystery with priestly jugglery and deceit. He is not sufficiently penetrated with the utter impotence of his finite faculties to perceive on what ground his acquiescence and self-denial should rest. He must needs see all, prove all. In his eagerness to vindicate the free use of reason, he strains it in unavailing exertions."

"Later in life things find their own level. If he does not fall into chill apathy, the student takes, if not the most unanswerable, at least the most consoling view of the subject. He gives religion 'the benefit of the doubt.' He does not go back to his priest, in sooth; nor does he acknowledge how far he has gone astray without his guidance. But he sets up a God—a creed and worship of his own. It is mere deism at first, or pantheism; but it assumes form and colour by imperceptible degrees. He comes to a compromise with God's word. He looks into the Bible, were it only 'for its lofty conceits and high-flowing language.'"

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- Nineveh; a Review of its Ancient History and Modern Explorers.* By R. G. Pole, Esq. Clarke, Beeton, and Co.
- The True Law of Population.* By Thomas Doubleday. Smith, Elder, and Co.
- Comedies.* By Douglas Jerrold. Bradbury and Evans.
- Louisa Von Platenhausen; or, the Journal of a Poor Young Lady.* T. Constable and Co.
- Work; or, Plenty to Do and How to do It.* By M. M. Brewster. T. Constable and Co.
- Saturday and Sunday—Thoughts for Both.* James Maclellan.
- Aims and Ends.* James Maclellan.
- Charles Stanly. A Novel.* By the Author of "Ninfa." 3 vols. Chapman and Hall.
- A Month in England.* By H. T. Tuckerman. R. Bentley.
- Passages from the Diary of a Late Physician.* By Samuel Warren. W. Blackwood and Sons.
- The Two Brothers; or, the Family that Lived in the First Society.* By M. Raven. R. Bentley.
- Lucretia; or, the Children of Night.* By Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. Chapman and Hall.
- On the State of Man Subsequent to the Promulgation of Christianity.* Part IV. J. W. Parker and Son.
- The Old Field Officer; or, the Military and Sporting Adventures of Major Worthington.* Edited by J. H. Stoeckeler. 2 vols. A. and C. Black.
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- The Old Story-Teller. Popular German Tales.* Collected by Ludwig Bechstein. Addey and Co.
- The Annotated Edition of the English Poets.* Edited by R. Bell. J. W. Parker and Son.
- The Evil Star; or, the Tide and the Jesuit. A Novel.* By E. Colburn. 3 vols. C. J. Skeet.
- The Chronology of Creation; or, Geology and Scripture Reconciled.* By T. Hutton, F.R.S. W. Thacker and Co.
- A History of China to the Present Time.* R. Bentley.
- Cyclopædia of Literary and Scientific Anecdotes.* Edited by W. Kiddle. R. Griffin and Co.
- The Parables of Frederic Adolphus Krummacher, translated from the German.* Nathaniel Cooke.
- Little Ferns for Fanny's Little Friends.* Nathaniel Cooke.
- The Days, Months, and Seasons of the Year, explained to the Little People of England.* By Maria Jacob. Nathaniel Cooke.
- The Lays of Modern Rome.* Chapman and Hall.
- The Poetical and Dramatic Works of Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.* Vol. IV. Chapman and Hall.
- The Divine Comedy; or, the Inferno, Purgatory, and Paradise of Dante Alighieri, rendered into English.* By F. Pollock, Esq. Chapman and Hall.
- The Stratford Shakespeare.* Edited by C. Knight. J. Hodgson.
- The Scottish Heiress.* By R. M. Daniels. (Parlour Library.) J. Hodgson.
- Arabella Stuart. A Romance from English History.* By G. P. R. James. (Parlour Library.) J. Hodgson.
- A Defence of the Eclipse of Faith* By its Author Longman and Co.

Census of Great Britain, 1851—Religious Worship—England and Wales.

Pelham; or, Adventures of a Gentleman. By Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. (The Railway Library.) W. Spottiswoode and Co.

Zohrab; or, A Midsummer Day's Dream, and other Poems. By W. J. Thornton. G. Routledge and Co.

Legendes of the Nineteenth Century—The Dragons of Oaforda, and St. George of Saint Stevens. Writ by Pasquin. Longman and Co.

Whittington and his Cat. By Miss Corner. John Hearne.

Memoirs of the Princess Palatine, Princess of Bohemia. By the Baroness Blaise de Bury. Dean and Son.

Hester and Elmor; or, the Discipline of Suffering. A Tale. R. Bentley.

The English Cyclopædia. John Chapman.

Writings of Douglas Jerrold—Plays. Bradbury and Evans.

Speeches on Parliamentary Reform in 1831 and 1832, by the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, M.P. (Traveller's Library.) Punch Office.

Memoirs of Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D. By the Rev. W. Hanna. Longman and Co.

Memorable Women; the Story of their Lives. By Mrs. N. Grosland. T. Constable and Co.

The Turkish Alphabet. D. Bogue.

The Slave Son. By Mrs. William Noy Wilkins. D. Bogue.

Janus, Lake Sonnets, &c., and other Poems. By D. Holt. Chapman and Hall.

The Rival Houses of the Hobbs and Dobbs. By G. Grayson. G. Bell.

John Bull; or, Road and Think. By William Robson. G. Routledge and Co.

The Principles of Education. By Hugo Reid. Longman and Co.

The Poems and Plays of Oliver Goldsmith. (The Universal Library.) Nathaniel Cooke.

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The Concluding Essay and Preface to the Second Edition of Mr. Maurice's Theological Essays. Methuen and Co.

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The Little Duke; or, Richard the Fearless. By the Author of "Kings of England." J. W. Parker and Son.

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Pictorial Calendar of the Seasons. Edited by Mary Howitt. (Bohn's Illustrated Library.) H. G. Bohn.

Novels and Tales. By Goethe. (Bohn's Standard Library.) H. G. Bohn.

Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Homœopathy. By E. E. Dudgeon, M.D. H. G. Bohn.

Portfolia. Aylott and Jones.

Portfolia.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Jacob encourage itself.—GOTHE.

STORY OF A PRINCE.

The story tells that Prince Cherry and the Princess Fairstar remained happy ever after; but there is a little sequel—a little episode in their happiness, which ought to be told, for its instructiveness to little boys and girls. Now, Prince Cherry was very happy, and he had reason to be so. He had married, of course, the most beautiful of princesses; for the island of the Princess Fairstar was the finest in the world, and, according to the custom of all countries, the princess was by right the most beautiful lady in it; the most virtuous, the cleverest, and the kindest. Prince Cherry, indeed, liked the island so well that he never thought of returning, or taking his princess home to the kingdom of his own forefathers. He showed his sense; for in the island palace the carpet was so much better, the honey so much sweeter, and the sherbet so much more delicious, that he could only have changed for the worse; and he was a great deal too clever not to know what was good when he had it. He made himself quite at home, and the islanders liked him for it. They were almost as fond of him as their princess was, which was saying a great deal; for she was never tired of addressing him with caresses, and her pretty tongue invented the most endearing epithets. She sat upon her throne all day, crying out every now and then, "Oh! how dearly I love you, my well-beloved consort! My prince! my maestro di capella! my pretty soldier! my colonel of cavalry and of infantry! my dainty doctor! my major-general! my F.M.! my privy councillor! my comfort! my terrible Gothic Duke! my knight, even of my bath, of my garter, and my carpet! my thistle, my nemo me impune! my chancellor of duchies and universities! my naughty ranger! my sweet commissioner; my hunter, my sleigh-driver, my bien aimé, mon cœur cheri!"

The prince became so thoroughly one of the nation, that he entered into their ways, but he found they sadly wanted teaching. He taught them how to make houses; he showed labourers how to do their work, and bring up their families; he gave them and studious boys prizes for doing their lessons well; he taught them how to make hats for soldiers; how to paint in the old fashion; how to say their prayers; and at last he taught them how to make palaces of stone and glass, and be the finest people in the world; so that their history began anew. Near the court of the Princess Fairstar was a very cunning fellow, called Old King Cole, who invented a fine device for making a great show-shop, to exhibit all the goods of the island for all the customers of the world: it was a fine idea, but the difficulty was to get it done. However, Old King Cole was not to be foiled; and he found out a way. He went privately to Prince Cherry, and told the project to him. The prince was as affable as he was handsome; and so, patting Old King Cole on the head, he said it was a very creditable idea, and he would ask the Princess Fairstar's leave to make the shop. Now when Prince Cherry asked his Fairstar, she answered, "Mon bien cheri! why do you not ask me for my crown; for you are so modest that you

never tax my affection? I will not only grant permission for good Old King Cole, but you shall be the chief of the affair. You shall be my commissioner; I will command you to be my Shopman-in-Chief; you shall be my Head Showman." So they built the shop, and made it all of splendid windows; and Prince Cherry was made the Head Shopman.

Now Old King Cole, who was very clever at these things, wishing to get it well done, would occasionally suggest and advise; until at last Prince Cherry took offence at so much impertinent intrusion, and he began to look coldly on Old King Cole, as if he did not see that that person was of any further use. Vexed and mortified, Old King Cole began to grow thin and to pine; and when the islanders learned the reason, they began a little bit to murmur, asking, "Why Old King Cole should be left behind when he had suggested—" "Never," cried Old King Cole; "no one shall rival my prince, who is the creator of the great shop." "Thou art an honest fellow, Old King Cole!" cried Prince Cherry, "and hast the discreetest mind of any man in this country." So Old King Cole was taken into favour again, and Prince Cherry opened his shop; whereat he was not a little proud, saying to his courtiers, "It is the greatest event of our reign."

These words are recorded in history, for the words of princes are always memorable, and those who hear, carry them away graven in their hearts.

Now Prince Cherry began to perceive his true position in the island, and he said to himself, Verily, I must be the cleverest man in this country; for have I not taught the labourers how to labour? Have I not taught them how to build their houses; how to behave; how to say their prayers? Have I not shown them how to make a pretty hat, and helped to dress the army? Have I not made them the great model shop? Verily, it is a fortunate island with me for its councillor; and I must complete my good work. I must teach them how to govern; since there is nothing left for me to do except now to teach the officers of state their business, and to improve their rusty institutions. So he opened his mind to the Princess Fairstar, and she looked into his eyes with hers, which were the most beautiful in the world. She had a pretty tyranny, that lovely Princess Fairstar; which was always to command her bien aimé, her cœur chéri, to do what he wanted.

About this time the Princess Fairstar received a hostile message from a great king, who lived a long way off, but whose dominions were so large that the foot of the mountain on which he lived came close to the shore of the island. He was a very proud king; taller by a head than any other man; and very beautiful in figure—for his chest was six feet round, and his waist thirteen inches and three-quarters. He sat on a throne on the top of a great mountain, clothed in a robe of bearskins. All round the foot of the mountain continually galloped soldiers on horseback; and from his throne the great king, with grey eyes flashing like lightning in a rainy night, continually roared out commands to his galloping armies to keep on attacking his enemies all over the world.

Nevertheless the islanders were not afraid of this king, and for a good reason; since they found, that for all his bravery in ordering his armies to attack his enemies, he could not be found in front of the foe himself. So they said, if we frighten him enough, surely he will hold his tongue. But Prince Cherry was of different mind; and he had a reason.

The prince had a brother, who was a sovereign in his own right; and this prince, whose name was Sincere, sat upon a throne right under the mountain of the great king. Although not large, Prince Sincere's kingdom was very beautiful; he had a castle all built of porcelain, so compact that, being an active man, he amused himself on summer evenings with jumping over it and back again. His subjects were not numerous, for they were but ten in all; but they were of the highest rank: there were two archbishops, two generals in the army, two lords in waiting, two ladies, more beautiful than the sun and moon, and two footmen; and every day they came to the step of the throne and knocked their foreheads against it, and each laid sixpence at the feet of the prince; so that you may suppose that he was as happy as a man can be. Now Prince Cherry thought that if they exasperated the great king, and he began to thunder from the top of his mountain, he would shatter the castle of Prince Sincere. So this was a good opportunity for him to begin his new task of teaching his princess's officers of state. He informed them that the people of her island were a shop-keeping people. He pointed out that if they provoked the thunder of the great king, it would break the plate-glass in the front of their new shops; and all the while he sent messages to Prince Sincere to tell him how he got on; which very much rejoiced the heart of the poor prince, and enabled him to pacify the great king.

Now in the dominions of Princess Fairstar there was a wicked old fairy called Moloch, who lived upon the sour pap which she stole while the nurses were asleep over the babies of the island; and this wicked old woman, seeing the state of the prince's heart, went to him and whispered in his ear that he ought to be king over the island; "for," said Moloch, "is not the woman

the inferior animal? Are you not the husband of Fairstar? Are you not, therefore, her master? And can you not order her to do as you please?" "Very true," says Prince Cherry; "it is very kind of you to remind me of it."

"Ah!" cried Moloch, "princes never appreciate the advice of their best friends until they learn to test it in suffering."

"But," said Prince Cherry, "how can I make my dear princess know her duty? Because wives, you know, are very obedient so long as they are fondled; and I have nothing to complain of in that respect. But when one begins to order—"

"Have you not," said Moloch, "a right to use a stick no thicker than your thumb?"

"But where shall I find such a stick?" said Prince Cherry.

"Next to the palace of the princess," answered Moloch, "there is an ecclesiastical store, and in that store they keep sticks exactly the thickness of a thumb; so that any man who gets his stick from the proper office may chastise his wife, and be praised for his pains."

"I never thought of that," said Prince Cherry. He did not say, I was not aware of that, because princes are always aware of everything. "It is," he observed, "the wisest thing that I have found in this precious island."

It happened, however, that when the prince went to inquire for the stick, some of the islanders overheard him, and they began to feel very angry for their princess, and still more angry to think that he should have held it necessary to teach them; for as soon as they found out that he did not think them the wisest people in the world, they began to doubt whether he was the wisest prince in the world. Next time he rode out in state with his princess, he witnessed a very surprising miracle, at which he was very much downcast, and he could not shake it off his mind the whole day and the whole night. So, next day, not knowing what to do, nor what it meant, he determined to consult some one else beside the wicked fairy; and he could not have done better than to go to Old King Cole; and told him that he was troubled in his mind with what had happened when he was riding in state with his princess.

"And what was it," said Old King Cole, "that alarmed you so?"

"It seemed to me," said the prince, turning pale at the recollection, "that though I could see nothing in the streets but the houses and the people—and I could see no difference, except that the people, who used to be all one smile, now looked one frown—yet it seemed to me, that everywhere—on the ground, in the air, in the houses, on the tops of the houses, in the very places which the people occupied—it seemed, by the sound I heard, that there could be nothing but geese—geese, geese, geese everywhere, yet not a goose to be seen. Tell me, oh! Old King Cole, what it means?"

When Old King Cole heard this story he turned as pale as the prince, and said, "It means, O my Prince! that if you have any design in your heart you had better go no further; but had better stick, for the future, Cherry, to the Shop."

The Arts.

HOT AND COLD.

DECIDEDLY the British drama is reviving. On Wednesday evening we made a pilgrimage to the North of Europe—i. e. to Sadler's Wells—attracted to those regions by *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Imagine our astonishment when the boxkeeper politely informed us that "possibly we might just get standing room on a bench at the extreme back of the pit"—every nook and corner of the house was crammed. What better criticism of the performance can we give than that we *did* stand throughout the play? a feat which almost equals that of the epic poet who threw off his hundred or two of lines "standing on one foot." We grudged neither the fatigue nor the inconvenience. Indeed, we were scarcely sensible of either while the play lasted, in spite of the Islingtonian aristocracy, and the proximity of the refreshment stall. Seldom have we witnessed a more exquisite performance. We passed the evening (in the attitude of Stylites) in the true fairyland of Shakspeare and Mendelssohn. Before, as behind the curtain, the spectacle was interesting. A more discriminating and attentive audience is not to be found than that same intellectual aristocracy of Islington.

On the other hand, we learn from our contemporary, the *Musical World*, that on a recent Wednesday evening, when a concert in Exeter Hall was postponed on account of the inclemency of the weather, a file of carriages extended from the Princess's Theatre to Regent-street on the one side, and to New Oxford-street on the other. The attraction was *Hamlet*, 'with the part of Hamlet left out' many of our readers will exclaim:—Nothing of the kind. The part of Hamlet was performed by Mr. Charles Kean "in his usual style."

E.

REVERSES OF THE GREAT.—Marie Antoinette, we will wager, was oftentimes as cheerful while washing and combing the little dauphin (before he, poor child, was taken from her), in the gloomy den of the Temple, as she had been, in the days of her glory, in the golden galleries of Versailles. Queen Margaret, in the forest with her son, mollifying the robber, is a pleasanter sight to view than Queen Margaret the Cruel, an intriguing politician, decorating the Duke of York's head with a paper crown. Who would not sooner form unto himself an image of the Scottish Mary weeping in her first, innocent, French widowhood, or partaking of her last melancholy repast at Fotheringhay among her mourning domestics, than that same Scottish Mary battling with Ruthven for Rizzio's life, or listening in the grey morning for the awful sound which was to tell her that the deed of blood at the Kirk of Field was done, and that Henry Lord Darnley was dead? Still for one Porphyrogenitus, as it were, born in the purple—lapped in the velvet of a throne, with an orb for a plaything, and a sceptre for a lollipop, to come to poverty and meanness, to utter decay and loss of consideration—be he king, or be she queen—is very wretched and pity-moving to view. Dionysius keeping school (and dwelling on the verb *tupto*, you may be sure); Boadicea widowed, scourged, dishonoured, wandering up and down in search of vengeance; Lear, old, mad, and worse than childish, in the forest; Zenobia ruined and in chains; Darius

"Deserted in his utmost need
By those his former bounty fed;"
Theodore of Corsica filing his schedule in the Insolvent Debtors' Court; Caroline of Prussia bullied by Napoleon; Murat waiting for a file of grenadiers to dispatch him; for those who have once been "your majesty," before whom chamberlains have walked backward, to be poor, to be despised, to be forgotten, must be awful, should be instructive, is pitiable.—*Dickens's "Household Words."*

CAVALRY SWORDS.—In the Sikh war, arms, heads, hands, and legs of British soldiers were lopped off by the enemy on all sides, while English swordsmen laboured often in vain even to draw blood. Yet the Sikhs, as it was found, used chiefly our own cast-off dragoon blades, fitted into new handles, sharpened until they had a razor edge, and worn in wooden scabbards, from which they were never drawn except in action. In such scabbards they were not blunted, and they were noiseless; they made none of that incessant clanking which almost drowns the trumpet or bugle, and quite the word of command, in the ranks of our own cavalry regiments; and which, unless the men wrap hay about the steel, renders any attempt at surprise by cavalry perfectly absurd. The wooden scabbards, it was found upon inquiry, are even less brittle than steel ones. A squadron of the Third Dragoons charged a band of Sikh horsemen under Major Unett. The Sikhs let the squadron enter. A dragoon of the front rank

thrust with his sword point at the nearest Sikh. The weapon broke into the skin, but did not penetrate so far as to do any serious mischief. The Sikh, in return, struck the dragoon across the mouth, and took his head off. A Sikh at Chillianwallah galloped up to the horse artillery, cut down the two first men, and attacked the third. He, seeing that his comrades had been unable to save their lives by the use of their blunt swords, left his sword in the scabbard, and fought off the assailant with his riding-whip—flogging away the Sikh's horse, to keep the fatal arm at a safe distance. So he saved himself. There can be no doubt that heavy riding-whips would be more formidable weapons in all warfare than the cavalry swords now in use.—*Dickens's "Household Words."*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BOSC.—Jan. 10th, at 16, Randolph-crescent, Edinburgh, the wife of J. B. Du Bosc, Esq., of Xores de la Frontera, of a son.
GARNIER.—Jan. 6, at No. 5, Upper Harley-street, the Lady Caroline Garnier, of a son.
MCURDO.—Dec. 31, at Passy, near Paris, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel McMurdo, of a son.
MURRAY.—Jan. 4, at Notting-hill, the wife of Major S. Hood Murray, of a daughter.
WILSON.—Jan. 11, at 19, Hereford-square, the wife of Captain H. Wilson, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

ALEXANDER-BRUCE.—Dec. 15, at St. George's Cathedral, Sierra Leone, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the Colony, assisted by the Rev. T. Warcup, Chaplain of the Flagship, John Richard Alexander, Esq., Lieut. H.M.S. Penelope, only son of the late Admiral Thomas Alexander, to Jane Letitia Troubridge, only daughter of Rear-Admiral Bruce, Commander-in-Chief on the West Coast of Africa, and granddaughter of the late Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander Cochrane, G.C.B.

CRAWFORD-PLEASANTON.—Dec. 26, at Philadelphia, John V. Crawford, Esq., son of H.B.M.'s Consul-General in Cuba, to Mary Virginia, second daughter of Colonel Pleasanton, of that city.

HOULTON-FURSTENBERG.—Jan. 3, at Herdringen, Westphalia, at the Chateau of Count de Furstenberg, according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church, afterwards, on the 6th inst., at the English Consulate at Cologne, John Torriana Houlton, of Farleigh Castle, Somerset, and 4, Chesham-street, Belgrave-square, to Ferdinandine, the eldest daughter of the Baron Theodor de Furstenberg (Chamberlain de Sa Majeste le Roi de Prusse), of Heiligenhoven, Lower Rhine.

PINTI-RYLAND.—Jan. 7, at St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, by the Rev. W. H. Bucke, Signor Raffaele Pinti, to Ellen, fourth daughter of the late Septimus Herbert Ryland, Esq.

DEATHS.

BERESFORD.—Jan. 8, General Viscount Beresford, G.C.B., G.C.S., K.T.S., K.S.F., K.S.H., Colonel-in-Chief of the Sixteenth Foot, Colonel of the Sixteenth Foot, Governor of Jersey, Marquis of Campo-Mayor, Field-Marshal of Portugal, and Captain-General of Spain.

BROWNRISS.—Jan. 4, at Sausmarez-street, Guernsey, Charles Brownrigg, Esq., of the Ceylon Civil Service, second son of the late General Sir Robert Brownrigg, Bart., G.C.B., of Hiltone-house, Monmouthshire, aged fifty-six.

OSBORN.—Dec. 15 at Toronto, Upper Canada, John Brownlow Osborn, Esq., third son of the late Sir John Osborn, Bart., of Chicksands Priory.

PORTSMOUTH.—Jan. 8th, at Eggesford, Devon, the Right Hon. Newton, Earl of Portsmouth, aged eighty-two.

TAYLOR.—Jan. 8, at Hacombe, Devon, the seat of his son-in-law, Sir Walter P. Carew, Bart., Major-General Thomas William Taylor, C.B., of Ogwell-house, Devon, Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and Colonel of the Seventeenth Lancers, aged seventy-one.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, January 13, 1854.

CONSOLS have been as low as 92½ 92½ during the week, but the absence of any definite news—any, the chance of another sham negotiation in order to give the Czar time to make his preparations against the spring of the year—and the opinion which would seem to prevail that our Ministry, absolutely ruled by Coburg influences, is ready to make any terms, however dishonourable, in order to secure a false peace—in short, to put off the fatal hour, when the present European dynastic system must inevitably be crushed—Consols have, therefore, been very firm both yesterday and to-day. The wary and knowing Hebrews, generally in advance of their Gentile associates in their foresight as to coming "events," have been buying very largely. Shares have followed my leader "Consols," and have also sympathised with their brethren over the water. There has been a good deal of speculative business in French shares. Gold Mining Shares, &c., are nearly forgotten. Russian Four per Cents. have received a little reverse this week, and at one time fell to 108, 109. The markets and the state of business generally—apart from the fear and possibility of war—is healthy, and exports continue to Australia and India to a great extent. Before the 20th we may have definite news of the Emperor of Russia's ultimatum, but as I read things at present the first manifesto will be anything but pacific, and force funds down to 90. Then will come his most imperial recognition and consideration of the humbling terms proposed, not by the people of England, —no, but the miserable tools of the "German Cancer," our Coburg Ministry, and forced on the Turk—then will come diplomacy and weeks' delay—funds will rise, and all seeming bright, as soon as the Czar is ready: then beware the Bear, both in Calmuck land and Capel-court.

Consols, 92½, 93; Caledonian, 52½ 52½; Chester and Holyhead, 14½, 15½; Eastern Counties, 12½, 13; Great Western, 31½, 32½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 63½, 64½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 96, 98; London and North Western, 102, 102½; London and South Western, 75, 77; Midland, 61, 61½; North Staffordshire, 6, 5½ dis.; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 35, 37; Scottish Central, 91, 93; South Eastern, 50, 60; South Wales, 32, 33; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 63, 64; East Indian, 3, 3½; Luxembourg, 9½, 1; Madras, 1, 1½ pm.; Namur and Liege (with int.), 7½, 8; Northern of France, 32½, 33½; Paris and Lyons, 14½, 14½ pm.; Paris and Orleans, 42, 44; West Flanders, 31, 34; Western of France, 5, 6 pm.; Agua Fria, 1, 1½; British Australian, 1, 1½ dis.; Brazil Imperial, 5, 6; Colonial Gold, 1, 1½; Linares, 10, 11; Nouveau Monde, 1, 1½; United Mexican, 3, 3½; Australasia, 77, 79; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 1, 1½ pm.; New South Wales, 42, 44; Oriental, 43, 45; Union of Australia, 74, 76; Australian Agricultural, 44, 46; British American Land, 72, 77; Crystal Palace, 11, 11½ pm.; Peel Rivers, 1 dis., 1 pm.; North British Australian Land, par. 1 pm.; Scottish Australian Investment, 11, 11½ pm.; South Australian Land, 38, 40 ex div.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, Jan. 13.

LOCAL TRADE.—The supplies of Wheat and Flour this week are liberal, of Barley moderate, and of Oats short. Wheat is 1s. and Oats 6d. dearer than Monday. Barley is held at rates so high as to prevent sales.

FLOATING TRADE.—Only 19 cargoes have arrived off the coast since this day week, all but two of which were either sold before arrival or have been sold since. The prices paid for cargoes have not been in proportion to the advance upon Wheat on the spot. The English markets have all risen from 5s. to 6s. per quarter, and an advance of 4s. has taken place in Scotland. In Ireland the advance is still greater, and home-grown produce of all kinds is now worth more than in our own markets. The purchases this week have been made for England, Scotland, and Ireland, nor is the demand limited to a few districts. The operations have been characterised by the same caution which has been generally observable in the trade of late.

The French markets are beginning to improve again. Meantime some sales have been made at Marseilles for English account, and we have offered to us to-day a cargo of Wheat reshipped there; but we believe these transactions do not amount to anything important. From the Baltic, we hear that the stocks of Wheat at the principal ports on the 1st of January, fell much short of last year.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	219	219	218	217	217½	.....
3 per Cent. Red.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	93½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92½	92½	92½	92½	93	93
Consols for Account	92½	92½	92½	92½	93½	93½
3½ per Cent. An.	94½	93½	94	93½	93½	94½
New 5 per Cents.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860.	16½	5½	5½	5½	.....	5½
India Stock	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	4 p	par	par	4 p	par	.....
Ditto, under £1000	par	4 p	.....	.....	.....	4 p
Ex. Bills, £1000.	9 p	9 p	10 p	11 p	7 p	10 p
Ditto, £500	9 p	9 p	10 p	11 p	7 p	10 p
Ditto, Small	10 p	9 p	10 p	11 p	7 p	10 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	89½	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents 1822	109
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents.	82	Russian 4½ per Cents.	90
Chilian 6 per Cents.	100	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def.	20½
Danish 5 per Cents.	.....	Spanish Committee Cert.	.....
Ecuador Bonds	4½	of Coup. not fun.	.....
Mexican 3 per Cents.	23½	Venezuela 3½ per Cents.	.....
Mexican 3 per Ct. for Acc. January 16.	23	Belgian 4½ per Cents.	83
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	38½	Dutch 2½ per Cents.	61½
Portuguese 3 p. Cts., 1848	.....	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	94½

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

THIS EVENING the performances will commence with (first time) a Comic Drama, entitled **THE FIRST NIGHT**. Characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Leslie, Lindon, H. Cooper, and Vincent; Miss P. Horton and Miss Wyndham. After which, **THE CAMP AT THE OLYMPIC**. To conclude with **THE WANDERING MINSTREL**. Jem Baggs, Mr. F. Robson.—The doors will open at Seven; performance will commence at Half-past Seven.

WEDNESDAY EVENING CONCERTS, EXETER HALL.

January 18th, 1854. Selections from OPERATIC COMPOSERS. After which, Music of a Miscellaneous Character, including BALLADS, SONGS, &c.

Vocalists.—Mrs. Newton Frodsham (late Mrs. Alexander Newton), Madame Amedei, Madame Lablache, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Miss Messent, Mrs. Theodore Distin, Miss Dranelli (her first appearance), Mr. Augustus Braham, Mr. Lawler, and Signor F. Lablache.

Unrivalled Band. Conductor, Herr Meyer Lutz. Leader, Mr. Thirlwall. Director of the Music, Mr. Box. Managing Director, Mr. W. Willott. Admission 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., and Stalls, 5s.

Tickets to be had at the Hall.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the Members

of the Medical Profession is appointed to take place at the Hanover-square Rooms, on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 18, 1854, at 3 o'clock, P.M., precisely, to take into consideration the recent proceedings of the Committee of the Royal Free Hospital, in reference to the dismissal of John Gay, Esq., late Surgeon of that Institution.

HARVEY LUDLOW, Hon. Sec.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY or VIC-

TORY.—NELSON at the BATTLE of ST. VINCENT.—LEGGATT, HAYWARD, and LEGGATT beg to inform their patrons and friends, that T. Jones Barker's last grand historical PICTURE of NELSON RECEIVING the SWORDS from the vanquished officers on the quarter-deck of the SAN JOSEF, on the memorable 14th of February, 1797, at the battle of St. Vincent, is NOW ON VIEW at their Gallery, 79, Cornhill.

Court Circular, Nov. 24, 1853.—Windsor.—"Messrs. Leggatt had the honour of submitting to her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, Barker's painting of Nelson receiving the swords of the officers on the quarter-deck of the San Josef after the battle of St. Vincent."

In consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather, the picture is exhibited by gaslight, and may be viewed from 10 till 6.

WILLIAM STEVENS, Sole Agent for

supplying the Public with the celebrated unadulterated BOTTLED ALES, PORTER, and STOUT, brewed by the Metropolitan and Provincial Joint-Stock Brewery Company, submits the following scale of charges for the Company's goods in imperial measures:—

	s.	d.
Ale or Stout	quarts	6 0 per doz.
Do do	pints	3 0 "
Do do	half pints	2 0 "

TERMS—CASH.

Country orders promptly attended to.—Money orders on the Strand Office.

The same goods are constantly on draught at the Company's Wholesale and Retail Stores,

13, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, London,

Where all orders must be sent to

WILLIAM STEVENS, Sole Agent.

P.S.—A Single Bottle at the wholesale price, and families supplied with the same beer in casks.

THE COMFORT of a FIXED WATER-

CLOSET for £1.—Places in Gardens converted into comfortable Water-closets by the PATENT HERMETICALLY-SEALED PAN, with its self-acting water-trap valve, entirely preventing the return of cold air or effluvia. Price £1. Any carpenter can fix it in two hours. Also PATENT HERMETICALLY-SEALED INODOROUS COMMODORES for the Sick-room, price £1 4s., £2 6s., and £3. A Prospectus with Engravings forwarded by enclosing a post-stamp. At FYFE and CO.'S, 20, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden.

ALLSOPP'S INDIA PALE ALE.

PARKER and TWINING (late Harrington Parker), 51, Pall-mall, are now delivering the October Brewings in casks of 18 gallons and upwards.—Also in bottles, Imperial measure—Quarts, 8s.; Pints, 5s.; Half-pints (for luncheon), 3s. per dozen.

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 Office, 54, Old Broad-street, London. WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.

THE WORKING TAILORS' JOINT

STOCK COMPANY, 314, Oxford-street, near Hanover-square. Registered under 7 and 8 Victoria, cap. 110.

The above Company beg leave to call the attention of their customers and the public to the fact that they have lately made alterations in some of their arrangements and officers, in order that increased efficiency may be given to their business transactions, and greater satisfaction to their customers. The result of the experiment which they have now been engaged for three years in making, has proved the practicability of the principle of self-dependence on which they set out, relying for success on supplying good articles at a moderate price, in the fair way of ordinary business.

JAMES CAMPBELL, Manager and Secretary.

INSURRECTION IN CHINA.—TEAS

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