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The Leader.

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

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SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1854.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

CONFUSION in official proceedings—doubt and discontent in the public thought—appear to be the characteristics of affairs this week. In regard to the war, there is negotiation going on while "hostilities" are at the same time pushed forward; couriers are passing between St. Petersburg and Vienna, and St. Petersburg and Berlin, the different emissaries with different instructions; a special envoy starts from Berlin to London; and, concurrently, English ships are taking in French troops, from French ports, to be directed on unknown points of Russian territory in the Baltic; the public, here, watching all this, yet watching it with distrust, as unable to realise what our Government is actually intending—while rowing one way and looking another.

Government becomes more and more damaged, as the session proceeds; and doubts of its heartiness and earnestness, in carrying on war, are seemingly justified by the evidences which it assiduously supplies, that it is playing with Parliament and carrying on "business," which is always abandoned, without an object. A debate, injurious to the Cabinet's claims to good faith, impends for Monday night next, on the occasion of the vote of 17,000*l.* for the new office of Secretary of State for War; the public having meant something more than the creation of a new office—having meant the amalgamation of several of the old offices. And on Thursday night the Opposition in both Houses made successful attacks on the management of the Administration in the affair of the Irish Tenant Right bills. Certainly there is not one class, and not a single man, if it be not Mr. Napier, who is loth to part with the only measure that he was ever equal to organising—having done that so as not to satisfy—with any real reason to regret the disappearance of these bills. The Tory peers and landlords, who for Opposition purposes have murmured through Lord Malmesbury and Mr. Disraeli, can have no anxiety for the progress of measures which, however defective from the tenant's point of view, are much too good to suit Irish proprietors. The English members have as little concern in the matter as they have in the Lower Canada's agitation about seigniorial tenure. On the other hand, the Irish tenant-right members, such as Serjeant Shew and Mr. Lucas, with the best reasons for scrupulosity, because owing their seats

to the popular agitation, have indicated candidly that they preferred waiting till the question had made more way among English members, rather than grasp at this "concession"—which is destitute of nearly all they ask to be conceded. Whatever impression, therefore, has been produced to the discredit of Ministers, in connexion with the abandonment of these bills, resulted, altogether, in the first instance, from the ungraceful and uncandid way in which Sir John Young threw up his brief; and, in the second place, from the astoundingly confidential way in which Lord John Russell, in the course of his manifold explanations on Thursday, conveyed, in an *entre nous* manner, his own private opinion that it was sheer folly trying to legislate upon the matter at all—thus recklessly and unkindly casting distrust on the repeated declarations of his colleagues, the Dukes of Newcastle and Argyll, that they had gone into the committee *bonâ fide*, taken up the bills heartily, and wished them thorough success. A tendency to "shamming" earnestness was likewise detected on Monday, in the Lord Chancellor's affected reluctance to part with his Divorce Bill; he had to be, as it were, soothed and coaxed into not going on: all the grave Lords and truthful Bishops who participated in the affectionate teasing knowing well that the coyness was premeditated, and that the bill had been doomed by well ascertained arrangements:—the desertion of the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill, which affected the state of the Ecclesiastical Courts, necessarily leading to the abandonment of a Divorce Bill dependent upon the fate of those Courts. The Government could very well afford to speak out openly as to what it thinks itself bound to do in this exceptional war-session: and it is obvious that all this confusion in details, forcing on excommunications angry and hurtful, is the consequence of Lord John Russell's failing to deliver the usual periodical sketches of "business" and "intentions." In former years we have had an honest and a hearty wholesale massacre of the innocents; but, now, Lord John thinks it milder to cut his little ones up separately.

Mr. Disraeli did not, on Thursday, indicate that he is the sort of English statesman who always keeps the nation's interests in view in his Parliamentary action; and he did nothing towards organising his party, offering a policy, respecting a principle, or nearing power. Mr. Disraeli is merely a foreigner amusing himself in English public life; and the English public must not look

for English conscientiousness in him. But what he says is true or untrue, without reference to his own character; and it is no answer to his exposure of Ministerial, chiefly Lord John's, blundering, to point out that Mr. Disraeli is a reckless politician. The effect of his satiric criticism on Thursday night is palpable; the House was amused; the world laughs; and Lord John Russell was angry, and made a poor defence. He has botched the session; and we are not comforted by knowing that he means to be faithful to his Reform Bill and to the principles of John Somers.

The Bribery Bill is getting through the House with success; improved, in strictness and efficacy, at each step; so elaborated into excellence by the committee "up-stairs," to which it had been referred, that the consideration arises—should not all bills pass through a committee's alembic in the first instance? We have suggested elsewhere why we doubt if this bill will produce a true House of Commons; but its merits, within its scope, are so great, that we hear with regret the general opinion that it, too, will fail of the Royal assent this session. The Oxford University Bill has passed; Lord Derby—painfully convinced by his career in the committee, that he has lost all his hold on the Peers, who gave him his chance and found him wanting—not even caring to appear at all at the third stage. The Board of Health Bill, continuing the department for some years, is not safe: Mr. Chadwick's enemies are as numerous as the evils bound up with the "vested interests," which he has overthrown, or is fighting: and it will require all Lord Palmerston's tact to prevent the sanitary movement being arrested. The Radicals have made only one movement in the House this week: on the misgovernment of India in the Madras Presidency. It is obviously logical for this political confederation to attend to the misfortunes of England's own Hungarys before arranging for Austria's and Russia's: and Mr. Blackett is to be applauded for his conscientious labours in creating a public opinion here, and bringing it to bear upon the East India Company. He failed in the direct object of his motion, obtaining the appointment of a commission to go out and enquire: but he succeeded in his indirect, highly proper, aim. Mr. Bright made a speech significantly vigorous: suggesting that Manchester traders with India, though defeated on last year's India Bill, are determined to take the rule of Hindoos, and their tariffs, and their capacity to grow cotton, out of

the hands of the Board of Control. Mr. White-side's Bill (on Nuns' Property) has been withdrawn—and appropriately on the great "Orange" Irish anniversary, the 12th of July, when, indicating an improved state of society in Ireland, the "Grand Master," Lord Enniskillen, advised the "brethren," who so hate their brothers, not to "walk" in the customary offensive procession, so often, in so many districts, the occasion of loss of life. The Peers have passed the Bill abolishing the dog-cart system, but not without a debate in which there was ingenious argument, used with as much solemn earnestness as though the question affected the constitution, to show that the measure would throw 1500 people out of occupation, cause all the disharnessed dogs to be hung, and caninise our pork-pies for a considerable time to come. Last night the House of Commons continued the analysis of the Bribery Bill. This is the Parliamentary work of the week.

There has been a singular absence, during the week, of questions on Foreign Affairs; notwithstanding that the incidents abroad are numerous enough to excite curiosity, and some of them sufficiently serious for anxiety. The Spanish throne may be in direct danger from a Spanish insurrection, which, despite the absence of news, we cannot yet consider as a failure; and Spanish interests, as connected with Cuba, are being directly brought into consideration by the judicial proceedings in New Orleans against assumed agents of the Cuban annexators. Then there is the second American annexation question; the "authorities" in the Sandwich Islands having pronounced for the protection of the States:—the fact, and the future it indicates, raising the whole question—can the United States, which cannot annex without extending the United States' institutions, take an outlying island,—scarcely yet in a condition to send members to Congress? What, however, is most remarkable, is that no one, in either of our Houses of Parliament, has intervened for explanations about the political crisis in Canada.

The Foreign Question, the war, does not appear to be a Parliamentary question at all. No one asks what is Colonel Manteuffel's business in London; no one inquires—what is the real answer given by the Czar to Austria, and what is the other answer which he has sent to Berlin?—and can Austria be relied on? It is left to an accidental personage, of no political position, like Mr. Isaac Butt, to "move" the House of Commons on the current diplomatic doings; and Mr. Butt fixes merely on such an incident as an old Russian Count (Pahlen) being seen, or heard of, in company, about town, with that civil Cabinet Minister, Lord Granville. Lord Granville thinks it right to reply, in his place, to the insinuations against his patriotism; and he is supported by a mass of lordly evidence to character in assuring the nervous nation that the Count is not a spy, and not a diplomatist—but merely an "old friend"—an invalid—"dropping in" on our aristocracy, as he passes through London from Madeira, to the German baths. Mr. Butt is laughed at; and very properly. But it should be remarked, as all the world suspects that every Russian, allowed by his master to travel, is an agent of the Russian system, there was some justification for the impulsive terror of the patriots—who, however, are not anxious about the more accredited diplomatists, such as Colonel Manteuffel, who can be invited to court.

Among foreign affairs we must count the varieties of "loans" which are in the market: Russia's having failed: Austria's being forced: France's suggested second one not yet clearly ascertained as even a probability. There is still a dropping fire of paragraphs in the papers about the Turkish loan; but there is no information as to the Financiers either of England or France contemplating any veritable guarantee which would enable the Sultan to raise money. The funds are not in a position here to indicate that the Liberals could carry out a project which is a common topic of conversation: that the French and English peoples should subscribe a loan for Turkey. There is, indeed, great uneasiness in trade; for reasons requiring development. But because we cannot raise a Turkish loan there is all the greater reason why we should cease to pay the Russo-Dutch Loan. It is an old Whig principle, we are aware, to keep up punctual payments under that head to the Czar; but does the precedent bind the Coalition?

The Paris press insists that Queen Victoria is going to visit the French coast, during Louis

Napoleon's sojourn in the neighbourhood of his two grand camps—Boulogne and St. Omer; the circumstance that the royal yachts are being kept "in readiness" affording some evidence that the expectation is not altogether absurd; and this meeting of the imperial allies would, probably, not offend the *quidnuncs* who are hunting Count Pahlen out of his comfortable west-end hotel; while the two peoples would, no doubt, be pleased. The English ships, with the French infantry and artillery on board, sail to-day, (or sailed yesterday) from the Calais roads; and the "unique event" ought to have a fine day for its consummation—for, then the fleet could be seen from the shores of both countries as it passes up that channel which has been the immortal battle-stage of British and French sailors.

The first thing to be remarked in surveying the map of war is still the fact which we pointed out last week—that the Russians have not retreated in any way that can lead to the belief that they intend to abandon Moldavia or even Wallachia. All that they have done is to withdraw from the Danube to securer positions on the northern roads leading to Moldavia. Alarmed by the first report that an Austrian division would enter Wallachia by the Danube, and defeated before Silistria, there is some reason for believing that they withdrew rather hastily at first from Kalarasch, and hastened the transportation of the wounded and the stores towards Fokschany, the point of concentration on the north of Wallachia. But that this retrograde movement did not continue we have now abundant evidence. So little indeed did the generals think of retreating behind the Pruth that their Cossack outposts at Simnizta and other places were not withdrawn; for the Austrian steamer, Arpad, proceeding down the Danube with the military men appointed to consult with the allies, was recently fired on from the left bank, and forced to return. Subsequently Prince Gortschakoff pushed forward a strong column from Urshitzeni upon Bucharest, and finding that the Turks had abandoned Lesser Wallachia, or at least had not passed the Aluta, he even threw out his pickets as far as Slatina, and spread Cossack patrols down the left bank of that river. Should this be correct the Russian forces are still in possession of the great road leading to the Rothen Thurm Pass; and may be said to make front to the Austrians on all the practicable points along the mountain barrier of the Carpathians. Of course the line of the Jalomintza is still maintained, and the extreme right at Kimpina has been strengthened by the erection of a battery of twenty-four guns at the Tömosch Pass—the centre road in the break of the mountain ridge, leading directly upon Cronstadt in Transylvania. In the rear of the line of the Jalomintza, stretching across Wallachia, the Russians have strengthened the line of the Sereth, and have increased the army of Moldavia, by the addition of the force hitherto encamped at Odessa, which in its turn has been relieved by troops from the interior. Besides this, the massing of troops round the Austrian frontier continues without abatement; and should Austria actively co-operate with the Western Powers, there seems little doubt but that her Polish provinces would be speedily occupied by the enemy. As we remarked last week, Russia holds in her hand all the great lines of operation leading to the heart of Galicia, by holding both banks of its rivers. Such would appear to be the position of the enemy.

If we may believe the telegraph, the allies have commenced offensive operations by striking a blow at Giurgevo, and again crossing the river at Oltenitza. As it is now stated, the former operation involved a serious battle. The Turks, under Omer Pasha (?) crossed the Danube and "surrounded" the Russians under General Soimonoff; the latter only escaping by cutting through his foes with a heavy loss. Prince Gortschakoff was said to be marching down from Bucharest to deal with the Turks, who are said to be supported by an Anglo-French force at Rustchuck, 15,000 strong. These statements do not seem accurate. It is not likely that Omer Pasha would abandon the main body of his troops to head an expeditionary assault upon Giurgevo; nor do we know how the 15,000 British and French troops could have reached Rustchuck, seeing that Rustchuck is at least one hundred miles from the camp of the allies near Varna, where they lay on the 26th of June, sadly in want of a waggon train, and suffer-

ing under the terrible mismanagement of the Commissariat Department. Still it may be as the telegraph reports; and the Light Division, or some other corps, repeatedly under marching orders, may have actually got to the Danube. But the probability is that the telegraph is not accurate. What is certain is, that Lord Cardigan, with some light horse, had been sent towards the Danube, with the view of obtaining information. At and near Varna there were not less than 60,000 French and British troops; and we must wait patiently for intelligence of their doings.

The Black Sea fleet is again before Sebastopol; Sir Edmund Lyons is reported to be engaged in the reduction of Anapa; and assisted by some small heavily armed Turkish steamers, some men-of-war's boats have penetrated the Sulina mouth of the Danube, and have completed the blockade of that river.

Better news has arrived from the seat of war in Asia. Although a division of Selim Pasha's corps has been defeated near Kutais, the army at Kars is in a state fit for active operations. The Russians, as we have before stated, are acting on the defensive; and the Turks, anxious to take the offensive, are only restrained by the dissensions and want of military aptitude of their commanders. General Guyon, indeed, has brought the army into a state of efficiency; and General Kmety has reduced the Bashi Bazooks to order and proved their metal, but the Poles intrigue against the Hungarians, and whatever the latter propose, the former declare against. We must not expect much from the army in Asia until it receives better leaders. With respect to Schamyl the news is obscure. He is reported to have been roughly handled on the road to Teflis; but these accounts are, of course, Russian in their origin.

The war in the Baltic is about to assume grand proportions. A corps of French troops, under Baraguay d'Hilliers, collected at Boulogne, and destined for the Baltic, were reviewed by the Emperor on Wednesday. British ships of war and French sailing transports will carry this army to its destination; the first corps starting to-day. Admiral Napier, who with the combined fleets lay for twelve days before Cronstadt, defying its fleet, and flinging down his challenge, surveying its forts, and sounding its waters, returned on the 6th instant to Barosund to wait for the troops. Should the report prove true that Sweden will furnish an army of 40,000 men, great things may even yet be done. At all events there will be no troops to spare from St. Petersburg and Finland with which to reinforce the armies on the frontier.

PARLIAMENT OF THE WEEK.

THERE was to have been a great debate this week on the whole question of the war and the Government's position, the opportunity being afforded by the new vote in supply for the new office of Minister of War. But the vote, which was to have been taken last night, stands over until Monday.

TENANT RIGHT (IRELAND) BILLS.—CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The first of these important measures was brought before the House of Commons on Tuesday. Mr. Serjeant SHEE, entrusted with the question by the independent Irish party, immediately insisted upon the bill being withdrawn; arguing, that at that period of the session it was a farce to pretend that the code could be passed. Other members took the same view; and, apparently as if by arrangement, Sir JOHN YOUNG, the Secretary for Ireland, consented to "withdraw." This was considered disgraceful to the Government, which had pledged itself to the committees of Lords and Commons, who have sat on the bills, to press on the question.

On Thursday, the "grievance" produced lengthy acrimonious conversations in both Houses.

In the Lords, Lord MALMESBURY, who, in Lord Derby's absence or disgust, would seem to be leader of the Peers' Opposition, opened fire on the Duke of Newcastle, who, on Tuesday, had spoken of the bills in a precisely opposite tone to that of Sir J. Young—admitting that the bills were Government bills, while the Secretary for Ireland had affected to deal with them as "stray" bills, the responsibility of withdrawing which he was ready, under a pressure, to take, but the going on with which he would leave either to Mr. Serjeant Shee or to Mr. Napier (the guardian and the putative father), if they liked.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE defended himself as well as he could, and, having no defence, rather lost his temper.

Lord DONOUGHMORE, Lord SALISBURY, and Lord MONTEAGLE took part in the "row," blaming the Government and pitying Mr. Napier, all whose

time had been thrown away; but the talk came to nothing.

In the Commons, Mr. NAPIER, a wearily conscientious man, made a long and boring statement to show that the Government had played fast and loose with the question; and almost wept as he recited his own labours and his merits. Sir J. YOUNG answered; he had withdrawn the bills, he said, because Serjeant Shee pressed him, and because his own private opinion was the bills couldn't pass this session. If they were Government bills, as Mr. Napier said, then he argued, he had a right to withdraw them; if they were not, let those to whom they belonged go on with them;—he had no objection.

This duel having been finished, and the House, which was very thin, being obviously uninterested in the matter, Lord JOHN interposed, and asked that there might be no more debating, and that he might be allowed to go on with "business"—viz., something which, by-and-by, Lord John meant, in the same way, to abandon. But an Irish debate had set in, and was not to be baulked. Mr. WHITESIDE, *alter ego* of Mr. Napier, got up, with his usual readiness in spasmodic invective, and said just what Lord Malmesbury had said in the other House. Mr. JOHN FITZGERALD, a lawyer exposed to Government promotion, defended Sir John Young, and told the truth: the bills were such bad bills—the House of Lords' bills—that they could not satisfy the people; and the people's members thought them a good riddance. Mr. LUCAS followed, repudiating the sneers used in the debate that he and his political party had converted the question of tenant-right into political capital; suggesting that there had only been a four hour's debate on the matter in the Commons during the whole of that session. Mr. Lucas, in a singularly bold allusion, which made a sensation, expressed in Tory cheers and laughter, said that Sir John Young was the last man who should have resorted to such a sneer, for Mr. Keogh was Sir John's colleague; Mr. Keogh's name was on the back of Sharman Crawford's bill; and Mr. Keogh was that "extraordinary apostate" who had declared, in public meetings in Ireland, that "so help him God," he would never take office under a Government which would not condition to pass into action the principles of Sharman Crawford's tenant-right philosophy.

Then Lord JOHN rose again: answering not Mr. Lucas's allusion to Mr. Keogh—this Lord John pointedly declined to refer to—but Mr. Lucas's demand—what are the intentions of the Government about Tenant Right? On this head, Lord John was loose and incoherent, as usual: enumerating the difficulties, and hoping "the time would come" when both extreme parties, the popular and the landlord, would compromise their differences, and assent to a good measure, the merit of which should be to facilitate free contracts. Meanwhile he thought Ireland so tremendously prosperous that there was no hurry. Mr. Maguire, following, said that this speech of Lord John's "would inflict a blow upon the hopes of the people of Ireland." Mr. Maguire spoke in terms of contempt for a Government which could thus play with a great question and an oppressed people. Other Irish members having followed in a similar strain,

Mr. DISRAELI rose to attack the Government, collected a large House, and provided amusement for an hour. After an eulogium on his friend Mr. Napier, he went on:—"I want to know what her Majesty's Ministers have been doing during the last six months that we have not this question before this time fairly conquered and fully disposed of? I want to know where is the catalogue of their legislative exploits which will excuse us for this period of time so employed or so wasted (*cheers*)? If they are at war, what conquests have they achieved? If they are at peace, what advantageous arrangements—what beneficial legislation—have they accomplished? Have they reformed Parliament? Have they revised parliamentary oaths? Have they educated the country? Have they even educated Scotland (*cheers*)? What corrupt corporation have they punished? What have they done which will form a valid excuse why they have not dealt with this all-important measure (*cheers*)? Sir, I think that, instead of a motion to report progress, it would be more satisfactory to the committee—it would be more satisfactory to the Minister who pretends to lead the House of Commons, if he had given us a reason why, having sat six months and done nothing, we should not at least have this? Report progress on these two bills! Sir, that is too derisive a motion to make (*loud cheers*). Report progress on the Ministry (*laughter*)? Tell us what they have done. Let us have a motion to that effect. Come to this table and tell us what her Majesty's Ministers have done. That report of progress would be much more edifying and satisfactory to the house than the motion which has been made by the Lord President this evening (*cheers*). The noble lord and his coopeers have not succeeded yet in dealing with any difficult question—at any rate in dealing with a question so vast and complicated as this. The late Government attempted to deal with it with some efficiency and with all sincerity. And what is the prospect which the noble lord holds out to us of the future legislation of his Government—

if it be a Government—on this subject? (*Cheers*.) A few nights ago a distinguished member of the Treasury bench spoke of the conduct of gentlemen on this side of the House—who at least, whether right or wrong, are not inconsiderable from the number of their party connexions, and who are, in my opinion, still more important from the principles they profess—he spoke of them as a party, if they be a party. (*Laughter*.) That, sir, was the courteous comment of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. If we are to be spoken of as a party—if we be a party—I think I may speak of the noble lord and his friends as a Government, if they be a Government. But, in conducting our debates in a spirit mutually provisional (*a laugh*), I would ask the noble lord, who tells you he can do nothing at present, whether he will answer the question of an honourable gentleman who has addressed him from the back benches—what are the intentions of his Government with regard to the tenure of land in Ireland for the future? I think that was a very fair and a very parliamentary question. How it was met I leave the committee to decide. The noble lord says it is a difficult question; and, therefore, we are not to deal with it. Why, sir, my idea of a Government is, that it is a body of men that ought to deal with difficult questions. I know that the Lord President for a number of years has somehow or other contrived to govern this country; and personally speaking I think he has governed it with admirable ability. A ripe scholar, an unrivalled debater, and, in my opinion, no uncommon orator—still I think the secret spell of his administration has been, that he has always evaded questions that are difficult."

Other similar taunts told:—

"Sir, the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant says, the learned serjeant (Shee) is not one of the gentlemen who honour the Government with their support. I confess, sir, especially at this advanced period of the session, that I shall not enter into the inquiry who are the gentlemen who honour the present Government with their support (*a laugh*)? That is one of those questions which might lead not only to debates but even to adjourned debates. I hardly know any question of the present day which might be susceptible of such a variety of treatment and of such interminable discussion. Whether, after the longest discussion, it could be proved satisfactorily to the country that there are any gentlemen who extend to her Majesty's Ministers that unbounded support which, of course, they may desire, is a question which we need not now settle, and I still leave it as one of those vexed questions which agitate and, perhaps, amuse the political world. Sir, I wanted upon the present occasion that the House and the country should understand what we are talking about this evening; and that the noble lord should not rise in a thin House, with no one present, and think he is to stifle the expression of parliamentary opinion by moving, sir, that you should report progress."

Then he had some satirical consolation for Mr. Napier:—

"I think the committee will sympathise with my right hon. friend in the disappointment which he has expressed; but my right hon. friend quite forgets that however the Government may have behaved towards him, they have only followed the rule which, with uniform impartiality, they have extended to themselves. He must remember that if they have acted with faithlessness towards him, it is the way (as far as we can learn, not only from private report, which is not always right, but from public demonstration, which must influence us all) that they have conducted themselves towards each other. I think my right hon. friend was overcome by a surplussage of sensibility when he complained of the perfidy of the Ministry towards him. Only a simple member of the Opposition, he did not understand that the process of treatment to which the Reform Bill had been disposed might be employed to give the bill for the settlement of the tenure of land its quietus. I think he ought to have taken that into consideration before he made his appeal to the committee. If he had asked my opinion I would have said, there is nothing unreasonable in your desire to proceed with a measure which you believe calculated to benefit the country. But you must remember that her Majesty's Government is composed of singular materials. You must remember that bills have been withdrawn after the most solemn pledges—in fact, the business of the country with a coalition Ministry cannot be carried on without some political perfidy. I would have advised my right hon. friend to hesitate before he made that appeal to the committee. He must have felt that the country is now involved in circumstances of great difficulty and of great national exigency, in which it is of the utmost importance that we should persuade all Europe that we have a powerful Government supported by an unanimous Parliament. If, indeed, my right hon. friend had made a motion, which by the rules of the House it was competent for him to do—if he had proposed that strangers should not be admitted for the rest of the session, and that no reports of our proceedings should be published—I think it would have tended very much

to strengthen the hands of her Majesty's Government."

Lord JOHN, for the third time, rose obviously angry, almost beyond his practised parliamentary control. He had only recrimination to offer. Mr. Disraeli was not conducting Opposition properly, he ought to propose some vote on which the sense of the House should be taken as to the right of the Government to be in Government. "The right hon. gentleman finds himself precluded from pursuing that course which a leader of an Opposition would naturally pursue, namely, to take some question to bring before the House their want of confidence in the Government when they do not deserve support. The right hon. gentleman shrinks from that; but when some independent member has placed a motion on the paper in which no principle is involved, when nothing is to be gained, he comes down and seeks to gain the triumph of putting the Government in a minority. Such is the conduct of the right hon. gentleman. Certainly such conduct is something new to me—(*Oh, oh, from the Opposition benches*)—certainly it is. I have had the honour of being a member of Governments which have been opposed by such leaders as Sir R. Peel, and others like him. When they found that their principles obliged them to oppose the Government, they did so openly, fairly, and honestly, and they did not come down to the House merely to take hold of anything that might be under discussion." Then, of course, he talked of his Reform Bill, the withdrawal of that had won the approval of the country (*Ironical cheers*); and, some day, he meant to go on with it. In conclusion, he used a sentence which condemns all the enthusiasm of several of his colleagues on the question, and certainly induces a question as to the candour with which, up to this time, the Government, as a body, has shown:—

"I entertain very great doubts whether legislation can ever be so minute as to be applied with efficacy and justice to this subject."

Mr. DISRAELI, provokingly cool, replied:—leaving Lord John utterly prostrate:—

"The noble lord has made some comments on the relation which exists on this side of the House between the members of the Conservative party and those who have the office of directing their general conduct. It seems to me, as far as I can collect from the noble lord's peculiar notions, that they have no confidence in their leader, and that their leader has no confidence in them; but, nevertheless, he admits that they are always putting Government in a minority. (*Laughter*.) That is extremely unfortunate. But I wish to disabuse him of the impression which he seems to have imbibed, that my principal business is to study the attempts which are made to put the noble lord in a minority. On the contrary, I can assure him that if he occupied my position under similar conditions, and under the circumstances which prevail in the political world, he would find that the principal business and duty of my position is to study, if possible, how the Government should not be put in a minority. (*Laughter*.) The noble lord has made a very strange comment upon this remarkable state of affairs. He says he does not expect that I should propose a vote of want of confidence in the Government. But as the noble lord admits that it is not my province, and that it is not incumbent upon me to propose a vote of want of confidence in the Government, I wish he would have the kindness to inform the House what is the great subject which he wishes to be brought forward, and upon which he wishes to obtain the opinion of the House of Commons? There are subjects which concern the disposition of political power—such as the Reform Bill—and there is the system of national education. Surely these are great subjects, and, although there are not many subjects of that importance which can be quoted as having been brought before our consideration this year, there have been some other subjects of first-rate parliamentary importance, the results of which, having been submitted to the notice of the House either by the Government or other parties, have, generally speaking, placed the Government in minorities—in considerable minorities—some twelve, fourteen, or sixteen or eighteen times during this session. He is disquieted under the frequent minorities in which the Government is placed, in consequence of being opposed by a body of gentlemen who have no confidence in their leader, and whose leader has no confidence in them. That is fortunate for the Government. It seems to me that, if they were opposed to a party who had confidence in their leader, and whose leader had confidence in them, bad as is the present state of things, it would not last out the evening." (*Heard, hear, and great laughter.*)

This was the finishing stroke: "If he wished the confidence of the House in the Government to be tested, he is bound to ask one of his supporters to originate a motion for that purpose. I do not want the opinion of the House of Commons to be put to rest, or else I would ask the House to express an opinion on the subject. I do not wish to disturb the Government. I admire their powers of sufferance (*Laughter*). I am willing, as one of a grateful community, to do justice to their patriotism. (*Continued*)

laughter.) When the Coalition Government was formed, I was asked how long it would last, and I ventured to reply, 'Until every member of it is, as a public character, irretrievably injured.' (Laughter.) Then the subject dropped.

BRIBERY.

It will be remembered that all the "Bribery Bills"—the Government's, Sir Fitzroy Kelly's, and Mr. Walpole's—were referred together to a select committee, which has worked hard and honestly, and sent down a measure with the merits of the three measures. This was discussed, in committee, in the House of Commons, on Monday. From thirty to forty members took part in the discussion of the various clauses, suggesting a variety of pure improvements, and technical difficulties. Mr. Henry Drummond made a sensation in the debate by these parenthetical impertinences:

Mr. H. DRUMMOND said that he should have supposed that a dry discussion on technical phrases would not have produced a very lively or entertaining debate in the House of Commons. He confessed, however, that he had never assisted at anything more amusing than the discussion upon this bill. (A laugh.) How any gentleman could conceive that bribery could be carried on at elections in any but in one of three ways, viz., agency, travelling expenses, or treating, he could not imagine. Both sides were agreed that they would get rid of this dreadful thing—bribery. The first thing that came under consideration was agency, and the committee immediately endeavoured to spoil the bill by putting into it a piece of bad law, instead of good law, in order that the country gentlemen might understand it. (A laugh.) Then, upon travelling expenses, they proposed to leave matters just as they now stood. Was it possible to stop bribery in this way? The whole thing was a perfect farce. Then they came to refreshments. Call it a two shilling ticket, or any sum they pleased. But it was through these refreshments, and through these travelling expenses, that all bribery was carried on. ("No.") Well, he would admit that there were some common, stupid fellows into whose hands a guinea was placed. (A laugh.) But that was the exception. The main part of the bribery was carried on through the three things he had named, and against any effective alteration of these three things the committee opposed itself strongly. The House of Commons talked about bringing in bills for the purity of election! It was really surprising that gentlemen having cut their wisdom teeth should sit there all night, and discuss matters after such a fashion. (Laughter.)

The House was greatly puzzled how to deal with "treating."

Lord LOVAIN said the noble lord the member for Middlesex had used the strongest argument in favour of allowing moderate treating when he stated that both sides were now obliged to adopt it by arrangement; it would be much better for the committee to legalise so common and necessary a practice than attempt to put it down by legislation, which would be ineffectual.

Mr. Fox thought it would be very easy to put down the practice by Act of Parliament, because they would have the hearty concurrence of the working classes, who took a deep interest in the question, and were anxious to have a stop put to what was the commencement of all violence and debauchery at elections. It was ridiculous to talk of the disfranchisement of those who would not vote unless they were dragged to the poll, and not even then unless they had the prospect of meat and drink. The majority of the working classes considered the question of bribery to turn on this point; there was not one of them who would not willingly sacrifice a day's work to give his vote. Treating was the simplest form of corruption, and ought to be the first attacked.

The point was left undecided; Mr. COLLIER postponing his stringent amendment till the bringing up of the report.

"Expenses" was another difficulty.

Mr. BARROW said that if the expenses of the county voters were not paid, half of the county constituents would be disfranchised. He could never consent to give his vote to that effect.

Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY stated that in the West Riding there were at least 36,000 electors. If each elector were to get 2s., they might easily estimate what a large sum it would amount to. Under such circumstances none but the most wealthy could stand as representatives for such districts.

Mr. DENISON said that in 1807 the expenses of the West Riding election came to 250,000*l.*, and in 1826 to 170,000*l.* Even now, when brought down to the lowest possible limits, the amount was not under 14,000*l.* It was, therefore, hardly necessary for him to state how desirous the county members were to stop corruption. All they wished for was to afford some refreshment to those who spent a whole day in journeying to the poll. It was different in a borough election, where a man could record his vote and return to his work with scarcely any loss of time, and without being put to inconvenience. He challenged the House to show if corruption in counties

approached in any degree the extent of bribery practised in the boroughs.

Mr. Fox said he had been returned three times to Parliament by one small borough, and that these three elections had not cost him three shillings. Many other new boroughs had continued untainted till some wealthy gentleman, ambitious for senatorial honours, had come into the field and commenced canvassing. If they would try the ballot, it would be of little consequence how high the refreshment ticket might be.

Mr. WILLIAMS had known the case of an election won by a large breakfast given to a party of electors.

On the clause respecting intimidation, Mr. WHITESIDE and Mr. WALPOLE asked what protection was provided for the Irish independent elector who might happen to be denounced from the altar by a Roman Catholic priest? Lord JOHN RUSSELL thought that the wording of the clause was general enough to deal with such offences by priests; but Mr. Walpole, as a lawyer, was of opinion that only a special act would meet this (hypothetical) evil.

Clause 6 contains the sting of the bill, so far as aspiring "public men" are concerned. By this it is enacted,

"That any person who shall be guilty of treating, or of using undue influence, upon judgment being obtained against him for any penal sum made recoverable by the act in respect of such offence, shall be incapable of being elected, and of sitting or voting as a member of the House of Commons in the Parliament in existence or in the course of being elected at the time such acts were committed."

TENURE OF LAND IN MADRAS.

On Tuesday Mr. BLACKETT forced on a very useful debate in the Commons, on one of the many evils inflicted on India by the "company" whom England allows to misrule "our fellow-subjects." In a speech full of knowledge and moderation, he exposed a frightful social mischief; the cultivators of the land being reduced to indigence and retained in a state of abject dependence on the crown landlord. Mr. Blackett was supported by Mr. Danby Seymour, who had visited the Presidency, and now indicated a damaging familiarity with facts. The motion (which was for an address to the Crown to appoint a commission) was resisted by the President and the Secretary of the Board of Control, and, of course, by the East India Directors who are M.P.'s—prominently by Sir James Hogg. Mr. Blackett was beaten on a division by 64 to 59.

In the course of the debate Mr. BRIGHT told some hard truths:—

"He concluded from the indignation expressed by the hon. baronet (Hogg), that the speech of his hon. friend the member for Poole (Seymour), had 'told,' and the hon. baronet had succeeded very poorly in answering him. The speech of the hon. member for Poole was one of those, however, which it was quite impossible to answer unless they told the hon. member that they did not believe what he said, he having simply related what he had himself seen. His hon. friend had been out to India for a purpose which did him infinite credit; and he could not help thinking that it would be greatly to the advantage of India if other hon. members would follow his example, and instead of spending the recess in Germany, Switzerland, and Scotland, go out to India, and make themselves masters of the real state of the country. (A laugh.) The information which the hon. member for Poole collected there was nothing more than what was confirmed by every work which had been written upon India, as well as by the statements of many gentlemen, both civil and military, who had been in the service of the East India Company. The grievances of India had too long been uncared for; and now that Englishmen were repairing there, to ascertain the real state of things, considerable jealousy was excited in the Government, who were anxious to keep matters still in the dark. There was one conclusive evidence against their rule, and that was this, viz., that although they had been in possession of the country for upwards of a hundred years, there were not as many Englishmen settled in the interior of India as would make one side of the House on a fair division on any considerable party question. If it had been in the hands of any other country than this; or if it had been under any other Government than that of the India House, such a state of things would not have arisen. Had it been under an absolute monarchy, like that of France, or a democracy, like the United States, in either case it would have been more flourishing. But a corporation had been truly said to be 'deaf to mercy, and insensible to shame;' and this was the case with the company represented by the hon. member for Honiton. That hon. gentleman had not at all succeeded in showing that the inhabitants of Madras were not in the miserable state described by a former speaker. It was not necessary that the proposed commission should be sent from this country; it might consist of persons in India; but he sincerely hoped that the President of the Board of Control would take the matter up. The miserable state of Madras was undeniable; every book, paper, and parliamentary report confirmed this. The land was largely out of cultivation, and the inhabitants were half starved."

CRIMINAL LAW CODIFICATION.

The LORD CHANCELLOR (Monday), in moving for the appointment of a select committee to report upon the nine bills on the criminal law which were laid before the House this session and last, stated that differences of opinion existed between noble and learned lords as to the course that was proper to be pursued with regard to a codification of the criminal law. For himself, he almost despaired of such a codification passing the House in the usual form. In the case of a former attempt, eleven complete days had been spent in discussing it, and the measure was

imperfect, and he believed that the failure was occasioned by their endeavour to strike off at once a complete whole, which should be a sort of model for all succeeding legislation. At the same time he thought much good would result from referring these bills, which aimed at a consolidation of the statute law to a select committee, that they might determine upon the proper course to be taken with regard to them.

Lord CAMPBELL thought that the only chance of obtaining a code would be by Parliament vesting the power of framing one in certain individuals—naming them—and then adopting or rejecting it as a whole. But, like his noble and learned friend, he despaired of obtaining a code if it were to be passed in the usual manner by the two Houses, to be canvassed in that House by chancellors and ex-chancellors, and in the other House by aspiring lawyers, by all who held or hoped to hold office. The "Code Napoleon" was framed as a whole and adopted as a whole; and it was only by dealing with the measure as a whole that they could ever hope to have a code in this country.

The LORD CHANCELLOR hoped it would not be understood that he expected all or any of these bills to pass this session. What he promised was this—that as soon as the select committee had agreed on their report, he would devote himself during the recess, along with the gentlemen who had originally prepared them, to put them in a proper form, to be immediately introduced into their lordships' House next session. He agreed in much of what his noble and learned friend had said with regard to a code. Lord Brougham, to whom they were indebted for most of these bills, proposed to begin the code with enacting that from and after the passing of such an act nothing should be unlawful except what was forbidden in it. Now, he always thought that was the point which they should endeavour to work up to, not that on which they should take their stand at first and work down from. When they had provided a consolidation of the various offences, then would be the proper time to abrogate all other provisions.

The motion was agreed to, and the committee was named accordingly.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—This bill, Mr. Dunlop's, appears to have had for an object the housing and "religious teaching" of destitute children in Scotch towns. But two Roman Catholic members, Mr. MAGUIRE and Mr. LUCAS, have opposed, and practically thrown out, the bill, because they are determined "to put an end to the proselytising system"—Mr. DUNLOP declining to adopt provisions which would have allowed Roman Catholic chaplains to look after Roman Catholic children in the schools. This is an incident resulting from the House's recent bigoted vote on the Middlesex School Bill.

ABANDONED BILLS.—The Government has abandoned the "Divorce and Matrimonial Causes" Bill—a bill brought in in conformity with the recommendations of the Commission on Divorce. The LORD CHANCELLOR offered to go on (on Monday) with the bill, minus all the vital clauses (which is the Lord Chancellor's notion of statesmanship); but Lord CAMPBELL and the Bishop of Oxford advised him to make a clear abandonment of the whole business—of course until next session—and he consented. In fact, the withdrawal of the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill necessarily led to the desertion of this bill—both having reference to a reform in the system of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

CAPTAIN CARPENTER'S SCREW PROPELLERS.—Lord LYNCHURST brought the case of Captain Carpenter before the House of Lords on Monday. Captain Carpenter is the inventor of screw machinery used in the navy. The House of Commons, some sessions ago, granted the Admiralty the sum of 20,000*l.* for the purchase of patents such as Captain Carpenter's. The Admiralty handed over the money to Mr. Currie, the chairman of a "Screw Propeller Company," conditioning that Mr. Currie should apply the money properly. Mr. Currie misapplied the money: for the man, Captain Carpenter, to whom the service and the country was most indebted, in respect to these matters, never got a farthing. He had made great sacrifices—and this is his reward: not an uncommon one in a country governed by Boards, who are practically irresponsible.—Lord ABERDEEN defended the Admiralty, ingeniously but not successfully; and he was ungenerous enough to refer Captain Carpenter to an action at law. There the debate ended: Lord MALMESBURY expressing what was probably the general opinion produced by Lord Lynchurst's statement—viz., that Capt. Carpenter had been "cheated."

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH BILL.—This bill went through Committee on Monday.—The Home Secretary escaping criticism at that stage by throwing Mr. Chadwick overboard.—Lord PALMERSTON said the question mooted was not the constitution of the General Board of Health, but whether they would allow certain towns to have local self-government and certain powers for the preservation of public health. Surely, from a universal dislike to a particular man, they would not punish the population who had nothing on earth to do with the disputes of that unfortunate member of the General Board of Health.—On Tuesday, in the Lords, Lord SHAFTESBURY, who is chairman of the board, attempted to deliver what was understood to be intended as an assault on Lord Seymour, in revenge for that ill-natured Peer's sneers generally at the department, and specially at Mr. Chadwick. But Lord Shaftesbury was stopped, as out of order; and the vindication stands over.

THE RELIGIOUS RETURNS CENSUS.—On Tuesday the Bishop of Oxford moved the Lords for a return of the detailed returns on which the religious census had been founded. He based his application on the assertion that the gross returns led to a false impression as to the actual number of the members of the Church of England, the right reverend prelate insinuating that the Dissenters had exaggerated their

wn numbers, while many clergymen of the Church of England had refrained from full statements. Lord GRANVILLE, for the Government, refused the return: it couldn't be obtained; or, if it could, it would be too expensive; and here the matter dropped—no doubt as the bishop intended. Lord Granville paid a high compliment to the administrative genius displayed by the Registrar-General (Mr. Farr) in organising the returns.

DOG-CARTS.—The Lords had a laughing debate, on Monday, in committee on the bill to prohibit generally in England that is prohibited in and near the metropolis, viz., the use of dog-carts. The bill was opposed by various peers—conspicuously by the Earl of EGLINTON; the grounds of objection being, that the bill would throw 1500 people out of their ordinary occupation; that the bill would cause 20,000 dogs to be hung up immediately, Lord Eglinton suggesting that the community would consequently have to be careful about the pork pies of the period, and that it was absurd for the legislature, which allowed cruelty to cab-horses, and to fox-hounds, and to industrious fleas (the last was Lord Lyndhurst's ironical suggestion), to be so generous to dogs. The bill, however, passed: dogs are to be taken from carts and put upon gallowses—which will at least be a blessing to the sing generation of dogs. The peculiarity of the debate was that the dog-cart question was an "open question" with the cabinet. Lord GRANVILLE was in favour of continuing the use of dogs for draught—the Duke of ARGYLE was eloquent in behalf of the dog—and one Cabinet Minister thus answered another; also voted against one another. The Coalition is not coalesced—even in going to the dogs.

PROPERTY OF NUNS BILLS.—On Wednesday, Mr. WHITEHEAD gave up the bill which, earlier in the session, excited such bitter feeling in the Roman Catholic community. The Irish independent members ironically complimented him on his charity; the fact being that Mr. Whitehead found that there was not quite bigotry enough to carry him through.

COMMERCIAL PATRIOTISM.—In the House of Commons Lord Dudley Stuart has obtained leave to bring in a bill ordering it a misdemeanour for British subjects to purchase or deal in securities issued by the Russian government during the present war. The penalties attaching to high treason are threatened by the law officers of the Crown against British subjects who may subscribe to new Russian loans in the present position of relations between our Government and that of the Czar; but there is at present no legal enactment sufficient to prevent such securities from coming into the hands of English holders through the intermediate agency of continental dealers—a process which, of course, could help the Russian treasury almost as much as if the money were raised directly in England. Can such a bill be necessary? While our aristocracy is coquetting with Count Pahlen, can our 'Changes be flirting with the Russian finance Minister?

COUNT PAHLEN.—Count Pahlen, a Russian gentleman, well known to the English nobility, and a great favourite, as we judge from the parliamentary encomiums passed upon him, is in London this week, being on his way from Madeira, where he has been sojourning for his health, to the Continent. While here, he paid his usual visits, and received the usual attentions from our governing class; and, among other attentions, he was nominated by Lord Granville for the usual courtesies of the Travellers' Club. The fact engaged attention: the *Herald* gave cry about a "Russian spy," declaiming against the want of patriotism and proper conduct in a Minister, who thus cultivated the society of a Russian. Mr. J. Butt, who represents the *Herald* in Parliament, asked a question, and threatens a "notice;" and meanwhile, Lord Granville has offered his vindication to the Lords, who cheered him, expressing their disgust at the attack, and endorsing all that Lord Granville had to say of Count Pahlen being a person as innocent of politics as he is delightful in society. Lord Brougham, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Ellesmere, and Lord Malmesbury, spoke of their long and intimate acquaintance with Count Pahlen's harmlessness; and, of course, Lord Campbell, with obsequious alacrity to say a courtly thing to a powerful class, pronounced a verdict of acquittal on Lord Granville.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY BILL has been read a third time and passed.

THE GUILD OF LITERATURE AND ART.—The bill of his confederation, which enables them to commence operations, has been passed by both Houses, and has received the royal assent.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—MEDICAL DEGREES.—The Medical Graduates Bill introduced by Mr. Bell has received the sanction of the House of Commons. This measure, it is anticipated, will have a most beneficial influence on the interests of both the medical profession and the public at large. Its leading feature is to place the graduates of that institution on a footing in all respects with the graduates of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge—thereby breaking down a monopoly of interest which has so long interfered with the advancement of medical reform, and, at the same time, exerting a most salutary check upon the College of Physicians of London—an institution which has greatly damaged itself by its illiberal management. Lord Palmerston has undertaken to legislate on the whole question of medical reform next session; and Mr. Brady, surgical representative in the House, will compete with a second man.

NOTES ON THE WAR.

The *Morning Chronicle* says:—"The disappointment felt by the Czar at the course which events have taken is significantly displayed in the disgrace which has fallen on the late commander-in-chief. It seems that Prince Paskiewitsch has been directed not to return to Warsaw, but to reside for the present on his estates in Podolia. The fall of the veteran field-marshal is the more conspicuous from the steadiness which his master has always shown in his personal

and official predilections. It is one of the most respectable features in the character of the Emperor Nicholas that his great officers of state have generally enjoyed a permanent tenure of their rank and influence. Three successful campaigns in Persia, in Asiatic Turkey, and in Poland, had raised the Prince of Warsaw to the highest position which a subject could hold in the empire. For more than twenty years the *alter ego* of the Sovereign has lived in almost Imperial state at the capital of his viceroyalty; and when the short campaign in Hungary was terminated by the submission of the insurgents, it was generally understood that the aged commander-in-chief asked and obtained exemption from further active service. In common with the most eminent Russian statesmen, Prince Paskiewitsch is believed to have regarded the present war with disapprobation, and it was only in obedience to the Emperor's solicitations that he accepted the conduct of the campaign which has redounded so little to the honour of the Imperial arms. It is at present difficult to say whether his failure is to be attributed to defective generalship, for no movements have taken place in the open field which could adequately test the skill of the hostile commanders."

Omer Pacha is said to have lately received a letter from Abd-el-Kader, dated Broussa, the 18th:—

"My very dear brother,—The gates of Paradise opened themselves for me, when I had a conversation with the only prophet in a dream on the eve of the 1st Ramadan. I heard all the great and holy souls who repose in Abraham's bosom proclaim your name with shouts of joy, and I saw a large rainbow extend across the striking ranks of the holy souls when they called you by name. God is with you, my brother. Wherever you go, glory and victory will attend you. I envy you. Carry off the camps of your enemy by your troops. May my blessing accompany you. The enemies will fly before you like jackalls, and our children's children will glorify your name. Do not draw back, but march your troops forward. The Prophet wills it. The day of expiation is arrived for the ghaours of Moscow.—Blessings on you, my brother.—ABD-EL-KADER."

This is apocryphal; or proof that the Emir is mad. It is disgraceful to our British press how it revels in conspicuous canards. Every day it has some new "striking fact," the last is, that

"A proposition has been sent to the Admiralty by an officer of the Navy of high standing, for the perfect sealing up the entrance to Cronstadt, by doing which the Russian fleet could be kept there for years, and if necessary for ever. If carried out, it will release nine-tenths of our fleet from that part of the Baltic."

The *Presse* learns from the Lower Danube that the Sultan intends to go to Silistria, in order to distribute rewards to the gallant garrison. When is he to advance to Adrianople?

According to the *Débats*, the German sovereigns have exhausted servility in their politeness to the Czar. The official communications made by the German Cabinets to the Russian Government subsequent to the Convention of Berlin and the interview at Tetschen were in each case accompanied by confidential autograph letters, in which the imperial and royal correspondents addressed the Emperor Nicholas in the most affectionate terms, protested that they had no inclination to make war, entreated his Majesty to condescend to accede to their solicitations for peace, and offered in that case to constitute themselves the mediators at a congress, at which all pending questions were to be discussed and arranged. It is even added that the King of Prussia had the inexpressible meanness to beg his imperial brother-in-law to honour him with a personal interview on his recent visit to the frontiers of East Prussia—a request to which the Emperor Nicholas sent a flat refusal by one of his aides-de-camp,—and indeed the Czar, if this account is at all to be believed, appears to have taken no further notice of these peurile appeals to his compassion than to give fresh instructions for the movements of his troops, and to send as his representative to Vienna a man well known to be a partisan of the war, and a member of the ultra-Muscovite party, while he reminded the sovereigns of Austria and Prussia that they owed their existence to his protection, and threatened to punish their ingratitude by some tremendous manifestation of his power and vengeance.

A question has been asked, in the House of Lords, by the Bishop of Oxford, whether the slave trade (that is, in young girls for Turkish harems) is not on the increase from the Circassian coast, since the Russians have been cleared out of the way? The

Foreign Secretary does not deny the fact, but intimates that "friendly" efforts will be made by our officers and agents to put a stop to the traffic. Why merely "friendly" efforts, if that slave trade is wrong? But have we any right to meddle with Turkish customs?

An imperial decree, published in the *Moniteur*, confers on Marshal Omer Pasha, general-in-chief of the Ottoman army, the dignity of grand cross of the imperial order of the Legion of Honour.

The officers of the Tiger, who were prisoners of war at Odessa, have been exchanged and released.

THE NEW ELECTIONS.

THOUGH not clearly yet within reach of the writ, Hull is making ready for an election, and the liberals, in a considerable number, are in favour of a generous requisition to that gallant Radical, General Thompson.

HEALTH OF LONDON.

(From the Registrar-General's Return.)

THE present return affords very satisfactory evidence of an improved state of the public health; the mortality which has been long above the average having fallen last week below it. The number of deaths registered in London last week was 984. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1844—53 the average number was 951, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1046. Last week's registration, therefore, exhibits a number less by 62 than the calculated amount.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

M. DE PERSIGNY AND HIS MASTER.

POLITICIANS in Paris cannot solve the mystery of Persigny's retirement; and the Paris correspondent of the *Times* labours to assure us that—he knows no more than anybody else. He says:—"The absolute devotedness of which the late Minister of the Interior had given so many proofs to the Emperor is, no doubt, remembered by the personage who has benefited by it; but whatever may have been the confidential intimacy of their relations, I think that those who attributed to the ex-Minister an exclusive or a very high influence were in error. I have never believed that any one possessed an influence of such a kind over the mind of the Emperor. The alliance between England and France is for the interest of those countries and for Europe at large; and such is the best influence, and the surest guarantee for its duration. When an alliance exists between two great nations on such conditions, and produces such results, it can scarcely be supposed that it depends on the mere personal influence of any friend or Minister whatever. Besides, it was not in his capacity as Minister of the Interior that M. de Persigny could exercise any influence on the foreign policy of the country, and the same influence he was supposed to possess might be exercised in the Council, in which, as is well known, the Emperor was desirous of retaining him; and we may presume that if M. de Persigny did not accept the offer made him, it is because he was convinced that his retirement would not produce any change in the policy of the Government. It is a labour of supererogation to seek about for the reason of that retirement. It is, in fact, to be found in the last report which he himself addressed to the Emperor. Whatever merit belongs to M. de Persigny for his devotedness, his patriotism, and political ability, his friends admit that he had neither a taste for nor experience of the details of administration. His peculiar aptitude was no doubt of value during a certain period of the present régime, but now that the agitation of parties has subsided, a prompt and judicious expedition of the current business of the country is absolutely necessary."

According to a correspondent of the *Débats*, speaking of gossip at St. Petersburg, one thing certain is the profound irritation of the Czar, which attacks both men and things; irritation against the soldiers, who are not invincible, and who are under the enemy's sword, or struck down by contagious diseases; irritation against the generals, who allow themselves to be stopped by obstacles which they ought to have foreseen and overcome; irritation against the administrative departments, which are not able to provide for the necessities of the army, and which have not calculated in time the necessary provisions and matériel; irritation against Austria and Prussia—that is to say, against the movement of public opinion which has manifested itself in Germany; against the Governments, who were either unwilling or unable to resist that movement; and against the two Sovereigns, whose friendship and gratitude the Emperor Nicholas flattered himself he had secured for ever. "On what can one reckon henceforth," he exclaimed, "if the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia are wanting in the most honourable and dearest sentiments? Austria employs against me all the resources of her traditional ability. She carries Prussia along with her. I know it; but what ingratitude! The King of Prussia and the Emperor of Austria have then forgotten all that they owe me. Without me—without my armies—the one and the other would have ceased to reign. Alone, I saved them against the world; but do they believe that all is ended, and that they are in safety? If I only thought of vengeance, I would let their enemies do what they liked, and the affair would not be a long one."

The *Daily News* says:—There is what is called in India a *bazaar* report that in the event of the Allies making a serious impression on St. Petersburg, the Czar has prepared a force of 30,000 Tartars, who are to pillage the place and leave it in the condition least calculated to be of advantage to the conquerors. In short a copy of the Moscow history.

If there is any truth in the report, the good people of St. Petersburg are fighting in the comfortable hope of being roasted by their own Autocrat *pour encourager les autres*.

LOANS.—The Russian loan is now believed to have been a failure—even in Vienna.—The Austrian loan is merely a forced extraordinary tax on Austrian subjects. The terms are 95 per cent. in a five per cent. stock, subscribed in paper-money, to be paid (promised) in dividends of gold. All parties holding a Government appointment of any kind will be compelled to subscribe. To such persons, their payments will assume the character of an income-tax, bearing interest in perpetuity. With regard to the people generally, it is understood that unless they subscribe to the full amount required by the Government, some gentle form of pressure will be resorted to in order to effect the completion of the loan.—The Turkish loan seems to be still going a-begging; but there seems a hope that Louis Napoleon will give, for France, the required guarantee.

There was, this week, a panic in Paris that the cholera was raging. The fear was without foundation.

A rigorous order has been issued by the Prussian Government, prohibiting political references in the pulpit preachings. Politics, driven from the press, was taking refuge there.

The *Cologne Gazette* has the following, dated the 6th:—"Prince Gortschakoff, who went to Vienna with the answer of the Emperor of Russia, left the Emperor at Peterhoff at the moment when the Anglo-French fleet made its appearance off Cronstadt. An immense crowd of persons had come from St. Petersburg to Peterhoff to see the Anglo-French fleet, which was about six versts from Cronstadt. Prince Gortschakoff accompanied the Emperor to a point from which it could be seen distinctly. The Prince, on taking his leave of the Emperor, expressed his regret at having to quit him at so critical a moment. The Emperor replied with a smile, 'God be with you, Prince, the danger is not yet imminent.'"

The *Portuguese Bonds.* The King of Portugal's tour has been in one sense unfortunate for him. Just as when a man, who has creditors, gives a grand party, the creditors cry out "shame," so this young king has suggested to the commercial world that he has no right to travel until he gets out of his insolvency. The *Post* says:—"Two days only before the departure of the King, Mr. Thornton, as Chairman of the Committee of Portuguese bondholders, protested, through his notaries, Messrs. J. Donnison and Son, against the reduction of 40 per cent. from the dividend now in course of payment upon the unconverted 5 per cent. stock. His Majesty's Government is evidently of opinion that 'intimate relations' can only subsist between friends, and that there is no use in having friends unless you can take a liberty with them."

A letter from Paris says:—"The Minister of Foreign Affairs gave an audience to a deputation on the subject of the claims of the holders of bonds of the Portuguese loan of 1853. The Minister, after expressing to the deputation the interest felt by the Government in the affair, assured them that instructions had been sent to the French Minister at Lisbon to claim from the Portuguese Government at least the execution of its engagement to repay that part of the loan of which it had derived the benefit." Will our Government venture as much?

There is to be a Crystal Palace at Naples: a permanent exposition of industry. Will King Bomba inaugurate it, and talk of the blessings of peace?

UNITED STATES.

In the United States Circuit Court of New Orleans, the judge (Campbell) is citing before him certain parties suspected of "unlawful" intentions about Cuba, and serious results are expected. Meanwhile, the southern press teems with letters from Cuba, people complaining of the intolerable Spanish tyranny, and sustaining the annexators' hopes.

Sandwich Islands may be said to be already annexed. The "native government" has thrown itself into the hands of the American party for protection from French and English settlers, intriguers and missionaries. This is a great acquisition for the States:—the Sandwich Islands will be their Malta.

CANADA.

The Canadian Parliament has been dissolved, and Lord Elgin has experienced a check; his favourite minister, Mr. Hincks, being in danger, the dissolution having taken place in consequence of an adverse amendment being carried on the address, the Parliament being only nine days old. The new Parliament will be elected under the extended franchise, and the demanded reforms are sure to be carried—in Lower Canada, the required reform referring to the seigniorial tenure, and in Upper Canada the question being the clergy reserves.

SPAIN.

There are no positive facts yet about the insurrection. The insurgents are in retreat; and a revolution which is not sudden is generally no revolution at all.

It is reported that M. Martinez de la Rosa and the Marquis of Miraflores have been in communication with the Queen, representing to her that the insurrection is against the Ministry, and not against her, and that if she will change her Cabinet the insurgents will be satisfied, or, at any rate, that their party will be so much weakened that it will fall of itself. It is very likely that some move of this kind is making by the two statesmen in question, but much less so that the Queen will accede to such a change, unless she is frightened into it by successes of the insurgents, by intelligence that their numbers

are greatly increased, or by *pronunciamientos* in the provinces.

The secret of O'Donnell's successful hiding in Madrid is explained by the fact, that when the insurrection broke out, eighty of the armed police (*gens d'armes*) of the capital went over to him.

No town of importance has, as yet, risen against the Government.

The popularity of the Queen is a very doubtful affair; the mob received her coldly; and the illumination ordered for the victory by the garrison of Madrid was a reluctant affair. Her Majesty insists on sparing the life of the captured Colonel Garrigo, whose services to her, in a former hour of danger, she remembers.

THE COURT, &c.

The Court is very quiet. The Queen visited Chiswick on Saturday, and on Thursday Prince Albert went to look at the siege operations at Chatham—these being the only movements. On Monday the Duchess of Gloucester gave a grand tea and ball to the children of the Royal Family and of the nobility—her Royal Highness delighting in children's faces; and the occasion was made a *fête* by her relatives and friends to celebrate her recovery. On Saturday last several of the Royal children went down to the Sydenham Palace.

A banquet and assembly of Miss Countess's appears to have been the "fashionable" event of the week. A grand "reception," from three to six, was yesterday given by the Marchioness of Westminster.

The account of the juvenile *fête* at Gloucester House, in the *Post*, is so touching that we transcribe it:—

"Gloucester House was, yesterday (Monday), the scene of a festive gathering, which was, in several respects, of a more than usually interesting character.

"It is generally known that considerable uneasiness has lately been caused by the precarious state of health into which the venerable Princess had fallen, and this uneasiness has not been confined to the immediate connexions of the Royal Family, but extended itself to the very numerous circle to whom the Duchess's many amiable qualities have endeared her. At an age exceeding by many years the allotted limit of human existence, her Royal Highness has been fortunate in preserving the characteristics which had in earlier life fixed the affectionate attachment of all who approached them. The last surviving contemporary member of the blood Royal of George the Third's Court, her Royal Highness is a worthy representative of the graceful dignity of the *ancien regime*; and sincere was the joy felt at the announcement that, at so advanced an age, her constitution possessed such recuperative energies as to carry her over her immediate danger, and so far to restore health as to enable her Royal Highness to take an active part in an entertainment like that of yesterday.

"It was in great measure a juvenile party. The company consisted of about 100 of the *crème de la crème* of society, accompanied by their children. That her Royal Highness should have taken the first opportunity afforded by improved health to bring about her so large a company of very young persons, was a circumstance in touching harmony with one of her most marked and lovable traits—that of benevolent pleasure in seeing the countenances of the youthful and innocent beaming with happiness. In fact, her Royal Highness, in those circles where she is best known and most beloved, is emphatically recognised as a 'lover of children's faces,' and enters with *empathement* in every thing peculiarly interesting to them.

"The invitation-cards specified that the entertainment would consist of 'tea and dancing.' Her Majesty and Prince Albert had, from the first, intimated their intention to be present, with the youthful members of the Royal Family, in token of respect and affection for her Royal Highness, and of their gratification at her restoration to health.

"An intimation of a similar nature had likewise been given by their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Cambridge, and the Princess Mary. If the absence of the Duke of Cambridge, who from his infancy has been an especial favourite with his venerable relative, gave rise to some questions naturally and inevitably of a painful nature, such feelings were doubtless mitigated by the reflection that the cause of that absence was one of the most honourable to himself, and the most profoundly important to the interests of his country. With this exception, and that of the youngest of the princesses, every member of the Royal Family now residing in England was present—no less than seven of her Majesty's children being amongst the youthful visitors.

"The company began to arrive at four o'clock, and were received by her Royal Highness in the drawing-room, the floor of which, it will be remembered, is covered by the magnificent carpet, consisting of sixty squares, worked and presented to the Duchess by a number of the most distinguished female members of the aristocracy.

"The dresses of the numerous youths and children of both sexes, destined, in the lapse of a few brief years, to become the representatives and upholders of the great lines of England's nobility, were in many instances of a tasteful and striking character; and, whilst rich in design and *materiel*, displayed a chaste simplicity, obviously consistent with the objects and nature of the festive meeting.

"The Princes and Princesses of the Royal Family mingled cordially and frankly with their youthful fellow-guests, and the afternoon was passed in a manner which must have proved most gratifying to the feelings, as well of the illustrious lady who had improvised the meeting, as of those who partook of hospitalities so eminently calculated to promote the most desirable relations between the Royal Family of England and those who are hereafter to be amongst the most distinguished subjects of the Crown."

THE MINISTER OF WAR.

The expenses of the new office of "Secretary of State for War," will be, for the first year, 17,000*l*. This is the interesting part of the estimate; it indicates how all our public offices are manned and paid:

Secretary of State, from 12th June, 1854, to 31st March, 1855.....	£4010
Under Secretary of State, from 1st July, 1854, to 31st March, 1855.....	1125
Under Secretary of State, ditto.....	1125
Clerks.—1st Class:—	
Three senior clerks, from 600 <i>l</i> . to 1000 <i>l</i> . ditto.....	1350
Four assistant senior clerks, from 350 <i>l</i> . to 545 <i>l</i> . ditto.....	1050
Four junior clerks, from 150 <i>l</i> . to 300 <i>l</i> . ditto.....	450
Four probationary clerks, from 100 <i>l</i> . to 150 <i>l</i> . ditto.....	300
Private secretary to Secretary of State, from 12th June, 1854, to 31st March, 1855.....	240
Librarian, keeper of the papers, and clerks of parliamentary papers, from 300 <i>l</i> . to 500 <i>l</i> . from 1st July, 1854, to 31st March, 1855.....	225
Private secretaries to Under-Secretaries of State, ditto.....	225
First office keeper and housekeeper, increasing after six years' service from 150 <i>l</i> . to 200 <i>l</i>	112
First office porter, ditto from 100 <i>l</i> . to 120 <i>l</i>	75
Second ditto, ditto from 80 <i>l</i> . to 100 <i>l</i>	60
Third ditto, ditto from 80 <i>l</i> . to 100 <i>l</i>	60
	£10,407

THE STATE OF THE MILITIA.

According to the report of the Committee of the House of Commons on militia estimates, the total strength of the militia for the year 1854-5 is to be 124,074 officers and men, including the Irish and Scotch militias, both of which forces are to be called out. The charge for the year 1854-5, to defray the cost of raising the additional numbers and the maintenance of this body will be 998,000*l*. The militia in England and Wales, 89,176 strong. The militia in Scotland, 10,800 strong. The militia in Ireland, 21,600 strong. It also appears that in the militia for England and Wales there are 50 colonels, each receiving 17*s*. 6*d*. per diem; 92 lieutenant-colonels, each receiving 15*s*. 11*d*. per diem; 111 majors, each receiving 14*s*. 1*d*. per diem; 803 captains, each receiving 10*s*. 6*d*. per diem; 805 lieutenants, each receiving 6*s*. 6*d*. per diem; 801 ensigns, each receiving 5*s*. 3*d*. per diem; 86 adjutants, who receive 6*d*. per diem each when called out, in addition to their pay of 8*s*. per diem. charged to the expenses of the permanent staff; 77,509 privates, at 1*s*. each per diem.

A MISSING OFFICIAL.

Mr. SWAREX's defalcation is not the only incident of the week illustrating the morality and the management of our system of government by boards. Mr. Edmond O'Flaherty, brother of the member for Galway, and who recently obtained, through his brother's parliamentary influence, a well-salaried situation in one of the great public offices of Dublin, is "missing;" and very strange things are being very openly said of heavy "defalcations." Mr. Maguire, the member for Dungarvan, writes to his own journal (the *Cork Examiner*) some awkward suggestions. He states broadly that the missing man had recently got into the habit of forging his friends' names to bills! "I have heard nearly a dozen persons mentioned, most of them of high rank, and three at least of official position, with whose names a similar freedom has been used. The total amount represented by the bills in circulation is differently computed, varying from 14,000*l*. to 20,000*l*. The former, I should say, is more than enough. Of late, he would seem to have become utterly reckless in the manner in which he used the names of others; for I have been told that the name of his colleague in office was put upon a particular bill, and without the slightest attempt at imitating the handwriting of his colleague, or disguising his own." The disaster, says candid Mr. Maguire, "has fallen like a thunderbolt on his friends." We should think so.

MAURICE'S LAST LECTURE—COLLEGE OF WORKING MEN.

THE sixth and final lecture of the course on "Learning and Working" was delivered on Thursday last. Like its predecessors it contained many useful general observations on the necessity of combining learning with working for all classes,—on the difficulty of doing this for the class who maintain themselves by daily manual labour, especially,—and the importance to human happiness of cultivating, exercising, and directing the spiritual and intellectual parts of human nature. But, besides these general observations, the lecturer advanced others referring immediately to the object he had in view in delivering this course—viz., the establishment in London of a college for working men.

The design of the projected institution is evidently one which deserves to be carried out; and we wish Mr. Maurice and his coadjutors all success. It is possible, as he intimated in this lecture, that the whole thing may fail, as the Sheffield college was well nigh doing. A critical observer may say to him two years hence, "What has become of your fine scheme for educating working men?" and may have the pleasure of receiving for answer, "It has come to nothing;" as well as the additional pleasure of saying, "That is precisely what I expected it would come to." Yet the failure and the ridicule would prove nothing whatever against the worth of the scheme. Mr. Maurice dwelt on the absurdity of testing the importance of an enterprise—especially a moral enterprise—by its immediate failure or success.

With regard to the machinery for beginning the college (to be opened in November next), Mr. Maurice stated that certain persons, like himself, earnestly interested in the matter (barristers, surgeons, clergymen, tradesmen, operatives, &c.), would form the first set of teachers. Ultimately he trusted that teachers would arise (paid teachers) from among the students of the college. Not that he would confine the teachers to one rank of society only; he hoped that men fresh from the universities, literary men, statesmen, men of science, would come forward to assist in teaching the working man.

He stated fully his objections to appealing for assistance to the public, to Government, or to any sect or society. He wished the institution to be self-supporting. Men do not want charity, they want friendly sympathetic help.

OUR CIVILISATION.

THE week has presented the usual illustrations of the dismal horrors around us, and of which we take no account in our controversies as to the exact amount of prosperity proved by the revenue tables.

At Callington (Cornwall) Petty Sessions, Mrs. Craddock, a farmer's wife, and a disciple of Mrs. Sloane, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for brutal cruelty to her servant girl—an orphan wretch sent into her "service" from the workhouse. Here is the aggrieved heroine's horrible evidence:—

"She once broke a pie-dish about my head, and beat me about my head with a stick till it bled. She used to kick me and pull me about by the hair. She used to ball my head against the wall, and gave me two black eyes. She would swear on me, and once poked the handle of a knife into my ears. I am rather deaf. She put dirty messes into my mouth, and once put her hand into my mouth and tried to choke me. I complained to Richard Craddock and to Mary Treize. I was marked and bruised about the head, and I showed it Mary Treize. I have some marks about my legs from kicks. She once kept me without breakfast, and gave me cold milk for dinner. She beat me with a stick the day before I left the house. My master was kind to me. I took my meat with the rest of the family, and fed like the rest. My work was to watch the children; they used to tell tales about me to my mistress. There was a chamber utensil broken, and she rubbed my nose and mouth in the contents twice. I never used to act indecently with the children. The children once made a mess and said it was I who made it, and mistress came out with a firepan and put it into my mouth. There was a cat's mess, and she put some bran over it and made me lick it. Mary Treize saw me do it."

At the Thames Police Court, an engineer, in Mr. Penn's employment—John Ellis by name—has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for ill-treatment of his wife. His wife had been driven "to the streets"—that is, to prostitution—by his brutality; he met her, one day, and asked her to return to him. She declined; and he knocked her down.

At the Southwark Court, James Hayes, a currier, was charged with assaulting, indecently and brutally, two young ladies, whom he met walking in Bermondsey-square, and to whom he took a fancy. They declined his love; and he knocked them down. The sentence was 40s. and costs, or two months' imprisonment. The prisoner said it was only "a lark," and pleaded drunkenness.

Joshua Jones, a draper's assistant, accompanied a prostitute to a "house of accommodation." Missing his purse, he charged her with the theft, and, she denying it, he threw her down, pulled out a clasp-knife, and attempted to cut her throat—cutting her severely. The police were called in, and the draper's

assistant was found, after all, to have had his money all right in his side-pocket. Sentence one month's imprisonment.

At Sheffield, a coroner's inquest has been held on the body of a young factory girl, who, seduced, and disappointed of marriage by the seducer, a labouring man, bought sixpennyworth of chloride of zinc, and poisoned herself.

In Edward-street, Kingsland-road, a woman, with her head out of the window, screams "Police," and "Murder"—her husband being engaged in beating her. The policeman rushes into the house but cannot open the room-door, and finds that the wife declines, after all, to charge the husband. He goes down stairs, where a mob has collected, and finds another man beating two other women, who, standing up for the sex, had used severe phrases against the wife-beater up-stairs; those phrases being resented by the second brute, an ally of the first brute. Brute No. 2 is taken into custody, and is sentenced to six months' imprisonment. His only excuse was that he had been taking "spirits."

An attorney's clerk, at Haslingden, married, and with children, found that he could not keep himself and his family on the pittance a grinding chief allowed him to earn; so he took to drinking, and, on getting quite sober, committed suicide. His letter to his wife, apprising her of the resolve he carried out, gives the calmest and most business-like reason for cutting his throat.

Lelilia Eggins, a respectable married woman, was, on Wednesday evening, making her way home down Regent-street, when a "gentleman" came behind her, and, as she swore, though the gentleman utterly denied the charge, handled her indecently. The gentleman, M. Villott, Director of the Soho Theatre, was handed to the police, and in the morning was sentenced by the Marlborough-street magistrate to a fine of 3*l*.

At the Oxford assizes, Anne Alleway, a widow, aged 50, has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment, for systematically beating her mother. The mother's "aggravations" appeared to have driven the widowed daughter mad.

Daniel Phythian, a young fellow, a tailor, has been committed for trial at the Westminster court, charged with attempting a rape upon an old woman of 70, in whose house he had been engaged working at his trade.

A coroner's inquest, in Westminster, has brought in a verdict deeply affecting the professional character of Mr. Jay, a medical practitioner, under whose care his female servant died. It would appear that the girl was pregnant, and died of "premature birth"—the inquest arising out of a suspicion that abortion had been attempted. The verdict is:—"Deceased died from inflammation of the peritoneum, which the jury, without imputing any malicious feeling or criminal neglect to her master, consider to have been greatly promoted by improper medicines administered by him to the deceased."

A court-martial is being held at Windsor, to try the conduct of Lieutenant Perry, of the 46th regiment, who, having quarrelled with a brother officer, Lieutenant Greer, while playing cards, is charged with having knocked his friend down with a brass candlestick. The defence so far is that the provocation was sufficient, Lieutenant Greer having called Lieutenant Perry "a son of a —"

KOSSUTH ON THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

Kossuth appears to be getting cured of his excessive tact, and, consequently, to be giving his talent fairer play. Up to this time, in England and America, he has sinned in being too much of the courtier for the popular tribune—in being too eager to conciliate prejudices by suppressing truths. But, in his Glasgow addresses last week, he has spoken out—thinking, perhaps, that a Scottish audience would have a tendency to be candid about English institutions—and his sneers and his satire, for which we must make allowance, demand attention. Here is his notion of our national alacrity in favour of human freedom:—

"I desire you to understand that I am perfectly aware of the fact that Great Britain, as a State, will do nothing out of sympathy for Poland or Hungary; that Great Britain, as represented by its Government, knows of no sympathy at all, or, if it knows anything about it, all its leanings are rather for the dynasties than for the nations. I know that Great Britain, as a State, never stirred a finger for the sake of national freedom abroad. Oh! I know that Great Britain, as a State, does not care a bit about seeing our nation oppressed, and that whatever be our sufferings, Great Britain, as a State, will not throw one straw of help to cling to it, even if we were evidently drowning for ever, provided Great Britain be not forced to it by its own interest; nay, I go so far as to be perfectly convinced, that even in that case, Great Britain, as a State, will be extremely anxious to provide by some other means for its own interest, if possible; and if it can find out some such means, it will studiously avoid to employ those which would benefit any oppressed nation, and damage the security of the oppressors; so much is Great Britain, as a State, prone to look

but to dynasties and governments, and to disregard the concerns of nations. I believe I am right in this estimation of Great Britain's policy, because it is the light of truth in history which brought that estimation home to my mind; but be I right or be I wrong, such is my conviction; I firmly believe that considerations of national egotism are the only powers which may bring Great Britain to our side; but that without that imperious argument the oppressed nations on earth have nothing to hope, nothing to expect from Great Britain's sympathies. Penetrated as I am by this conviction, I desire explicitly to state, that in the matter we have to treat I discard emphatically any appeals to sympathy; I desire the arguments I told at Sheffield and Nottingham, and may tell here, to be judged exclusively from a British interest. It is Great Britain which is at war; your is the war, yours is the issue; your blood, your money, your sacrifices are at stake; your victory, your defeat are trembling in the balances; therefore it is the necessity of your own honour, of your own interest, to consider with dispassionate but with comprehensive prudence what are the means best adapted to make your war effective in its issue, successful in its operations, requiring the least of your blood, the least of your money, and shortening the duration of the indirect but tremendous sacrifices which the war inflicts upon your commerce, your industry, upon the earnings of your working classes, and even upon your daily bread and meat. (*Cheers*). Never in my life have I been in honour, in conscience, more strongly convinced of anything than of this, that shall Great Britain attain the aim upon which it professes to be bent in this war, it must discard the false and ruinous alliance with Austria, it must recur to the Polish and Hungarian nationalities; or else it will see itself baffled in the proposed aim, and will find all its sacrifices unavailing and vain."

M. Kossuth might have added that other nations, and very properly, are just as little chivalric as ourselves. But his estimate of us is accurate enough to be taken without conditions: and his arguments, which are telling on the country, against the Austrian alliance, will have the greater effect because they proceed, or affect to proceed, from his consideration of how far our direct interests are involved in aiding the cause of the great Hungarian leader.

This satirical summing up of our pretensions to self-government is likewise sufficiently true to suggest some humiliating reflections—which will do us good. "Therefore, believing that Great Britain's policy must answer Great Britain's will, and believing also that the British nation is Great Britain, I went so far as to request the people to declare its will, by passing resolutions, and signing petitions to the Imperial Parliament, petitions assuring, in the most humble and peaceful manner, the representatives of the people that their humble petitioners will ever pray. I assure you, sir, in all sincerity, that in thus acting I acted in perfect good faith. (*Cheers*). From my familiarity with the logical philosophy of constitutional life, and from my ignorance of the fact that British public law is an exception to that philosophy, I really thought that it would be neither unlawful nor incompetent in the people of Great Britain to declare its will about peace and war, and to petition Parliament. Have I erred in this? I have but to plead ignorance in excuse, and plead it with all possible contrition; an ignorance, perhaps, excusable in me, a stranger, when I see the inhabitants of Sheffield, the citizens of Nottingham, and the citizens of Glasgow, sharing in my unintentional mistake. Well, sir, I have the unpleasant duty to inform you that we have been all labouring under a delusion in this regard. I have an official authority for saying so much. The people of Nottingham, in public meeting assembled, passed resolutions much like those which I understand are about to be proposed to this meeting—resolutions embodied in a petition to both Houses of Parliament. The Duke of Newcastle, actually Minister at War, was requested to present the petition to the House of Lords. (*Cheers*). I have been favoured from Nottingham with a copy of the answer of the Duke, signed by his private secretary, and dated Downing-street, June 17. Allow me to read the meritorious part of it:—"The Duke of Newcastle desires me to inform you (the chairman) that it would be most unusual to present a petition to Parliament having direct reference to a declaration of war, or the establishment of peace with foreign powers, which are matters entirely within the power and prerogative of the Crown. The functions of Parliament could hardly be applied to either of these events until each had actually taken place; and under these circumstances, &c., the Duke declines to take any step with regard to the petition." Now, if I be not quite mistaken in what little English I know, that answer means to say, "that the British nation has no right to meddle with those matters until all is over," consequently, be it right over or wrong over, no remedy were possible against it, because I certainly imagine that no possible subsequent censure can be reputed to be a remedy, as it cannot make undone things that are done. Nay, I am even made to understand

from that answer, that though Parliament may have the right to speak about war and peace, after these events have actually taken place, that the people has even then no right to petition, because now war is declared—the event has actually taken place; and still the pretension of having a petition about it presented is characterised as most unusual, and without precedent. Now, sir, I may be very sorry (as indeed sorry I am) to have to part with my cheering illusions about the constitutional value of British institutions, and to have to learn that, to use a scriptural expression, there is much of sounding brass and tinkling cymbals in them. Still, I sincerely acknowledge that about this I have no voice in the chapter—it is an internal business all your own."

Here is his frank prophecy for our consideration: "And yet what is the newest phasis of events? why, it is the fact that England and France compel Turkey to give over the Danubian Principalities to Austria! Why that is a fact of such enormity, that if that fact, simply presented in its scandalous audacity, does not rouse the British nation, not only to anxious solicitude, but to indignation and anger, why, then, really I am perfectly convinced that the British nation is already set down by history amongst those who have no future at all, but a short vegetation of a third-rate power, yet left for a while, and then doomed to fall as Carthage fell. There may already live some who, before they grow old, may do what Marius did at Carthage—sit on the ruin of your fallen greatness."

As he proceeds he becomes more and more frank. Here is his notion of the wisdom of our leading journals:—

"More yet. By this trick of Austrian perfidy, the Czar being relieved from every danger in that quarter, his right wing secured, he can and will now detach such numbers of his army hence as he likes, and concentrate them thither where you choose to attack him. He at home, you thousands of miles far off; you shall be beaten—remember my word. It is now you are come to the test about what I told Great Britain, that it is not abroad, not in the offensive, that Russia is dangerous, except as a rear-guard of other powers; but it is at home, in the defensive, that she is dangerous. Once brought to that point, it is then that you require allies. Have you any? You have not. Is Austria, for that purpose, your ally? No—a thousand times no. In that quarter, for that purpose, there are no other allies possible as we—Poland and Hungary! And yet Britain rejects us! Well, the doom will fall on the head of him who sinned. With us, you might have shaken hands in the Kremlin of Moscow; without us you are as incapable to harm Russia as a child. With us, the world would have seen the proud spectacle of Schamyl and Omar, and Cambridge and Napoleon, and the descendants of Arpad and of Kosciuszko, united on the plains of Russia, to thank the Eternal for the deliverance of the world; without us, you are doomed to be beaten, or to retrace your steps in shame. Poland and Hungary are not beggars who mendicate your generosity, they are nations which weigh your victory or your defeat in the hollow of their hands; as Poland alone has weighed, forty-two years ago, the victory or defeat of Napoleon the Great. But the prattling fools with whom you are cursed tell you that, since you have nothing to do on the Danube—oh!—bitter mockery of treason!—you shall go and take Sebastopol and the Crimea. Before all, I must remind you of that geographical fact, that the taking of Sebastopol is no solution of the conflict, still less of the pending question. It will not bring the Czar down to claim your pardon; quite the contrary; it will excite him to raging perseverance. Still less is the Crimea a security for the future; it is no barrier which defends, it is an acquisition which requires defence. To take it is nothing; yet to keep it, that is the problem. Now, will you stay there to keep it? I don't think so. You go home and leave the task to the Turks. Many thanks for the gift. I, as the sincerest friend of the Turks, hope to God they will not be such fools as to meddle with that business. It is your own laundress work; do it if you please. Now, as to the doing it; I don't think you can take Sebastopol by the sea. But I will tell you in what manner Sebastopol is to be taken. It is at Warsaw you can take Sebastopol."

SOMETHING ABOUT THE CZAR.

THE *Daily News*, in an article of evident authenticity, gives the most interesting particulars of Czar Nicholas with which the world has been favoured since the epigrammatic gossip of De Custine. Our contemporary's correspondent says—speaking of the altered manner of Nicholas, after escaping the first insurrection he had to encounter:—

"Though that revolution did not take place, another did, far less expected. Nicholas became apparently a totally altered man. The strength of his will has never shown itself more marvellously than in the restraint which he instantly put upon his temper and manners, and maintained for a long course of years. Those who happen to have watched the insane know that the most fearful of their peculiarities, in many cases, is the instantaneous transition from the brutal

to the human state. You catch their eye, and are horrified at its expression of ferocity and cruelty; and, before you can withdraw your gaze, it is gone, and all is bland and gracious. Thus was it with Nicholas, from the moment when his foot touched the step of the throne. Stern, but no longer irascible, distant, but never ill-mannered, the brute part of him, known to be so largely inherited from his ancestors, seemed to have burst out.

"What his government of his dominions has been there is no need to describe. The more hopeless he became of doing effectual good at home, the more he has inclined to the policy of Peter and Catherine. He is aware that the nobles regard the existing system as doomed, and only expect or desire it to last their time. He is aware that the host of slaves who worship him are no power in his hand, but a mere burden. A man might as well be king in a wilderness peopled by sheep and wolves as in Russia; and no one knows this better than Nicholas. He is aware that he cannot reckon on the honesty of any one functionary of his whole empire. He has invited and pensioned savans and men of letters, and instituted schools, and toiled harder than his own slaves, and he perceives that society grows no better, but rather worse. So he has recourse to schemes of territorial extension; and there the same evils follow:—his ships are rotten; his cannon balls are turned into wooden bowls; his quinine is found to be oak bark; and while he is paying enormous bread bills, his soldiers are perishing under a bran and straw diet.

"Of his fanaticism one does not know what to say. His Empress turned Greek in a day to marry him; and this no doubt seemed to him all right and natural. But when he wanted his daughter Olga to marry the Archduke Stephen, he offered that she should turn Romish in a day—should embrace the faith of those nuns of Minsk who were so very displeasing to his orthodoxy. It is probably in his case the mixture of fanaticism and laxity which is so disgusting in the history of all churches at any time dominant and involved with the state.

"In his family, he is no less unhappy than in other relations. His faithful wife, who has borne with much from him, partly because there was no helping his passions, and partly because he carried on his attention to her through all his vagaries, has been wearing out for many a dreary year under the fatigues of the life of empty amusement which he imposes on all his family. One favourite daughter is dead. Another is the widow of the Duc de Leuchtenberg; and the youngest is Princess-Royal of Wurtemberg. The two eldest sons are always quarrelling;—as is likely to happen if, as is universally understood, the younger—(who is a Muscovite savage of the Moscow party)—strives all in his power to supplant his elder brother—who is a much milder and more estimable man—in the succession to the throne. The Czar has till now repressed their feud; but it has, like his other misfortunes, become too much for him; and the scandal is fully avowed. If the reign of Nicholas should come to a violent end with his life—his may not be the only royal blood shed on the occasion.

"Thus has the proud man, the Emperor of all the Russias, passed his fifty-eighth birthday, sitting among the wreck of all his idols. They are of clay; and it is his own iron will that has shivered them all. Instead of achieving territorial extension, he has apparently brought on the hour of forcible dismemberment of his empire. Instead of court gaiety, his childish vanity has created only the mirth which breaks the heart and undermines the life. Instead of securing family peace by the compressive power of his will, he has made his sons the slaves, instead of himself the lord, of their passions. Hated by his nobles; liked only by those who can give him no aid, and receive no good from him; drawn in by his own passions to sacrifice them in hecatombs, while they fix their eyes on him as their only hope; tricked by his servants all over the empire; disappointed in his army and its officers; afraid to leave his capital, because it would be laid waste as soon as his back was turned; cursed in all directions for the debts of his nobles, the bankruptcy of trade, and the hunger of his people; conscious of the reprobation of England and France, whose reprobation could be no indifferent matter to Lucifer himself; finding himself out in his count about Austria, and about everybody but his despised brothers of Prussia and (as an after-thought) Naples; and actually humbled before the Turk; what a position for a man whose birthday once seemed to be an event in the calendar of the universe! Be it remembered, the while, that he is broken in health and heart. He stoops as if burdened with years; he trembles with weakness because he cannot take sufficient food. The eagle glance has become wolfish. The proud calm of his fine face has given way to an expression of anxiety and trouble. Let him be pitied, then, and with kindness. He is perhaps the greatest sufferer in Europe, and let him be regarded accordingly. But, as we need not say, he is totally unfit for the management of human destinies."

WHO IS GENERAL O'DONNELL?

THE *Nation* has not failed to point out to England that the O'Donnell who is now convulsing Spain is a direct descendant of the O'Donnell of the treaty of Limerick. The *Nation* loses no opportunity of suggesting the potency of expatriated Catholic Irish blood. The *Constitutionnel* gives particulars. The family has been conspicuous since its settlement in Spain. The father of the present man was Director General of artillery, under Ferdinand VII. He had four sons, all of whom became powerful. "Lastly, the fourth son is he who, at present is giving such a sad example of revolt. He was the only one of the brothers who remained in the service of Queen Isabella on the death of King Ferdinand. Being an excellent officer, he gained all his grades on the field of battle, and always was remarked as a strict disciplinarian. He was, like his father, an ardent adversary of liberal ideas; he had the character of being a severe man, and the Basque provinces well remember some of his rigorous measures. Having

become Lieutenant-General and Count de Lucena, he had the command of the army of the centre at the moment when Queen Christina divested herself of the regency. When in 1840, Espartero triumphed, General O'Donnell emigrated to Paris. In 1841, he returned to Spain and seized on the citadel of Pampeluna by surprise, thanks to the intelligence which he had kept up with a merchant of the place, M. Carriquiry. He held the citadel in the name of Queen Christina, and he was there when he learned that Generals Concha and Diego León had failed at Madrid before the energetic resistance of Col. Dulce, his present accomplice, who commanded the halberdiers on duty at the palace when the two generals presented themselves to seize the young Queen, and to overturn, in her name, the dictatorial power of Espartero. Some years after, in 1846, we find Count O'Donnell Captain-General of the island of Cuba. Usually the persons holding that command kept it for three years. O'Donnell lost it a little before the expiration of that time by the order of Marshal Narvaez, then President of the Council of Ministers. He in consequence conceived a hatred against the Marshal, which he did not attempt to conceal, as he often said to any one who would listen to him, 'that he would never pardon such an affront.' That resentment led him to organise in the Senate that annoying and irritating opposition which exasperated General Narvaez to such a degree as to force him to give in his resignation when he must have considered himself more powerful than ever. However, two years later, O'Donnell was found in the ranks of the Parliamentary coalition, which had selected Marshal Narvaez as its leader, and which demanded against Bravo Murillo the application of the famous axiom, 'The king reigns and does not govern.' The singular variations of Gen. O'Donnell are now known. This intractable champion of absolutist ideas has ranged himself under the banner of an exaggerated parliamentarism; and the former antagonist of Espartero has for accomplices Generals Messina and Dulce, the *bona fide* creatures of the Duke de la Victoria."

THE CHILDREN OF THE POOR.

MR. JOHN OLIVER, the chaplain of King's College Hospital, continues his communication to *The Builder*, respecting the nursery in Portugal-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields. He says:—

"Those who frequent the nursery observe a very marked improvement in the health and disposition of the children who have been in any degree regular in their attendance; whilst those who have the superintendence are encouraged by an unmixed expression of gratitude on the part of the parents. The poor widow, before utterly destitute and incapable of helping herself, is thankful that she can now, without her family being neglected, earn a subsistence for herself and children. Many a poor mother, too, has been, from the birth of her first infant, entirely dependent on the scanty earnings of her husband for the support of herself and offspring, is now enabled to contribute nearly, and in some instances quite, an equal share. I need not say that the condition of such a family is much improved; but I will record the observation of a poor woman who was declaring her thankfulness some few days since. She said, with tears in her eyes, 'And, sir, my husband is so much kinder to me now than he used to be.' She spoke volumes, and gave me a subject for deep reflection. Her husband is, I believe, a steady man, but a labourer, and then earning only 12s. per week.

"There are considerations of a more general character. Who can say what may be the effect on the public weal of rightly training the minds of a number of children from their earliest infancy? Who can estimate the benefit of leading the poor to think that the interests of themselves and their children are really cared for by the rich? From a practical knowledge of the poor I am convinced that nothing will more tend to a reduction of our parochial burdens, and to an improvement in the religious and moral character of the poor than the bringing of rich and poor more immediately in contact, and teaching the latter to respect themselves as beings intended to occupy an important position in this world, and a glorious equality in the next; and I know of no better means by which this can be accomplished than by an endeavour on the part of the rich to gain the respect and love of the poor by acts of kindness to their infant offspring. Infant nurseries are, in my opinion, the first step towards the accomplishment of an object in which all classes of society are, of necessity, greatly interested."

NEW PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THE Polytechnic Institution has passed under new management—Mr. Peppers, the professor of chemistry—and is to be "developed." Science is to be softened with music, in this perplexing establishment; and the entrance-hall is to be filled with flower-pots. These are the principal points. "To celebrate" the new regime, a *conversazione* has taken place, Mr. Walter, M.P., delivering an "inaugural address."

There is to be a "Temperance Palace." A contemporary thus puts the fact:—

"An arrangement is on foot amongst the friends of temperance, offended by the sale of wine, &c. at Sydenham, to purchase the Surrey Zoological Gardens, and to erect a large building of glass. We have not yet the precise particulars before us, but understand that it is proposed to raise 100,000*l.*

by 100,000 l. per shares, and that the gardens have been provisionally purchased for 25,000l."

This is a very proper thing: but surely the Temperance Palace is not to be of "glass?"

In reference to the Queen's visit to Chiswick, last Saturday, a contemporary gives this rumour:—

"The visit of her Majesty was understood to be an effort on the part of the council to revive the declining fortunes of the society, which appear not to be on so satisfactory a footing as formerly. To make matters worse, it is understood that Sir Joseph Paxton is prepared, next summer, to enter into formidable competition with the Horticultural Society, and give floral and musical *fêtes* upon a scale of splendour and at a price which will place them above all rivalry."

The Crystal Palace is to have a picture-gallery. It is to be "extensive," to be open to artists of all nations, and with arrangements on a liberal scale for the sale of the works. At the Dublin Exhibition, where the picture gallery was the great attraction, 10,000l. worth of pictures were bought; and why not a proportionate result at Sydenham?

"The arrangements for collecting the pictures have been intrusted to M. Corr Vander Maeren, of Brussels, the commissioner, who brought to so successful a conclusion the exhibition and sale of the pictures in Dublin, and that gentleman has already succeeded in collecting about 300 first class pictures, by French, Belgian, and German artists of celebrity."

"It is understood that the waterworks in the palace gardens are in a sufficiently forward state to lead to the hope that the smaller fountains will be playing in about a fortnight."

At Malta there has been a novel festival that might be imitated here. The news runs:—

"His Excellency Sir W. Reid endeavoured to turn the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul to a practical use. It is the custom on this festival for all classes of people to make picnics to the country, about Boschetto and Civita Vecchia, where they have no object beyond eating and drinking, and some very poor races in the evening—in fact, it is too hot to make any exertion. However, Sir W. Reid got up a committee, and offered prizes for the best samples of cattle, corn, vegetables, machinery, silkworms, &c.; the prizes for Malta on a liberal scale, from 3l. down to 8s. There were some very fine mules, poultry, corn, potatoes, and silkworms exhibited—also some great improvements in machinery; but the pleasantest sight of all was the happy-looking people, picnicking under the trees. All appeared thoroughly happy and contented. Here was every class, from the commanders-in-chief, judges, senators, &c., down to the poorest peasant, and all appeared to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. It must have been a proud day for Sir William; and I believe all classes felt grateful to him for his endeavours to turn this festival into so useful an exhibition. Doubtless, from the many prizes given, next year's exhibition will bring forth more competitors."

WORKPEOPLE'S FESTIVALS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

[We have received this from a correspondent. We will always be glad of such communications, indicating such pleasant facts.]

On Monday last a new and elegant banquetting hall was inaugurated most appropriately by a dinner, given by Mr. John Cooke, of the Patent Permanent Capsule Manufactory, Hall-street, City-road, to forty of the workpeople in his employ. Each man, woman, and boy on the establishment, together with the wives of the married men, were furnished with a ticket covering railway carriage to and fro and admission to the building.

After enjoying from an early hour in the morning the incomparable beauties of the palace and grounds, they met their respected employer, his family, and several of his friends, and proceeded to the newly-built room, situated at the south-western corner of the palace, capable of dining from 150 to 200 persons.

The dinner, which was of admirable quality, excellently served, and moderate in charge, was done ample justice to by the tired sightseers, both juvenile and adult. Appropriate toasts were proposed by Mr. Cooke, Mr. Strudwicke, his manager, and by several of the workmen and visitors. At seven o'clock the party broke up, every one highly delighted.

The practice which was that day initiated will, it is to be hoped, be extensively followed, thus consecrating the People's Palace amongst its other beneficent objects to the social re-union of employers and employed.

MADAME SONTAG.

MADAME SONTAG died on the 18th June, in the city of Mexico, where she was about to sing, of a sudden attack of cholera. She was a great artist, a beautiful woman, and a beautiful character, and there is real mourning for her. The American papers give interesting accounts of her experiences in the States; and more of her brilliant biography, with which we are all familiar, the English world does not need to hear of just now.

"Tempted by the brilliant success which had attended the professional career of Jenny Lind and other great artists in this country, Madame Sontag made up her mind to visit the United States in the fall of 1852, and arrived in New York on the 19th of September of that year. She commenced with a series of concerts at the Metropolitan Hall, which proved most successful, and stamped her at once with popularity. From New York she went to Boston and Phila-

delphia, where she continued to give concerts, and firmly established her reputation with the American public. She then returned to this city, and appeared at Niblo's in a succession of the lighter operas, in which she had won her European fame, and so great was the success which attended this experiment, that she was readily induced to enter into an arrangement with Max Maretzek to appear in another series of operatic performances, given at Castle Garden in July, 1853. This engagement proved to be one of the most profitable operatic speculations that had ever been undertaken in New York, and in fact, according to the evidence of Maretzek on the Fry trial, the only one that had ever proved satisfactory to all concerned. The result justified Madame Sontag in forming a travelling operatic company of her own, with which she successively visited Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Albany, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, and New Orleans, and in every city that she went to, the high reputation that preceded her ensured her the most satisfactory pecuniary results. In New Orleans, she entered into an engagement with M. Masson, the director of the principal theatre in the City of Mexico, to play in opera for a fixed period of two months, with the privilege on his part of continuing the arrangement for three months longer, at a salary of 7000 dollars a month. Before she started for the Mexican capital, she despatched her agent, Mr. Ullman, to Europe, with instructions to secure all the available talent that could be procured for the formation of a fresh opera company, which was to meet her in New York on her return. That gentleman has been some time gone on his mission, and is, we understand, already far advanced in his arrangements; and it is not improbable that the first intimation that he will receive of the sad calamity which has deprived the artistic world of its brightest ornament, and crushed at a blow this promising enterprise, will be the lines that we are now sorrowfully intoning."

She was in her 48th year. She returned to the stage for the purpose of reconstructing the fortunes of her husband, Count Rossi; and in that, at least, she no doubt succeeded.

THE CAMP AT BOULOGNE.

THE South-Eastern Railway Company takes people to see the Camp at Boulogne at so cheap a rate as to suggest that the most effectual way to sustain the *entente cordiale* would be for the British public to go over, *en masse*, to fraternise with the French army, whom it would be inconvenient to invite to London.

The Emperor Louis Napoleon visited the camp on Tuesday, and was well received, both by the French and English in Boulogne. He was met by Count Walewski, the French Minister at our Court, who had gone over expressly to consult with his imperial master—and cousin. Admiral Lapierre, who is to superintend the embarkation of the troops for the Baltic, also met his Majesty. General Baraguay d'Hilliers is at Calais, where the embarkation was to take place (yesterday). The English ships are at Calais, waiting.

On Wednesday the Emperor had a grand review of the troops—about 12,000—who are encamped in the magnificent valley of Wimereux, and the inspection having been brought to a close, his Majesty summoned the officers of the respective regiments, about immediately to march, towards him, and a circle having been formed, the Emperor, in the hearing of a large portion of the troops, and many of the spectators, delivered with much animation an address:—

"Soldiers—Russia having forced us to war, France has armed five hundred thousand of her children. England has called out a considerable number of troops. To-day our fleets and armies, united for the same cause, dominate in the Baltic as well as in the Black Sea. I have selected you to be the first to carry our eagles to those regions of the north. English vessels will convey you there—a unique fact in history, which proves the intimate alliance of the two great peoples, and the firm resolution of the two governments not to abstain from any sacrifice to defend the right of the weak, the liberty of Europe, and the national honour."

"Go, my children! attentive Europe, openly or secretly, offers up vows for your triumph; our country, proud of a struggle which only threatens the aggressor, accompanies you with its ardent vows; and I, whom imperious duties retain still distant from the scene of events, shall have my eyes upon you; and soon, in re-beholding you, I shall be able to say: They were worthy sons of the conquerors of Austerlitz, of Eylau, of Friedland, and of Moskowa."

"Go, may God protect you!"

Loud and prolonged shouts of "Vive l'Empereur!" (all about the *coup d'état* is forgotten in the pressing excitement of the war) followed this address.

His Majesty returned from the review just at the moment when the steamer from Folkestone had steamed up to the jetty, and the numerous passengers (210 in number) and crew gave him a warm English cheer.

The whole number of troops to be embarked from Calais (where the Emperor now is) is 9300 infantry; there are also a number of the horses of the staff. Admiral Berkeley has, in concert with the French Vice-Admiral Lapierre, made all the necessary arrangements for carrying out the embarkation. The troops will embark in English ships, but the artillery and heavy ordnance will, it is expected, be conveyed by ships of the French navy. The present division will be formed into two brigades, under General d'Hugues and General Grévy; the whole force being under the command of General Baraguay d'Hilliers,

General Renault, and General Niel of the Engineers. Nothing has transpired with respect to the destination of the force in the Baltic, though the report that it is intended to take military possession of the island of Aland, as a *point d'appui fortifié*, is very generally received. The whole strength of the division intended for service in the Baltic, including some English marines, will be equal to 25,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Frenchman, Le Tour, who has been making "parachute descents" this season, has died of the injuries he received in his last experiment, and, let us hope, the enlightened public will be no more gratified with such "astonishing feats." No blame appears to attach to Mr. Simpson, of the Cremorne Gardens, whence the preliminary balloon ascents were made. Mr. Simpson took proper precautions that the parachute should be perfect; and the affair was evidently an accident, for which nobody is to be censured but the public.

Mr. Swabey, a registrar of the Court of Admiralty, disappeared some time ago. The deficiency in his accounts is now found to amount to more than 60,000l. The details of the case indicate that gross mismanagement which is the characteristic of British "Boards." He never gave security, and his accounts were never looked into. In fact, it would appear that if Mr. Swabey had not run away, Mr. Swabey would have lived with a good reputation. Who is responsible?

Dr. Newman, the new rector of the "Catholic University" of Ireland, is addressed by his co-religionists as "My Lord," "his Lordship," &c.; and the Protestant papers are indignant.

Drury Lania may expect excitement. Julien has returned to Regent-street from New York—we hope, rich again.

A Preston paper assures its interested public that the prosecutions against Cowell, and other leaders in the strike, have been, or are to be, withdrawn. But the question involved in their arrest ought not to be allowed thus to drop.

Medical assistance and nurses have been brought from Glasgow to Wishaw to overtake the alarmingly increased number of cases of cholera towards the close of last week. On one day lately there were ten corpses lying in the village. Several cases are reported at Castle Douglas.—*Edinburgh Witness*.

The Irish abduction case will soon be developed interestingly in the law courts. Application to the Lord Chief Justice Lefroy (Dublin) has been made to admit Mr. Carden to bail, and has been refused. Meanwhile Miss Arbuthnot is "an object of interest."

Mr. Reinagle, the Royal Academician, has obtained his certificate in the Insolvency Court.

The Poulterers are establishing a new "article." Quails are being imported in great numbers from Italy and are selling as good "game" in London.

A Correspondent of a morning contemporary thinks that this is a question of the day—why will people, giving or getting change, hold money in their mouths? He asks, can these persons be aware of the quintessence of filth worked by dirty fingers into the rims of coins and on their uneven surface, putting aside the fear of contagion, &c.

Messrs. Black and Durand continue their negotiations in London relative to the proposed Turkish loan, but have as yet been unable to conclude a treaty with any capitalist, in the absence of a guarantee of the interest and sinking fund from England or France.

The plan of open-air preaching has been successfully adopted in various parts of the kingdom, and the clergy of this town have now resolved on attempting it. The Revs. J. C. Miller, W. Cockin, I. C. Barrett, J. Eagles, and S. Eardley have already carried their intentions into practice, and the Rev. J. B. Marsden is about to commence similar ministrations. In each case, hitherto, we believe, orderly and attentive congregations have assembled.—*Aries's Birmingham Gazette*. [This is a proper experiment: if the people will not go to the church, the church should go to the people. But if it rains?] The chemists and druggists assistants are joining in the agitation for early closing. Inasmuch as the public cannot fix the hour when it wants physic, there is more than the usual opposition to the demand.

A painter, working up at the beams of the great transept of the Crystal Palace, missed his hold, fell, and was dashed to atoms, in the presence of hundreds of people.

A somewhat similar accident occurred on Wednesday to a labouring man employed in the New Houses of Parliament. He fell 80 feet, and was dashed against an iron girder.

On Thursday week the ship *Diego*, crowded with emigrants, sailed from Liverpool for Adelaide—all in good order. Ere she had got round Ireland cholera broke out; and the master wisely put into Cork, and thence she was towed by a fast steamer to Liverpool, where quarantine hulks could be got for the sick, who were numerous. Forty-one had died in those few days: on the Sunday 17 bodies having been tossed overboard. Liverpool is, of course, in great terror, but the hospital accommodation at once provided, was ample and creditable to Mersey energy.

HOOD'S MONUMENT.—We have received the following note, which we give as information interesting to many; and in giving it, we may state that the whole merit in this commendable and graceful hero worship is due to the gentleman who signs as honorary secretary:—

"Sir,—I beg to inform you that the public Monument to Thomas Hood, by Mr. Matthew Noble, is now being erected in Kensal-green Cemetery, and will be inaugurated on Tuesday next, July 18th, at three o'clock in the afternoon, when an address will be delivered by Richard Monckton Milnes, Esq., M.P."

"The favour of your attendance is specially invited."

"I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,"

"JOHN WATKINS, Hon. Sec."

The "Harrow Peel Testimonial" subscriptions are to be devoted to the purchase of a library for the Upper School. This is better than one of the eternal statues.

A Reverend Mr. Rainforth, the rector of the parish (city) of All Hallows, Staining, has been summoned before the Lord Mayor, under a statute of Henry VIII., various inhabitants of that parish, who decline to pay him his tithes, several of the summoned being Dissenters, and one a Jew. The defendants pleaded sufficiently that they had never calculated on the claim, had taken houses, &c., without reference to it, and generally that they did not want to support a rector whose religion they disliked. The Lord Mayor, puzzled, suggested that an attempt should be made to bring the rector to reason; and no order was made.

The first public sale of captured Russian cargoes since the commencement of hostilities took place this week at Garraway's. There was an immense attendance of brokers on the occasion. The gross proceeds realised by the sale of the cargoes of the 11 vessels were 3,903*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*—a dead bargain for the brokers.

There are some new Queen's Counsel: Mr. Commissioner Erle, Mr. Denison, of the Chancery Bar, and those two clever legal Members of Parliament, who have so admirably contrived to remain Radical members and yet become useful Ministerials—Mr. Phinn and Mr. Collier.

According to the *Nottingham Review*, the Duke of Devonshire has stripped his walls and pedestals, at Chatsworth, of the numerous portraits and busts of which he had been possessed, representing portraits of members of the Russian royal family. A fountain, which bore the name of the "Nicholas Fountain," is re-baptised into the "Victoria Fountain."

A DISMAL STORY.—This strange story comes out in a letter home from one of the English soldiers in the East:—"And another thing I have to inform you, we found a young girl here—an English girl. She was a slave to some Greek here; she was found working in the fields by one of the women of the 28th Regiment, who was going across the fields to go to market, when the poor creature called her over, and asked her for a drink of water, and then she told her she was an English woman, and had been slave to this Greek four years; she was shipwrecked with her father when she was 12 years old. She says this fellow was a pirate when he first took her. But the soldiers went and got some clue to where these fellows were, and pulled the nest about them, and brought five of them prisoners, and brought 20 women away with them—all slaves. But they had the English woman confined in irons somewhere else but they told the men they would hang them all there and then to a tree, if they would not tell where the English woman was; and to save their lives they told, and they then found the poor girl in a dungeon underground, and in irons, with a great weight on her chest; so they released her. These men are to be tried and they are sure to be shot. The soldiers are going to make a subscription for her; she is a native of Essex."

THE "SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF ITALY."—This confederation of earnest and able men has published a "Record" of its progress. Two or three sentences tell the whole story:—"There has been no recent opportunity for action on the part of the Society. There has scarcely even been any thing new to record; and it is for this reason, as well as for the sake of husbanding their resources against the time, which may at any moment arrive, for clearly defined and active exertion, that the Committee have waited so long to communicate again, through a number of the *Record*, with their constituents; and even now they have no active course to recommend. We must bide our time—silently organising and earnestly watching the course of events. In the mean time, we beg to remind those of our Members whose subscriptions are due at Midsummer, that without their aid, we are powerless even to sustain the humble part of waiting." Following is an able essay on "Secret Diplomacy" well worth publication in a form for general circulation.

THE VIA APPIA.—"The Via Appia, or Street of Tombs, is one of the grandest sights of Rome—an appropriate and affecting approach to the gates of the fallen mistress of the world; like her, in absolute ruin, but majestic in its fallen state. Much as I have read and seen of this approach, the solemn reality far exceeded my expectations. Extending in a straight line from the tomb of Cecilia Metella, the long vista of ruins open outstretching for miles over the desolate Campagna; stones, towers, monuments, shapeless masses, lie on every side piled upon each other, forming an avenue of ruin impossible to conceive. Beneath is the original Roman pavement, and very bad and rough it is. Then there is such an enchanting view of Rome and its ancient walls, the aqueducts stretching across the plain for miles and miles beyond the Appenines, ending in Mount Soracte, shaded in every colour from purple to pale-yellowish pink. In front lies Frascati, nestled in the folds of the mountains, dotted with forests and villages; above is Albano; while around extends the long level line of the Campagna, that earthen Dead Sea—calm, immovable, interminable, and looking equally accursed."—*New Monthly.*

COWARDICE.—"Readily confessing to cowardice, Cardan tells of a storm on the Lago di Guarda, in which he was nearly drowned. It was in the year that he was rector, at a time when he was forced by want of funds to make an expedition homeward. He had pushed off into the lake, unwillingly enough, with a few companions, and they had on board the boat some horses. Their sail was torn, they had their mast broken, lost also their rudder and one of their two oars, when night came on. At last they came ashore at Siamione, when they were all despairing of a rescue, Cardan most of all. They came ashore in good time, for very few minutes afterwards, when they were housed safely in their inn, a fierce burst of the storm arose, which their disabled boat could by no chance have weathered. The iron hinges of the windows in the inn were bent by it. Jerome, who had been out of doors a confessed coward, tells philosophically how all his valour came to him when a fine pike was brought to table, and he supped joyously, though his companions could not eat. The only youth, except Cardan, who had an appetite, was he whose rashness led the party into danger, and whose courage found a safe way out of it."—*Jerome Cardan.*

Postscript.

SATURDAY, July 15th.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The latest telegraphs renew the story about the concentration of Anglo-French troops at Rutschuk; the items of intelligence being somewhat varied; the date being now to the 9th, and the number of troops 18,000, instead of 15,000. The persistency of this news begins to render it a probability; and, if it be true, we may expect soon to hear of the allied armies being in actual contact with the Russians.

Letters from Odessa "concentrate" the allied fleets (fifty-eight sail), in the "direction of" Sebastopol.

On the other hand, it is reported that positive orders from St. Petersburg have reached the Russian generals in the Principalities to re-occupy the positions sacrificed by Paskiewitsch.

A letter from Madrid (July 12) represents the insurgents as routed in Valencia.

PARLIAMENTARY.

In the House of Lords the early part of the sitting was occupied by the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, who defended the Board of Health against the attack made on it by Lord Seymour in the House of Commons, in asserting that the Board had by its conduct completely checked the progress of sanitary measures in this country, and, by its despotic course of proceeding, disgusted the whole nation, and that upon it, and it alone, was chargeable the non-progress of those great beneficial measures which were so much required by the physical condition of the people. The noble Earl gave a flat contradiction in the first place, and then proceeded to make out his case by elaborate arguments and lengthy documents from different parts of England in favour of the proceedings of his Board. He was heartily supported by the Bishop of LONDON, the Earl of CARLISLE, and Lord BROUGHAM; the result being a complete vindication of Mr. Chadwick.

Lord LYTTLETON then made an elaborate attack on the administration of New Zealand by Governor Sir G. Grey, especially as regarded the manner in which he had dealt with the new constitution of the colony, and the changes he had made in the prices of land.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE warmly defended his officer, going with his usual fulness into all the details of the affair. The other business was of no importance.

In the House of Commons, in answer to Mr. HEYWOOD, Sir J. YOUNG stated that he had received an intimation from the authorities of Dublin University, stating that they had applied for a Queen's letter, in order to enable them to take steps to cause a reasonable number of exhibitions to be increased in value, and placed on the same footing as the scholarships—these to be open to persons of all religious denominations.

Mr. J. O'CONNELL drew attention to the outbreak of cholera on board the emigrant ship *Dirigo*, and urged the passing of a bill to stop emigration from any port where cholera prevailed.

Mr. F. PERL said, in the particular case alluded to the disease had been corrected; and as to a general measure, it was too late now to introduce any measure, and emigrants must take their chance till next session, when the Government could prepare a bill.

The Oxford University Bill was brought down from the Lords, and the amendments ordered to be considered next Thursday.

Sir C. WOOD, pressed by Mr. ORWAY, declined to recommend any recognition of the rank of officers in the Indian army beyond that which they now enjoyed; such as it is.

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT answered interpellations on the subject of army clothing by stating that new patterns of uniforms were decided on; but they could not be issued till next year; and he positively asserted on authority that the English soldiers had less

to carry on their backs than the French troops. The hospital waggons (ambulance) had been sent off some time, and were by this at Varna.

BRIBERY BILL.

The House then went into committee on the Bribery Bill, and resumed its discussion at the 17th clause, which, all through the debate, was characterised as the main feature of the bill. It provides for the appointment of an officer to be called "Auditor of Election Expenses," through whose hands all the money spent at elections was to pass, and who is to audit the accounts and publish them in the newspapers.

Considerable discussion followed on the minor question of the mode of appointment, and the sort of officers that would be appointed; but there was an almost universal concurrence on both sides of the House with regard to the principle of creating such an officer—who would secure publicity with regard to all money spent at elections. Finally Mr. BENTINCK moved the omission of the clause, but only on the ground that while going the right way to work in the appointment of the election officer, it failed in defining his duties. On a division, the clause was carried—the numbers being for the clause, 133; against it, 74; majority 59.

The clauses which were next proceeded with, were of less importance, and dealt principally with detail.

On clause 21, which provides that no payments be made except through the election officer, except personal and advertising expenses, Lord ROBERT CROSSVENOR moved its rejection, and a division took place—and the clause was carried by a majority of 148 to 67.

The Chairman then reported progress.

The other business disposed of was formal.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

All letters for the Editor should be addressed to 7, Wellington-street, Strand, London.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 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*

WHAT IS THE DUTY OF THE LIBERAL PARTY?

THE House of Commons is drifting rapidly into the recess—which is a period when freedom, in our climate, is not in season—in apparently utter indifference as to what, during the recess, the Government may do with the war. Mr. Layard has incessantly indicated, since his entrance into Parliament, that he is not a competent leader on the Eastern question; and yet, so far as House of Commons

arrangements are visible, it depends entirely on the whims of Mr. Layard, who is exposed to much Ministerial politeness, whether or not before the session closes, we shall have a debate—with what are technically called explanations—on the position of the nation and the policy of our rulers in regard to Russia. As yet the Liberal party would seem to have made only one condition as to the war; that there shall be specially provided for this war a Minister of War. The concession having been made by a Court and Cabinet not indisposed to gratify public opinion, when public opinion insists on the creation of a new office with a new Secretary of State's salary at the disposal of aristocratic parties, the House will, on Monday, on the vote of supply of 17,000*l.* for the new office, have to discuss the extent to which they are satisfied with the new arrangements, it being observable that none of the several war-offices is abolished, and that no amalgamation of the various departments has taken place. The opportunity will be provided for the Liberals to intimate if this is what they meant by their agitation to procure efficiency in the war; not having at all agitated as to what the new minister was to be efficacious about.

Couriers are flying between all the Courts of Europe; negotiations are everywhere in progress amongst statesmen; but the peoples are profoundly ignorant of what is being negotiated. The several publics, with more or less of free presses, indulge in suspicions of the tenour of this courtly and cabinet correspondence; and where there is definite action ascertained, the public is found absolutely in opposition to its Government. In Prussia, the King is ostentatiously in antagonism with his people; in England, Lord Aberdeen, by position the most powerful Member of the Government, is distinctly unpopular with the nation. A Camarilla opposes the wish of the Prussian people; in England the Cabinet, while refraining, in conformity with the traditional policy of the English aristocracy, from openly opposing the people, may be reasonably suspected of not intending a clear national policy—because it abstains from consultation with the House of Commons. It would be illogical to suggest the possibility of what is called treachery in the Government. Great faith may be placed in Mr. Gladstone's conception of what England expects, and in the Duke of Newcastle's energy in obtaining a successful war, if only for the credit of his department. But for the Government's own sake it is bound to be more explicit.

There is obviously a delay in pressing on with the war. Delay, on our part, not only in providing our troops in the East with adequate commissariat, and our ships in the Baltic with sufficient troops in time; but also in "negotiation" at the instigation of Russia, at Berlin and at Vienna; and the House of Commons will not overlook the fact that the English recess is contemporaneous with the Russian winter. When wind, and rain, and ice have rendered further operations impossible, and when the non-existence of the House of Commons renders a rapid treaty possible, it may be too much to expect that our practical statesmen should defer to the vague Liberalism of a nation that is without an organisation of its will. The Duke of Newcastle's letter to the people of Sheffield, intimating the absolutism of her Majesty's proper notion of her real prerogative, should suggest some caution to that representative House which has come to regard the vote of supplies as a form—which gives the money and considers what for—afterwards.

We have ventured repeatedly to suggest, in the course of this session, and without joining in any of the partisan invective against a Coalition which is not merely the only pos-

sible Government, but about the best Government England ever has enjoyed, that the Radical party, or the party which for want of a better name we must denominate the Radical, has abnegated its historical functions in becoming Ministerial—and Ministerial merely to spite the Opposition. The Government, with all its negative strength of position, is positively becoming weak in reputation; and it still remains practicable for the Radical party so to develop and organise itself in the House of Commons as to insist upon the conditions on which this war should be continued. A profound, even though partisan writer, in the new number of the *Quarterly*, says, intending his aphorism as an insinuation against Lord Aberdeen, "What a people obeys as instinct, all true statesmen confirm as policy." The instincts of the people of England at this moment condemn the routine and technical conception formed by our Government of the method of treating Russia. It is therefore the duty of the Liberal party to make provision that the Secret Diplomacy which is rampant in every capital in Europe shall not be permitted to arrest the magnificent career of the united French and English nations, armed against the Power which is out of place in the century.

THE BRIBERY BILL.

A VERY stringent measure for the prevention and punishment of bribery and intimidation—a measure so acute in dealing with electioneering evasions of the law, that there is a general suspicion Mr. Coppock was consulted in the details—is now being passed through the House of Commons: and the House expects that the country will admire the House because of these inexorable arrangements for "purity." Yet, apparently, to not one of the current "bills" in progress, or abandoned, is the country more indifferent than to this Bribery Bill; and is the reason this—that the country believes just as little as the House believes in the efficacy of the bill? This last is the most earnest anti-bribery bill that the House of Commons has yet ventured on: and it would be admitted, if it could be taken for granted that the defeated candidate would always petition, that, under this bill, abuses of the franchise would always at least be punished. Still the country is calm at the assured prospect of its purification: and thus we have a double highly curious phenomenon. We have a great country proclaiming, in its senate, that its picked political constituency, supposed to govern the governors, is rotten and immoral; and, further, we have a great country not minding in the least so astounding a proclamation. Thus, while the sin of the sinners is great, there may be a deeper national crime committed in the indifference of the virtuous to the sin. However, it might be asked—Can we be expected to care about our political corruption at a moment when we are engaged in defending civilisation by repressing Russia?

Perhaps this apathy is explicable in a more logical way, and in a sense more honourable to us. It might be shown that there is a sad amount of exaggerated nonsense talked about "electoral corruption." The million, or thereabout, of electors, who best know themselves, know that a man doesn't necessarily take a bribe as soon as he is enfranchised; and we may fairly interpret the coolness of this body to mean—that they do not believe the rogues among them preponderate over the really independent and honest. Then, with regard to the "national" indifference, we must remember that the nation is composed of several millions of the unenfranchised, so that it is not their business to attend to what Parliament is doing in the moral management

of a selected class of the reputed qualified political critics. Further, we must not forget the very general conviction among the "men of the world," that though taking a bribe for a vote may be a censurable eccentricity, very properly to be put down, yet that, even assuming there is as great corruption as "friends of the people" in the House, assert, the electoral corruption is practically nugatory in its results on the national policy and progress. This class, who directly influence the mass of tangible opinion, regard constituencies as an endurable machinery, which appeases popular prejudices, and gives the appearance of self-government, but which does not influence the movement of actual "Government." Thus we are to be comforted with the belief, that if the electors are catiffs the elected are pure; an analogous process, somewhat vindicating the theory, being the extraction of purest perfume from the most villanous refuse substances. "The system works well" is the phrase of a practical nation; which is thus reconciled to the existence of horrible anomalies; and which, therefore, regards a bill to suppress bribery with the same languid enthusiasm which would be excited if Mr. — or Lord — were induced to ask the respective Houses of Parliament, to which they belong, to debate a resolution enunciatory that virtue is a good thing.

Nevertheless to that other large class, who, as Englishmen, are somewhat proud of England's history and position, and who object to the defilement of a great nation by corruption—and, still more, to the insult to the nation offered in the cool aristocratic cant which concludes that there is a universality of political corruption—it would be more pleasant if the facts were faced about bribery bills, and if the truths were honestly talked out. This class, assuredly, does not place great faith in the professed anxiety of a House of Commons which exists, as now constituted, under a false and vicious political system—being radically untrue to its pretensions as a People's House—to coerce the stray poor elector into such honour as will enable him to resist the vulgar wiles of the rich candidate's agent. The class of politicians who happen to be in earnest in politics, and have a faith rather than a party, can only regard a Bribery Bill as a measure to obtain a true election of a House of Commons by the country; and they comment on this particular bill by saying, "This is not the way—you must pass out of the foetid atmosphere of corrupt little boroughs into the air breathed by the nation—you must appeal over constituencies to the country." Some men, as in the debate in the Commons did several Radicals, ask for the ballot as a means of tricking even the existing electoral body into independence both of bribes and of intimidation. But—the question not at all being whether the ballot is not good for itself—this is only another method of libelling the nation. The existing constituency, despite all its taints, is strong and pure enough to get us the Ballot and "Reform" proper—in time; all the sooner, if the Radicals would not perpetually talk as if the existing constituency was not, on the whole, thoroughly English, and thoroughly national.

Viewed from any point of view, the Bribery Bill does not obtain great attention. Historically it will be utterly resultless; and the moral of the matter is this:—when Parliament legislates on such a matter for a nation which is not attending to that legislation, there must be something wrong in the relations between representatives and represented—so called. When the People's House consents to be a reality, ceasing to be a sham, the present "People" will generally consider whether their votes ought not to be always given for principle, and not sometimes for money.

HOW BRITISH OFFICERS ARE GROWN.

It might be said with little risk of mistake that the victories of an army will be in direct ratio to the capacities of its officers. The reason is clear: the officers are the nerves of the army, its mediums of sensation, intelligence, and direction. They are begotten out of the same stock with the people that compose the ranks; but selected from this people, trained to a higher calling, they represent with the courage and the natural military capacity the scientific art of the race. Given, good officers, and you will in most cases find good soldiers; not only because the soldiers will be well-governed, but because the quality of the two will be aboriginally the same—the stuff of which the men are made the same.

But good soldiers may exist, and yet good officers may be wanting, through faults of system instead of nature. The general reader needs be told that the conduct of a regiment will depend upon its officers. It has been observed of the French soldiers that they will follow if the officers will lead—of the officers, that they are always ready to take the lead. In our own army, disasters and disgrace have been incurred by soldiers for deficiencies in the officers. Regiments have turned and run away, have been publicly reprimanded, possibly marked with permanent disgrace, where the blame lay upon the officers. The officers may be, and in most cases were, as brave as the men; but if they are deficient either in training or experience, they may not know what to do; and blundering may simulate cowardice. A cavalry regiment must achieve its best exploits at a dashing pace; but a dashing pace in the wrong direction will have a very equivocal appearance; and it is well known that unless an officer be well studied and trained in the tendencies of a cavalry regiment to break its ranks, the regiment may get "out of hand," and become an embarrassment instead of an aid. Bad weapons may entail suffering upon soldiers, but their place may be supplied by resolute self-sacrifice in the men and dashing invention in the officers. Bad clothing, bad health, even deficient drill, have not prevented great exploits, as the annals of Napoleon or Wellington can attest. But with indifferent officers, an army is without intelligence or power of correct action; its nerves are vitiated—it is insane.

It is a somewhat formidable fact, therefore, that on the commencement of what appears likely to be a great war, our Government should be looking to its actual store of officers, and find it in a state anything but satisfactory. Its conditions are the reverse of those which promise victorious results of action. We have, indeed, insuperable faith in the power of the English character to surmount difficulties, and in its inborn aptitude for military service. We believe that in no country do the natural faculties for action survive to so great an age, and in no country does the inherent faculty of intelligent application,—the resolve to do the right thing if possible, and at once, go so far as to supply deficiencies of training. But, according to the report of the Commissioners on promotion, the officers that we actually possess are, speaking generally, either too old for the service required of them, or untrained for service,—are either decrepid or raw. This is the result of the system of promotion which has followed the genius of our commercial country in considering rather the interests of the individual, or the rights of a purchaser, than the necessities of the State, or the efficiency of the whole army. This commercial tendency was perhaps aggravated in its bad effect by the blind confidence that peace would last for ever; the army was treated

partly as a gewgaw, a concession to old ideas of aristocratic government and war upon the continent; and partly as an instrument requisite for keeping down riots at home; and it was thought that old officers, or crude officers would do as well for pageantry or home campaigns as any other. The younger men were allowed to purchase showy sinecures, while the officers of the late war remained as honorary pensioners.

In 1840 there was an examination into the existing system, which was thoroughly exposed; but it was not thought necessary to do anything during the peace; so the abuse has continued to be re-exposed. We have crowds of colonels and generals of venerable age, sixty, sixty-five and seventy years and more. Of 182 colonels on full pay, 146 are above forty years of age, and 53 are between sixty and sixty-five. Of 177 lieutenant-colonels on full pay, 161 are above forty, and 78 are between sixty and sixty-five. The average age of the major-generals at present, is sixty-five; lieutenant-generals are of course older.

"The army cannot be said to be efficient in all its ranks when, in the grade from which the commander must be chosen, upon whose vigour and energy the success of a campaign may mainly depend, there are no officers below that age after which but few men possess the physical strength necessary to endure the privations and fatigues incidental to service in the field. Nor is the evil limited to this. There results from it this further disadvantage: either inexperienced commanders are employed, or, if experienced, their experience is wasted. Thus, should some of these major-generals be still young enough for employment in the field, they are still too old to make the experience they so gain available for further services. One command, probably, brings them to an age when retirement from active service becomes necessary, and the experience they have gained is lost to the country, and, as it were, buried with them, and they are again succeeded by untried men.

"It is stated, in his evidence before the commission of 1840, by Lord Fitzroy Somerset, that in the last war, 'with the exception of Lord Lyndoch and Sir Thomas Picton, they had no general officers in command above forty years of age.' They were all between thirty-five and forty."

This is the result of promotion by seniority. It is a system which does no credit to the profession, for it presumes that every man must be of equal capacity—that any man who can purchase a commission has only to grow into a general officer. It presumes, indeed, what is quite counter to the fact, that officers are, like wine, improved with age. Counter to reason, and counter to fact, the system could of course only have bad results, and we see, on the authority of commissioners representing the highest officials in the army and in the military department, without regard to party, that our officers are either too old for service or too inexperienced for the field.

In the approaching contest, which may shake all Europe, we cannot beforehand tell what armies we may be called upon to face. It may be that of Prussia, in which special facilities have been afforded to every youth of good birth for obtaining the training of an officer. If Waterloo were again to occur, the Napoleon of the future might find himself in face of an army officered by aged men or by untrained men, whereas that Napoleon of the future would find in his own ranks colonels and captains, if not down to the very sub-lieutenants, who would be still young, yet would have been trained in the field in regimental and general commands. The Bédouins and the Lamoricières were young men when they rose to their general command—young men with full and recent experience. We have some approach to the same class in our Indian and Cape officers; but the system of promotion has kept the class scanty in numbers, and has debarred it from its full opportunities.

The plan proposed by the commissioners

for qualifying promotion by seniority with conditions of actual service, and with the promotion of officers to particular service for the benefit of the state, or with promotion as a reward for brilliant exploits, will diminish the evil with which we have to contend; but if it may within a few years remove the multitude of aged officers on whom we have to depend at present, will it supply the trained officers, possessing the strength and fire of youth, whom we may require at a month's notice?

If the Government, in whose hands our passive countrymen leave the affairs of the nation, were really impressed with true patriotism, or with a full sense of responsibility, it would grapple with this difficulty in a much more serious fashion, and would, at once, break up a system that is oppressive to the English people, beneficial only to our enemies. Slow and partial "retirements," partial promotion for service, occasional promotion in reward of merit—but always amongst the list of commissioned officers—are measures far from being enough to introduce the true quantum of youth, blood, and ambitious spirit into the army. Under the Bourbons, before the revolution, the French army had become the victim of routine; its commanders had made it a toy, had wasted their attention upon coxcombical refinements in evolutions, such as those which exasperate Captain Nolan, in our own day, in our own cavalry; and the army proved to be inefficient and tame, until a comparatively violent measure introduced officers of the *tiers état* into its ranks. New blood was infused, men were sown about the army fired with the ambition of achieving an immense social elevation for themselves, and the beneficial result anticipated was realised. At present, while our officers are deadened by the long occupancy of a monopoly for a class, undisturbed by competition from other classes; those classes of society who have not enjoyed elevation, and to whom, therefore, it would have the keenest zest which ambition could give, are kept out. There are men in the ranks, or men who are promoted to the dignity of a non-commissioned officer, who have by nature all the qualities that the rank of officer requires. Place them in the upper ranks, and their emulation would be, at all events, an useful stimulus in its competition to those who are there by birth.

Again, however, let us say, at the cost of fatiguing the attention of our readers, that it is idle waste of work to heap censure upon the Government for those abuses. We charge them upon the people. The people has sold its birthright for a mess of pottage—it has given up its duty of self-defence to be free for the pursuit of lucre. It is natural that the worst abuse of a state which has surrendered its own right in the possession of arms to a class, should be found in the army.

We often boast of our guarantees for political liberty, but there is no guarantee like a material guarantee, and those which we boast are likely enough to break down on trial, unless, through the irrepressible energy of the English character, our sons should roughly recover that which our fathers have as tamely lost, and which we have as tamely permitted to be alienated from us. We sneer at the oppression undergone by the French; but, in truth, no conqueror could long put upon the French people a Government in which they did not concur, because the French, not having been long alienated from the use and practice of arms, would speedily put the question to the issue of battle. And in that oppressed country of France, a fixed proportion of the commissions is reserved for men who rise from the ranks. The Prussian King cannot, in great matters, permanently contra-

dict the feeling of his people, because a country in which every man must serve for three years in the ranks is an army. The most striking example to our view, however, is still the American people with its limited and cheap standing army. The force scarcely exceeding 16,000 men on the 1st of January, 1852, must be a joke to those who are acquainted with our Army List. The officers trained at West Point, can only rise by merit; and merit can elevate men from the ranks. Although, by the way, it is a rather curious fact, that a large proportion of the *private* soldiers of the American army are emigrants from the United Kingdom. But the true army of the United States consists of its militia, 2,200,000 strong. The people of the United States is its own army, and upon that people cannot be thrust the commercial cost, the political oppression of a huge standing army, aggravated by abuses which shut out the citizens from the rank of officers and convert the monopolists of that rank into grey-haired pensioners, officially pronounced to be inefficient for their duty. "An armed man," says Spinoza,* "is more than an unarmed man, in possession of his rights, and those citizens transfer absolutely their right to another, and commit it entirely to his fidelity, when they give him arms." The nation which has entirely surrendered the hold and practice of arms, has neither insight on that subject, nor voice in military matters, nor power of enforcement if the voice were raised. We must therefore accept the officers vouchsafed to us, and rejoice that they are no worse.

ADULTERATION OF SOCIETY.

ADULTERATION is a process that appears to be carried on in many more kinds of industry than ordinary trade. Some time since, the *Lancet* performed a public service by exposing the actual quality of goods which are sold under certain names of articles used for food, medicines, condiments, &c., but we very much doubt whether the exposure has had the effect that might have been expected. If for the moment tradesmen changed countenance, the faces of their shops have not altered; firms have not disappeared; there is no sign that great Italian warehouses, supposed to deal only in genuine jellies, pickles, spices, and preserves, have been blasted by the proclamation that partly selling those things they partly also put off upon the customer glue from the knacker's, copperas, vermillion, and earthen, literally worth no better than the dirt beneath the feet.

The fact is that in nine cases out of ten the customer also adulterates, and it might be an amusing exposure to follow that process of adulteration carried on all round. Imagine a circle of men comprising the butcher and baker of society, "the tinker, tailor, apothecary, ploughboy, thief," each dealing with the rest, each adulterating, and each in turn purchasing adulterated goods. In this case each man makes a dishonest profit upon the spurious part of the article—the copperas which passes amongst the pickles, the currant-leaves amongst the tea, the vermillion amongst the pepper; but each loses exactly the proportion on his expenditure that he gains in his trade, and thus the circle, as a whole, actually produce, use, and enjoy less of food and its condiments than they intend to have. Strange division of employment, by which society cheats itself; strange condition of society in which each man dares not denounce his fellow because he is an accomplice in the crime! Really the only genuine dealer amongst the circle appears to be the thief!

The adulteration is not only detected in food, but in clothing, furniture, houses, in

short everything purchased. Your coat is shoddy cloth, your wife's silk gown is cotton; the house you live in has a flaw in its existence—the house you purchase has perhaps no drain to its sink; the digging implements delivered to the army will not dig; and recently it has been discovered that this adulteration extends even to the instruments of trade—its bills of exchange and its warrants. A statute has been passed this session by Mr. Gladstone to stop the practice of manufacturing Colonial Bills of Exchange in London itself; and by a series of cases which have come before the Court of Bankruptcy, we find that warrants are said to have been manufactured to the extent, it is affirmed, of 400,000.

The failure of Messrs. Davidson and Gordon, distillers, led to this discovery. They failed about three weeks ago; two of the houses connected with them have fallen, and one of these houses is said to have advanced 40,000*l.* on warrants that are forgeries. There is precedent for this species of false deposit. We remember that the illustrious Don Rodrigo de Bivar, the Cid, whose name and exploits are immortalised in Spanish history and poetry, once raised a loan from some Jews on the deposit of treasure, which treasure consisted of large boxes filled with stones and sand. In modern times this device has descended to persons who fraudulently fly from their lodgings. Nay, it appears even the partnerships themselves may be not what they purport to be. There were, for example, transactions between the firm of Davidson and Gordon and that of Richard Parris and Co., distillers; whereas, on inquiry, it appears that Richard Parris has nothing to do with the distillery at all, but lets out his name at two guineas a week to Mr. de Russett, who has the sole interest in the distillery. Nay, we arrive at a further discovery—this Mr. de Russett, describing himself as a private gentleman, in the Directory is a general merchant, and in fact is a distiller.

In short, you must not take for granted anything that you see about you. If you buy an ounce of mustard, it is probably turmeric that you have bought; if you see a man set down in the Directory as a general merchant, he is perhaps a distiller; if "Richard Doe and Co." appears over the door, it is probable that there is no "company," and that Richard Roe is the real "firm;" if you have a warrant for the delivery of wines or spirits, there are, perhaps, no spirits or wines. There appears to be no appeal from this universal adulteration, for the same vice encounters you in the tribunal to which you would appeal. Go to Parliament for new laws to protect trade against our vices, and you find Parliament itself adulterated. Purporting to represent the people, probably the member sits there by having purchased his vote from a fraction of the people; for the "independent" electors are purchasable. Having sworn to his qualification, the member perhaps possesses none: and he has taken oaths at which most men in the House laugh,—amongst other things solemnly swearing not to aid and abet in placing on the British throne the extinct descendants of the Pretender.

One asks where all this is to stop; an important point; for if one could find any unadulterated part of society, that might furnish a firm rock upon which to stand to recover the rest.

DIVORCE "NEXT SESSION."

THE Lord Chancellor has withdrawn the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill—a retraction in many respects, and by many degrees, the cruellest which Government has

committed. Of all irritating endurances a matrimonial "cause," or a cryingly urgent divorce unaccomplished, is about the worst; and we have reason to know that many a weary heart, long sick with hope deferred, or with no hope at all, did at last learn a false hope from Lord Cranworth's bill. The bill was infinitely less of a boon than many supposed; yet relief it would have brought to some—and it is withdrawn.

Not that evidence of its necessity failed. In this very week of the retraction we have two divorce cases, and scarcely a single case occurs without exemplifying the necessity of amending the law. We do not now speak on theoretical grounds; we are not raising any question of first principles, or quarelling with the morals with which society professes to be content; but we take them as we find them, and judge of these cases only by the ordinary standards of received morality, good feeling, and common sense.

Take the case of "Caton's divorce," before the House of Lords—not a new one. The couple were married in 1831, we are told, and "lived happily" till 1841; the lady was then under some suspicion, but her conduct was suffered to pass as "levity," and she again lived with her husband until 1843. A child was born in 1845; its father was understood to be a French officer, the paternity of Mr. Caton being disproved by the fact that cohabitation had ceased since 1843. A bill for divorce is before the House of Lords now, in 1854. Thus a lady, virtually without a husband, accepted one irregularly; and that offence is visited with condign punishment ten years after the fact. What was the life practicable for either of that doomed couple during those ten years?

In "Stocker's divorce" case, the facts, although not subject to much legal doubt, are not so perfectly undisputed. Here the husband was a schoolmaster. The couple were married in 1839; the wife left her home in 1843, and lived with an usher, under feigned names. Witnesses declared that the husband and wife had "lived happily;" the lady's sister, however, who gave her evidence with great candour, said that the husband was "very violent with his tongue," the wife's "meekness" only made it worse—she was "exceedingly kind;" she did "nothing to give rise to his irascible conduct, which she received very quietly, and tried to appease him; but she did not often succeed." Now let us suppose this a correct account, and let us ask our readers whether, in their experience, or in their imagination, they cannot foresee one very probable—let us say one, very common result of "irascible" conduct, unconciliated by meek attempts to appease? We know what the effects may be, especially upon a truly serious and affectionate disposition: first chagrin,—then estrangement,—indifference,—repugnance,—horror at the position which subjects a woman to receive the manifestations of love from one who is the object of repugnance.

Such a position can be felt by the woman alone. It is rarely that the sentence of a court on that most indecent and hideous of all proceedings, for the "restitution of conjugal rights," coerces a man into such a violation of natural feeling. The woman who undergoes it is subjected to legal prostitution.

Supposing, however, that in this case the husband was not irascible, at all events they part—they are separated *de facto*, under circumstances which, according to principles accepted by our logists, render their re-union impossible. Yet to obtain a release the husband must bring an action for criminal conversation in a court of law, a suit for separation in the Ecclesiastical Court, and a bill into Parliament. Mr. Stocker is a schoolmaster, and however successful he may have

* Spinoza's *Treatise on Politics*, translated by W. Maccall.

been in life, it must be presumed that he does not belong to the aristocratic or wealthy classes of society: yet he must resort to means which imply the possession of wealth, and esteem himself happy too; for how many, having the same reasons to claim divorce, have not at command the price of justice!

To all who sought divorce on the same grounds, Lord Cranworth's bill afforded the double relief, of concentrating the authority and diminishing the expense. It would no longer have been necessary to obtain three favourable judgments in two courts and in Parliament; and the cost would have been greatly diminished. Not enough, however, to give the relief to the poor man: the bill would only, so to speak, have extended the right of divorce to the middle classes.

That was something. But the measure is arrested, and why? Because the officers and others interested in the maintenance of the vicious and condemned Ecclesiastical Courts try to gain time by delays; and so, to delay the judgment on the unjust income of those persons, numbers of men and women condemned to the torture of undissolved though impracticable union, must continue in their suffering.

The expectations which had been formed of the bill were indeed extravagant; and many expected under it a release which they would not have had. Others were more correct. A lady writing to the *Daily News* denounces it as "for the first time flagrantly drawing a distinction between the comparative culpability of men and women in breaking the marriage vow." "Though it might be bad morality," said Lord Cranworth, in defending his bill, "there was no blinking the fact that a husband would scarcely lose caste for an offence of this kind [adultery], whereas a wife would forfeit her station in society." And on this Mrs. Margaret Hallen sends her protest to our contemporary:

"Hardly as our sex have been treated by the matrimonial statutes of previous ages in England, it is reserved for the boasted civilisation of the nineteenth century to endeavour to deprive us of the small protection against insult and indignity which law and public opinion have afforded us hitherto; for whilst by the measure proposed facilities are afforded to the husband to dissolve his union with an unfaithful wife, should the case be reversed, and the wife the injured party, no redress of grievances, no sundering of the marriage bond, except under the most extreme cases of villany, is procurable. By the measure proposed, the husband may revel in profligacy, he may convert his home into a harem, he may insult his wife with the presence of the accomplices of his guilt, and yet commit no legal crime which may enable his outraged partner to come before a court of justice for relief. That a measure involving such a principle as this should have emanated from some of the most distinguished personages in the land is a matter that cannot but excite surprise, indignation, and regret in the minds of many a woman in this country. Must we not feel that that it is because we have no advocate to plead our cause—that advantage is taken of our silence, weakness, and helplessness, to deny us that justice which man can claim so forcibly for himself?"

No, that is not the reason. The first reason is this: Lord Cranworth has considered the justice of granting the wife the right of divorce for adultery on the husband's part; but he dared not grant it—the cases that might be advanced on that ground would be so innumerable, that the very institution of marriage would be imperilled. Wonderful candour of a Lord Chancellor! Wonderful confession of the marriage law as it is!

The next reason, which Lord Cranworth might justly plead, is, that the real origin of any law, good or bad, lies in society itself. The legislature does but shape laws. It is the absence of distinct practical ideas in society, on this subject of marriage, which are the real source of the injus-

tice. In the discussion of such questions, true principles are mixed with assumptions founded on customs in distant ages and distant countries, and with religious dogmas. In morals especially men arrogate the title to say that such a practice is "right" or is "wrong," without taking any pains to judge for themselves, or to test the judgment by tangible and practical considerations. They claim the right to exercise private judgment on the existence of a Deity, and all the attendant questions of religion; and do accordingly examine into the evidences, and come to some conclusions of their own, or suppose they do. But on the most practical class of questions called moral, they are content to take the dicta of theologians, legists, and Popes,—of Pagan, Jew, and Gentile, ages ago! Women abet the men in passing these spurious convictions for real; and those who cry out for reform in their own case, are as likely as not to turn round and dogmatise, even on the old principles, upon the right or wrong of their neighbour's case. Hence, having neither clear ideas, positive conclusions, nor accord of action, those who want the reform must take just so much as a Cranworth may please to give; and when he pleases: the "much" being the bill now thrown to the rats of Doctors' Commons; the "when" that legislative to-morrow "next session."

BEWARE OF THE DOG.

It is an old proverb that when you give a dog a bad name you hang him. But it appears that the result to the dog is much the same even when you give him a good name—in the sense of speaking in his favour. Benevolent people have had a "movement" to release dogs from the cart specially known among vehicles as the dog-cart; the Lords are passing a bill to prohibit such use, and the owners of such dogs are preparing, accordingly, to hang their dogs thus used—the dogs being 20,000 in number. That, however, one would think is merely the dogs' affair; we make this generation of canine cart-drawers suffer, but we bless future generations of dogs—that is, we prohibit the possible propagation of varieties of supernumerary curs; and we, in no way, hurt ourselves—merely indulging what one noble lord called our "philanthropy," severely indifferent as to the fate of those we insist on benefiting. But the Earl of Eglintoun warns us that there's not an end of the dog, when he dangles from a rope in the popular back yard; it is intimated to us that the dog will reappear in the popular pie; and his lordship warns us, who despise Chinese tastes, to be careful of quasi-pork during the period of what should be the dog days. Now, if it could be conditioned that the "philanthropists" alone should eat all the pork pies to be produced during the next three months, we would have no objection to the bill passing. But the "philanthropists" will do nothing of the kind; to a suggestion of that sort they would answer, like Rabelais's cook consulting with the chickens, who objected both to roasting as well as boiling, that we were wandering from the question. We must submit, therefore, to a new species of "adulteration," under that system of which we have spoken in another article. Consequently, *cave canem*.

Lord Eglintoun's hint, however, is so carelessly forcible as to urge to the consideration: why should we, a kind-hearted people, be generous to dogs, and cruel to the human masticators of pork-pies? It looks meritorious to enfranchise dogs: and the Lords' measure will be spoken of as an advance in "civilisation." Yet it strikes certain Peers with

horror that animals of soft paws should be used for draught, while it only excites a laugh when a grave Peer refers to the notorious and more hideous fact that our Christian tradesmen engaged in certain departments of the provision trade would, without compunction put "Dash" into a pork-pie. Do we, thus set off one national sin against another by arranging only to be experimentally good in *corpore vili*,—our national cur? The gentleman who was shocked at the use of a goose in cleansing,—by being flappingly drawn up—a chimney, and who recommended that two ducks should be used, in that way, instead was perhaps only guilty of the national logic. In certain districts of Ireland the literary market—engaged in denunciations of the oppressor—is supplied with quills gathered from the living and screaming goose: and the peasants, remonstrated with, enquire "would you have us, then, starve?" There is some syllogistic process developed in that question. But the English public is to be forced into goodness to dogs, in order that they, the public, may eat—what they don't like.

Still larger questions arise out of this debate—managed too frivolously. Opinions were divided for and against the dog—the dog alone being able to determine which were the true ayes, and which were the veritable noes. Several young Peers improperly absented themselves on an occasion when their order would have been indebted to them for an opinion. The Peers who were in favour of the use of dogs in carts, contended that the dogs did not suffer; by which they meant that they didn't suffer more than was good for them, their paws being accommodated to their functions, and their masters having an interest in taking care of them. On the other hand, other Peers quoted the intentions of Providence, as printed in the said paws, and argued, generally, that physical organisations should not be diverted to artificial purposes. This is an awkward first principle for a Peer to venture on: and Lord Lyndhurst's cynical enquiry when the Government would bring in a bill to provide for the comfort of industrious fleas, pointed the moral of that line of argument. Is the House of Lords prepared to arrange for the "eternal fitness of things?" No doubt among the benefactors of dogs who vote was the venerable nobleman who provided for the "accomplished party" lately in court of law suing Mr. Rolt for board and lodging expenses:—did the venerable nobleman consider that it was the intention of Providence that women should be prostitutes—there being no benevolent law against such a diversion of moral organisation? Was it intended that lobsters should pass one phase among lettuce, eggs, and mustard, in broiled dishes: or that the *foie gras* should be developed before a good fire? Are Smithfield and Billingsgate visible intentions of Providence? Were old gentlemen, with certain numbers of acres, intended to be hereditary legislators, and decree the general suspension of unsuspicious dogs, felicitous under the caresses of their several Launces?

When Madame Poitevin, the Europa the minute, went up, and came down, in bullock-harnessed balloon, the Jupiter coming down dead, the secretary to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals killed several horses, perhaps, in hunting about for evidence; the witnesses dining together on beef which had been dragged to Smithfield and that sort of inconsistency, very innocent cannot be overlooked on such occasions as the Dog-cart Debate. How many Peers talking of "humanity" on Monday had "books" steeped in chases; how many kept hunters; how many used cabs; how many preserved, precisely for the purpose of finally wounding a

slaughtering, game? How many of their Peeresses kept pet poodles, dandled into plethoric agony? How many of these humane Peers "bred" specimens for the Baker-street show next winter?

Such considerations suggest that we had better not commence to legislate according to Providence's intentions: there is no Parliamentary precedent for that. But if the Peers are in earnest, who would say "Stop?" The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is a fine institution of police, necessary in an age of large towns; and the excellent agents of that association can assure the House of Lords that even animals "intended" (as if a cab were an intention!) for draught are systematically ill-used. Thus, on the same principles as are now being insisted on, we should get horses as well as dogs in our pork pies. Indeed, on the same principle—because a few are ill-used—would not wives be prohibited by venerable Peers, seeing how many wives are daily beaten by the "stronger sex?"

THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

THE following passage in that luminous "Report" which Lord Palmerston laughingly assured the careless House of Commons he did not think it necessary to read—Lord Palmerston understanding the House and knowing that he could carry his point by appearing indifferent to it—explains fully the causes of what is called, falsely, the "unpopularity" of the Board of Health.

"We are aware that, in the discharge of the duties which have devolved upon us, we have unavoidably interfered with powerful interests, which have the immediate means of making themselves heard by members of Government and of Parliament."

"Provisional orders which supersede Local Acts have interfered extremely with the professional emoluments of parliamentary and other agents."

"We have been under the necessity of stating facts with relation to the inefficiency and waste of former works. These expositions, required for the protection of the public against the extension of like works, amounted to the condemnation of the professional practice concerned in them, and militated also against the interests of contractors. Where large amounts of money had been invested in such works, as in those for the supply of water, and for cemeteries, the hostility of trading companies, of directors, and of shareholders has been induced, appearing to have been based on public grounds."

"The scheme we proposed for improved and economical extramural burial endangered the emoluments of cemetery companies and the entire body of trading undertakers."

"The demands on their time and energy which, for the saving of life, we were obliged to make on boards of guardians during the prevalence of cholera, excited in numerous instances loud complaints. We have already stated the general and favourable change which has taken place in the opinion of boards of guardians and other local authorities with reference to our proceedings on that occasion."

"The report in condemnation of the present sources and works for the supply of water to the metropolis, necessarily excited the hostility of existing water companies, as well as of those who were before Parliament with plans for the extension of similarly constructed works from similar sources."

"The requisition in accordance with the act, and with the recommendations of the Commissioners for improving the Health of Towns, that surveys should be completed in detail before any new works were undertaken, scrutinised into the efficiency and economy of the plans for town drainage and water supply, caused the active hostility of professional engineers who were unaccustomed to such checks, and who were now called upon to change their principles and practice of construction, and at the same time to reduce in particular cases their emoluments."

Even had a man of Lord Palmerston's tact, or of Sir William Molesworth's indolence, conducted the business of the Board of Health, that new department would have been "unpopular." Conducted as it has been by a man of Mr. Chadwick's singleness of purpose, self-reliance, and careless, because conscientious, independence, the Board inevitably reached its present position; an organised opposition being formed in Parliament to the

act renewing its functions for some few more years. But the Board is not really "unpopular;" and the organised opposition would have no chance if the House of Commons were a body of men in contact with the people, and compelled to be accurate and honest, instead of being a club, susceptible, by interest, or friendship, or indifference, to the busy correspondence and lobby button-holding of discontented great engineers and outraged local "interests." The people, unfortunately, do not know enough of the Board of Health to regard it with either love or hate. The Board is too young, its work too vast, to have produced such wide, grand, and tangible results, as to win the popular admiration. But M.P.'s ought, nevertheless, to be accurate and to analyse the clamour. In the report we have quoted from, there is a full and explicit statement of facts. There is the evidence. There it may be seen that the Board of Health, the product of the agitation of "sanitary reformers," has organised sanitary reform, and is changing the face of the country—this being a country, packed with big towns, with a remarkably dirty face. The Board states its philosophy and its plans: what it has proposed to do, and what it has done. The community which speaks through our journal, cannot be suspected of any tendency to centralisation: and we offer, with emphasis, our opinion that the Board of Health is a Board to do away with centralisation and create local self-government, in matters of sanitary police, in lieu of local self-neglect. The figures speak for themselves: 284 towns have memorialised and petitioned in form for the application of the act; those petitions being the petitions of majorities of the ratepayers,—not got up by the Board, but arising out of local agitation: and, in all these instances, the Board has conveyed plans, and created an organisation, for the cleansing of these towns, and for the supplying them with water.

The opponents of the Board, on the ground of its centralising influence, will observe the result of their clamour: they are forcing the Board which controls the "sanitary movement" into the hands of the Home Secretary. Is that de-centralisation? is that guaranteeing local self-government? But Lord Palmerston is responsible to Parliament; that is the theory of that Secretaryship of State. At present the Board is responsible to the public opinion which created it; but pass it into Downing-street and it is released from the criticism of public opinion, and is sheltered behind a great Parliamentary noble—whose responsibility to the Parliament, which does not watch him, or which he can manage, is a fiction.

There is this peculiarity about the Board of Health: it is the only department of the public service which is actually managed by men who are not members of the governing classes. Certainly Lord Shaftesbury is, at present, the nominal President of the Board, but his lordship is earnest and hearty in the sanitary movement, and he does not attempt to lead men who are his superiors in intellect, practical capacity, and practical knowledge. The sudden secession, some two or three years ago, of Lord Ebrington, from his commissionership, and the malignant complaints, the other night, in the House of Commons, of Lord Seymour, who, when Commissioner of Woods and Forests, was connected with the Board of Health, indicate that there is at least one portion of administration withheld from the greedy grip and lazy misappropriation of those *blase* nobles who, wearied of society, take to sociology. But while it is an advantage to the public that the actual workers should be the actual managers it is not to be denied that the Board of Health would still be improved, as an insti-

tution, by being less of a Board,—which might be effected by its enlightened despot, Mr. Chadwick, taking a place in the House of Commons as presentable head of the department. It is very likely, indeed, that there is a good deal of truth in the general insinuation as to the unpopular manners, and unbending self-dependence, of that gentleman, who, as the best informed of British bureaucrats, thinks that he may venture to scout parish busybodies and scorn fussy nobles. But we also think it possible that much of the equivocal feeling of which he is the object arises out of misapprehensions—occasioned no doubt by his own contemptuous inattention to his personal unpopularity; and, on the other hand, we are convinced that the Board's existence is being endangered because its originators and maintainers are helplessly in the background—their defence being left to an unscrupulous "managing man," like Lord Palmerston, or to an official Report, which, however luminous, will, as with all other official Reports, never get any general hearing.

THE SHOE-BLACK BRIGADE.

We find some curious facts and considerations in a pamphlet account of *The Ragged School Shoe-black Society: its Operation and present Condition.* (Seeleys.)

If a boy of lively temperament, quick appetites, some ingenuity, and small caution, should find himself astray in London, it is really difficult to know what can become of him unless he become a thief. He is told that he must find some occupation; but who will employ a boy without a character? The marine-store-dealer will give him pence for picking up a stray piece of iron, a forgotten piece of furniture, or any other little article—and this is a resource always open. There appears for such a boy almost no alternative, except to become a member of the Shoe-black Brigade; and even for that there must be qualifications; the boy must be a member of a ragged school, and must be recommended by the superintendent of a ragged school, which presupposes that he has had some turn for study, and has been able to procure the approbation of his superior. If he has this qualification he can enter the brigade, and then a livelihood seems, at all events, before him. He is provided with the uniform, box, brushes, and mat, and placed at once into the third of the three divisions of the brigade. The first 6d., daily, that he earns is his, and the remainder is divided into three equal parts, one-third is paid to the boy, one-third is retained by the society, and the rest is put by, towards his bank—a reserve for his own benefit, by which he will provide himself with clothes and other advantages. While his earnings fall below 6d. a day, or he loses any of his implements, the deficiency is made good out of his bank. If he earn more than a boy in the upper divisions, he is promoted to that division. The divisions are stationed at different parts of the town, but the boys are repeatedly transferred from station to station, so that the inequalities of emoluments belonging to particular stations may be divided pretty equally amongst them. Some boys have done very well—7l. 18s. 4d. belonging to a boy who has just left the society for a situation—23l. 11s. to another who now holds an office under the society—9l. by a third, who is now apprenticed to a respectable brass-turner. This boy, for nearly two years, walked daily eight miles, and sometimes more than ten, in coming from his home and returning to it. At one time a dormitory was attempted, but given up as difficult of management. An arrangement has been made in the house of the society, however, for providing food which the boys purchase. The disposition of all boys does not prove to be suited to the occupation: some are too restless, some cannot withstand the temptations afforded by idleness in the intervals of business, but to many it has been a stepping stone for better employment. The total number of boys employed by the society in the three years of its existence is 256, "of whom 24 have emigrated, 41 have obtained situations in this country, one has died, 153 have either left of their own accord or have

been withdrawn by the superintendents of their schools, or discharged for various causes. The remaining 37 are still in the employment of the society."

The total earnings of the boys have increased from 656*l.* in the first year, to 900*l.* in the second, which were thus divided: 491*l.* went to the boys as wages, 205*l.* went into the boys' bank, and 203*l.* was retained by the society. The society is not self-supporting, and it does not appear that it could easily be made so. The business of a shoe-black is one of those simple occupations that terminate with themselves; it is not easy to see how a surplus blacking of shoes could be produced, and there could hardly, therefore, be an available surplus of returns, unless machinery was devoted to the purpose. And here again it might be difficult to induce customers who desired their shoes to be blacked to arrange themselves in sufficient numbers and in such postures as would facilitate the application of machinery. If it is desirable to make an effort for keeping open this branch of industry for boys who must otherwise go to the bad, it must be, as it is at present, the work of charity, and we do not know any kind of charity of which the results are more tangibly beneficial.

AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE SKETCHED BY AN ENGLISH RESIDENT.

LETTER II.

[THE letter which we inserted last week, and which our printer addressed to "My dear Son," should (as the reader doubtless recollected of former letters) have been addressed to "Ion." We record, without sharing, all the sentiments of our American correspondent. Does he not overlook, when speaking of the "corruption" of representative government, that by the nature of Democracy it is all manifest, while in monarchies and despotisms it is intenser and deeper, only more concealed? If "Democracy does not carry out the voice of the people" as we could wish, it carries out and forwards the opinion of the people which in due time becomes its voice. With these dissents we commit these interesting reflections to the attention of the reader Ion.]

"Modern Times, Thompson Station, Long Island, N. Y.
"11th March, 1854.

"MY DEAR 'ION,'—Why does our admirable friend, our *Leader*, suggest his non-responsibility for the opinions of 'The Stranger' and 'Non-Elector'? And, still more, why does he say the point of view occupied by his incomparable correspondent is the 'foreign' one? Surely, my friend, you will agree with me in thinking it is simply the point of view of the 'Non-Elector' in general? Claiming myself to be essentially an English proletarian, settled, permanently, in America, having every kind of sympathy to the fullest degree with the English working man, I say it is our view of English politics expressed for us in a manner so admirable as to merit, as assuredly it will have, our deepest gratitude. Perhaps, however, we need not quarrel with the epithet 'foreign' for are we not treated by the 'Governing Classes' of England as foreigners—aliens? England is not our England; we belong to it, not it to us; we belong to it, and to these 'Governing Classes,' as do their cattle and machinery, or the three millions of negroes to the 'evangelical owners' of the southern plantations here in the United States. We are counted up as so many 'hands;' we are the 'producing classes,' whose products belong to the elect few, who claim the right to 'do what they like with their own.'

"You, my dear friend, know our brethren, the working-classes of England, personally, better than I do. Tell me, may we not count upon it that their long-continued apparent indifference to mere political reforms, springs in great measure from an instinctive consciousness; perhaps, that the amelioration of their social condition depends finally upon a moral rather than a legal regeneration. This I regard as the essential basis of positivism in its social aspect. And the condition of this country is a final demonstration of the truth of this doctrine.

"The European Republican parties in general, amid all their endless diversities, diversities inseparable from the metaphysical character of their doctrines, seem to be nearly agreed in one thing; in regarding the solution of the immense social problems now convulsing Europe as essentially a political one. Now, without denying the immense gain to be derived from the annihilation of the 'red monarchies,' who have organised a chronic 'reign of terror' immensely more sanguinary than the exceptional one, chargeable upon the 'party of progress,' the condition of this country is quite enough of itself to prove that

the installation of Democracy, ever so intense, is just no solution at all.

"First of all, 'Representative Government' means at bottom, Government by corruption. Auguste Comte, penetrating, by his most wonderful insight, into the real constitution of human societies, proclaimed this as a principle, arrived at by him deductively. It was reserved to the United States to give a decisive and final, because practical, demonstration of its truth. A senator, from Florida, I think, once stated in Congress, that if the people of the United States generally were aware of the unfathomable depths of corruption in which every part of their central Government was submerged, they would march up to Washington *en masse*, and tumble the whole concern into the ocean. I admire the momentary gush of patriotic honesty which I assume to have dictated this singular speech; but sympathise rather, though sadly, with the 'shouts of laughter' which greeted it. For those shouts of laughter were but the expression of the consciousness of our 'honourable' rulers, that the corruption was too universal to admit of their having the slightest fear of such a result. In fact, the rulers are but a 'representation' of the people in this matter; the corruption has eaten its way into the very heart of society, affecting all classes, all orders of men, making itself felt in every village, I might say in every family. The fact is, the people do know that their Government is corrupt—wholly corrupt; but the corruption has penetrated into every nook and cranny of the social system, and is, therefore, looked upon as a mere matter of course—a necessity—without hope of remedy.

"In the next place, Democracy, ever so rampant, does not secure the carrying into effect of the will of the people—except in the long run; and that is secured under every form of Government. I am not unaware of the immense facility enjoyed under an ultra-Democracy—from the necessary weakness of such a Government—for the propagation of new ideas. The people of some of our states would, if they could, bitterly persecute certain forms of faith. But they can't. Moreover, it is scarcely to be doubted that in several of the states a great majority of the people—of the lawful elector's mind,—would, if they could, pass the celebrated Maine Law; while, after years of agitation, with elections intervening, it still remains in many of these states a rejected measure. The same holds good with regard to the school laws; the people vainly endeavouring to effect great ameliorations, which the wealthy few find means to frustrate.

"Then, again, Democracy is powerless in the most important of all modern questions—the labour question. The condition of the working classes here and in England differs solely by reason of circumstances certainly not produced by our Representative Government. On the contrary, this Representative Government is itself a consequence, a product, of these same circumstances; a fact which accounts for that connexion between the two results which has led casual observers to attribute one to the other.

"Tell me, now, my friend, is it not the fact that many of our proletarian brothers of the 'old country,' the most intelligent, the most influential among their followers, already know that this is the case, or at least, shrewdly suspect it; and that, consequently, they are waiting, perhaps often with but small hopes, for a deliverance quite other than that which political measures could yield?

"To such men, be they few or be they many, positivism must come as the gospel of glad tidings! For, looking at the whole social problem from the loftiest point of view, it at least prepares the way for the solution of it.

"Positivism proclaims, as the result of a scientific inquiry into human nature, the supremacy of the moral point of view. Socially, this is the foundation, I might say the very essence, of religion.

"Such a religion, freely embraced by the masses of any population, could not fail to acquire a social influence which would greatly modify the exercise of that power which is universally inherent in wealth, and which democracy, ever so democratic, cannot in the least diminish. On the contrary, it increases it, if only by removing all competitors for social influence. In England 'birth and blood' go for something; educational manners go for something. In America money is all in all. The dollar, as I have told you before, is literally the Almighty.

"Upon what can we intellectually repose if not upon positive science? And upon what basis shall we organise with chances of success equal to that promised by one capable of a real universality?

"Of course, for the day, we must take such means as we have at hand. But I speak to one who has the ear of the most thoughtful of our class—of those capable, morally and intellectually, of doing something for a future, in whose happiness themselves will never share. And I ask, what does experience teach?

"What earnest secularist reformer has not found his courage failing him, when high wages seemed to result solely in the multiplication of gin-palaces, or at the best, in mere prodigalities without aim and

direction, real personal improvement not being recognisable? True, this has always been only seemingly, because progress is the universal law; but then the progress has been incomparably slower than it would be if subjected to wise, and earnest, and continuous efforts in the right direction.

"And especially, has it not been discouraging to have no satisfactory standard by which to measure progress? We must always have felt instinctively that progress at bottom meant moral progress; but what was moral progress? The theologian could point to his scriptures—Bible, Koran, or what not; but to us what resource? only the hopeless and endless speculations of the metaphysician or sophist—save the spontaneous promptings of our own hearts.

"To have, then, a common doctrine, based upon a scientific appreciation of our real nature, around which to rally, and by which to guide ourselves, is a boon of unutterable value—personal value, social value. Around such a doctrine, moreover, a philosophical organisation may grow up capable of furnishing a centre and a head to a popular organisation that no limits of country could confine; for from its very character it is obviously susceptible of a real universality.

"Meantime, no doubt our friend the *Leader*, with his 'incomplete positivism,' is about the most trustworthy guide the people in England can for the present follow. But for myself, I want to do something to aid the final solution involved in the reorganisation of public opinion. I cannot leave this great, this greatest theme, without referring to one singular social phenomenon, a careful consideration of which would, I think, help our friends of the working-classes to a better appreciation of positivism. I refer to the religious affinities, so to speak, of the celebrated 'Manchester School.'

"By the Manchester School, I mean that large party embracing the bulk of the middle classes, whose political philosophy is summed up in the brief French expression: '*Laissez-faire*.' Of this school, Mr. Cobden is the temporal head, so to speak, and Mr. Edward Miall—a name I must ever mention, were it only out of gratitude, with respect—the spiritual. It is only but too characteristic of the entire party that the spiritual element is treated as altogether subordinate. Now the fundamental principle of this party, in both its branches (I speak advisedly) is, that self-interest constitutes the universal spring of human action. Consequently, with it, political economy is the beginning, the middle, and the end of political philosophy: the ultimate advantage to the individual of what is assumed to be right conduct is the highest principle of moral philosophy. The social point of view is, on both hands, virtually excluded.

"It was the Bradford woolcombers, was it not? who, during the Australian emigration, were rejected by the commissioners, on the ground that their emaciated condition rendered them incapable of labour. To these forlorn beings our 'Manchester School' offered the consolation of meditating on the laws of supply and demand. So long as the private individual interest of these precious 'captains of industry' kept them in flourishing trade, all well and good; but although the failure of any one of them must necessarily plunge many families (!) into misery and want, the conception of a corresponding duty is utterly foreign to both branches of this '*Laissez-faire*' doctrine.

"A man's religious duty is in it marked out thus: Heaven—take others with you if you can, but any how—get to Heaven! In regard to temporal things duty is replaced, openly, expressly, without limitation of any kind, by interest. A man must not steal; must not use false weights and measures, or rather must not be found out in using them, on pain of gaol. But the conception of a positive duty, an active duty, especially on the part of the strong towards the weak, is utterly foreign to this doctrine. Moreover, the very possibility of such a conception prevailing would be an absurdity to any disciple of this school.

"The spiritual side of the doctrine does add, it is true, 'But the grace of God changes the heart.' But this is the singular part of the phenomenon. This change of heart, whenever referred, as is the case more or less with all Protestant sects, to a direct transaction between the individual and his God, without social intervention, is a doctrine which fairly carried out to its logical result is the leading feature of my quondam political teacher Mr. Miall, through his *Nonconformist*. This doctrine loses thus its whole social efficacy. Its adherents, I know, really consider it a moral truth; but it is nothing else than the self-interest system of the Cobden School—its ultimate is a negation of all positive social duty.

"Yours, my dear 'Ion,' ever faithfully,
"HENRY EDGAR."

[In the letter of last week Miss Brewer should have been of course Miss Bremer; and "the last presidential doctrine" the last presidential election. Owing to some indistinctness in the M.S. of H. E. a few "literals" crept into the letter, which doubtless the reader was able to supply, but he certainly ought not to be expected to recognise *Thalauz* under the orthography of "Thalauz," &c.—ION.]

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*.

SINCE last week, the literature of France has sustained a loss, and the operatic stage has been deprived of one of its ornaments. The daily papers have spread far and wide the intelligence of Madame SONTAG's death in Mexico from an attack of cholera; but the loss of EMILE SOUVESTRE is—in England at least—by no means so generally known. The French papers inform us that he died of a heart-complaint at the age of forty-six. Though hardly ranking as a writer of the first class among modern French authors, SOUVESTRE, as dramatist, essayist, novelist, and historian, won a notable position in the ranks of foreign literary men. One of his plays, *Un Enfant de Paris*, was produced in English, three years since, at the Lyceum Theatre, under the title of *A Day of Reckoning*, and met with great and well-merited success. Readers of French literature may remember some of his novels, and certainly cannot have forgotten his *Philosophe sous les Toits*. The book, however, which is likely to preserve his reputation longest is his *Derniers Bretons*, containing a very curious and valuable account of manners and customs among the inhabitants of Brittany. This work will assuredly last, for it gives much interesting information, not attainable from other sources, on the subject of the most remarkable of all the races of people in the provinces of France.

Judging by the magazines this month, the incomprehensible British public seems to be just as inveterately bent as ever on reading about Russia and the War—though nothing new or interesting can be written on either subject which has not previously appeared in the newspapers. Even musical criticism talks with a Russian twang in *Fraser*. The writer of the article called "Phases of Music in Russia," is, of course, afflicted with the amazing mania of his fraternity for tuneless music of the "classical" kind; and shudders at BELLINI and melody in the most approved style of solemn sarcasm. He shows himself, however, to be most innocently ignorant of the predilections of English opera audiences, when he reviles them as "fashionable supporters" of *Linda di Chamouni*. Though that delightful opera had a run of many consecutive nights at Vienna, and was the main attraction of a whole season at Paris, it has never succeeded in England, and is now placed most undeservedly among the "works on the shelf." But we are digressing to Music, when our business is with Literature. Let us open the *National Miscellany* by way of returning to our duty. The number this month is of fair average merit; but it would have been better without the article on DUMAS' *Kean*. The absurdities of this play have been pointed out long ago. Virtuous indignation against a foolish drama—the mistake of a great and admirable dramatist—published fourteen years since, is slightly out of date. Besides, the reviewer is evidently "a gent." He is actually guilty of having compromised *The National Miscellany* by this very atrocious sentence:—"Does M. DUMAS," he writes, "think that the English are all brutes or fools in their conduct towards females?" Female what?—we should be glad to know. Female horses? dogs? cats? mice? rabbits? or tittlebats? It is exasperating enough to hear this most vulgar of all errors committed by the popular tongue; but to see it perpetuated in print, is more than human patience can endure. When a man calls a woman "a party," he ought to be gently moved out of earshot; but when he goes still further, and reviles her by the opprobrious appellation of *female*, the law of libel ought to be forthwith extended so as to reach him.

Blackwood is rather more serious and political than usual this month. "The Dublin" contains the beginning of a new fiction called *Mosses upon Grave-stones*. *Bentley's Miscellany* offers the reader plenty of stories, preceded, of course, by an article on the war. One of these stories is introduced by a Note, which we consider to be an original effort in literature. In a serial fiction, called "Clouds and Sunshine," by Mr. CHARLES READE, author of "Christie Johnstone," the following announcement actually appears at the bottom of the first page:—"This writer's works are written to be read aloud." There is a mysterious audacity in these words which has fairly bewildered us. Does Mr. READE mean that the works of writers in general are not written to be read aloud? or does he mean that the only proper way to read his own story of "Clouds and Sunshine" is to read it aloud? We ourselves, not having any audience ready at hand, when we opened *Bentley's Miscellany*, took the liberty of devouring "Clouds and Sunshine" with the eye, unassisted by the tongue; and thought that the story, as far as it went, bore rather a suspicious resemblance to the story of GEORGE SAND's drama of *Claudie*. Perhaps, if we had followed Mr. READE's directions, and had read his work aloud, the similarity might have escaped us. Who knows?

In the present dearth of literary enterprise (which, as a natural consequence of the war, is now beginning to be felt in France as well as in England) it is gratifying to be able to announce the appearance of a novelty, in the shape of a book. The new volume of Mr. ROBERT BELL's annotated

edition of the British Poets, is to contain all the best songs of all the British dramatists, from the period of the first play written in our country, down to the date of the *School for Scandal*. Such a complete collection as this—made with the skill, correctness, and critical intelligence for which Mr. BELL's name is a sufficient guarantee—has hitherto been wanting in our literature. We hope to have an opportunity of examining this volume, when it is published. A song-book which appeals to all ages, all tastes, and all purses is assuredly a novelty; and—if anything not connected with Russia and Turkey has a chance of succeeding now—seems certain before-hand of success.

HISTORY OF CHARLES I. AND THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION.

History of Charles I. and the English Revolution. By M. Guizot. Translated by Andrew R. Scoble. In two volumes.

THESE two volumes contain the first portion of M. Guizot's History of the English Revolution, and embrace the period from the accession of Charles I. to his death. The only novelty, however, in this edition is a Preliminary Essay on English Revolution—a translation of the work itself, from the pen of William Hazlitt, having been published nine years by Mr. Bogue. To the Essay, therefore, we shall confine the few criticisms we intend to offer.

M. Guizot has spent his life in the study of history. As a statesman, he has been a signal failure. It is a safe prediction that the editor of Gibbon, the author of lectures on European Civilisation, the Analyst of Governments, will be remembered long after the First Minister of Louis Philippe has shared the fate of men who attempt to govern without the faculty of governing. M. Guizot's writings are too well known to require any more special mention. They are all the products of an intellect at once subtle and profound; they exhibit the results of laboured research, and they are written in a style remarkable for clearness and simplicity. In most respects, therefore, M. Guizot is well qualified to write a history of the English Revolution. But, in judging of the conclusions at which he has arrived, we must not blind ourselves to three obvious facts—that he is not an Englishman, that he failed, when he tried to apply his principles to practice, and that he discusses English politics from an un-English point of view. Sometimes, of course, this last defect is a supreme excellence. We do not quarrel with M. Guizot because he is a foreigner, but because he has approached the subject of English history and English institutions with preconceived notions. His object is not so much to narrate and describe as to select facts in order to prove a theory. A foreigner, with full knowledge and free from bias, is perhaps the fittest person in the world to write our history.

In the Essay, which has now appeared for the first time in English, M. Guizot endeavours to solve this problem—How is it that "what France and Europe have hitherto vainly attempted" was successfully achieved in England? The answer is that our revolutions, whether political or religious, were based on existing institutions. What laws, traditions, and precedents were to Hampden and the patriots, in the time of Charles I., the Bible was to the authors of the Reformation. And in addition to these "pledges of moderation" we are told that "Providence added another favour." The political reformers, in the seventeenth century, were not condemned, at their very outset, to the wickedness and danger of spontaneously attacking, without clear and pressing necessity, a peaceful and inoffensive ruler."

But while this "pressing necessity" is fully admitted, while M. Guizot denounces, in forcible language, the "aggressive despotism," which attacked ancient rights, and opposed the demand for new liberties; he has no sympathy with the means by which this same despotism was overthrown. He would have had no revolution at all. Here was Charles, still secretly conspiring, still granting concessions and making promises which he waited only the opportunity to revoke, and yet the faithless monarch should have been dealt with as an honest truthful man. M. Guizot admits the frivolity, insincerity, and inconsistency of the king, and yet is unable to see that there was no peace for England, no chance for order, so long as Charles was suffered to live. The punishment was terrible enough, but, most surely, it did not exceed the measure of the offence. A nation—long patient under oppression—was goaded past endurance. The vengeance was delayed, but, in the nature of things, it could not but be inflicted. And yet it is of this great triumph of law and justice that M. Guizot writes as follows:

"The judges of Charles I. left no means untried to free their action from this fatal character, and to represent it as a judgment of God, which they were commissioned to perform. Charles had aimed at absolute power, and carried on civil war. Many rights had been violated, and much blood shed, by his orders or with his sanction. On him was cast all the responsibility of the anarchy and the war. He was called upon to account for all the liberties that had been oppressed, and all the blood that had been spilt—a nameless crime, which death alone could expiate. But the conscience of a people cannot be so far misled, even when it is under the influence of distraction and terror. Others beside the King had been guilty of oppression and bloodshed. If the King had violated the rights of his subjects,—the rights of royalty, equally ancient, equally by law established, equally necessary to the maintenance of public liberty, had also been violated, attacked, and invaded. He had engaged in war; but in his own defence. No one was ignorant that, at the time when he determined on war, it was being prepared against him, in order to compel him, after all his concessions, to deliver up the rights and the power which he still retained,—the last remnants of the legal government of the country. And now that the King was conquered, he was judged and condemned without law, and contrary to all law, for acts which no law had ever contemplated or characterised as crimes, which the conscience of neither King nor people had ever thought of considering as subject to the jurisdiction of men, and punishable by their hands. What indignation, what universal horror, would have been felt if the meanest subject of the realm had been thus treated, and put to death for crimes defined after the execution of the sentence, by pretended judges, formerly his enemies, now his rivals, and about to be his heirs! And that which no one would have dared to do to the obscurest Englishman, was done to the King of England—to the supreme head of the Church as well as of the State—to the representative and the symbol of authority, order, law, justice,—indeed, everything which, in human society, approaches and suggests the idea of the attributes of God!"

After this we scarcely need tell our readers in what light M. Guizot regards Cromwell. Here is the portrait:

"After having, it is said, spent his youth in the excesses of a fiery temperament, in the outbursts of an ardent and restless piety, and in the service of the interests or desires of

the people among whom he lived, as soon as the field of politics and war opened before him; he zealously dashed into it, as the only career in which he could display his energies to his own satisfaction. The most impetuous of sectaries, the most active of revolutionists, the most able of soldiers; equally ready and ardent to speak, to pray, to conspire, and to fight; unreserved, with the frankness of conscious power, and, at need, a liar of such inexhaustible boldness, as to fill even his enemies with surprise and embarrassment; impassioned and coarse, venturesome and prudent, mystical and practical; boundless in the flights of his imagination, unscrupulous where his necessities required; resolved to succeed at any price; he was more prompt than any one else to discern and seize the means of success, and inspired all, both friends and enemies, with the conviction that no one would succeed so well, or go so far as he."

Thus it is that Guizot writes of Cromwell. This is the judgment passed upon the great man to whom, more than to any other that we could name, Englishmen are indebted for their greatest national blessings. But do we not deserve it? Have not English writers identified the name of Cromwell with hypocrisy, tyranny, and cruelty? Is it not but as yesterday that we ourselves began to cherish his memory? Understand him we never shall. He is wrapt, for ever, in the mystery which the wise men who heard his words and saw his face were unable to pierce. Only after two centuries do we know the distance which separates between him and the common herd of royal rulers.

THE ROVING ENGLISHMAN.

The Roving Englishman.

Routledge.

A book of travelling experiences, which possesses genuine and original merit, deserves the warmest welcome that we can offer. In our day, the most wearisome writing that issues from the press, is the writing perpetrated by the general mass of travellers. Readers have hardly any choice now between flippant and trashy imitations of the school of travel-writing which Beckford founded, and which the author of *Eothen* and Mr. Curzon have admirably helped to maintain, and the drowsy purveyors of useless facts, the plodding collectors of unnecessary statistics, the dogged dunces who will tell us everything—except the very thing that we most want to know. If we cannot put up with the slang traveller who makes coarse fun of everything, we must resign ourselves to the solemn meditative bore, who sees nothing, and feels nothing, and yet will dismally prose on for hundreds of pages, as if he could do both. People talk about useless novels—we will undertake, at a moment's notice if required, to exhibit books of travels to the public which are in every moral and mental point of view more utterly useless reading than the worst novel ever composed.

Now, it is the great merit of the work placed at the head of this notice that it never touches either of the bad extremes to which we have alluded. On this account, though *The Roving Englishman* is not a new book—being merely a reprint of articles which originally appeared in *Household Words*—we select it here for separate notice. Our traveller, in this instance, writes vividly, observantly, and like a gentleman. He has genuine and special merits; and we give him a genuine and special recognition. He is by no means a good story-teller; but he is great at an anecdote—eloquent and unaffected in recording his impressions—various, lively, and never flippant, in describing his adventures—clear and sensible in recording his own travelling experiences for the benefit of others. He seems to have wandered about, as the old phrase is, "half over the world," and he has something to say, which is generally well worth listening to, on every possible subject that life in foreign countries can suggest. As a specimen of his lively, easy way of gossiping with his readers, take the subjoined sketch of an illustrious professional salad-maker—and on no account omit to pay special attention to the hints on salad-mixing which follow it:—

THE GREAT GAUDET.

"The great Gaudet, whom we have mentioned incidentally, was one of the first victims of that French Revolution which has now lasted more than sixty years, and promises to last for sixty more. Towards the close of the last century, this wonderful man found himself an exile in England without friends or money. Ere long, the most beautiful ladies of the land hung with bright, watchful eyes over his labours; and mouths, accustomed to command the destinies of armies and of nations, watered when he came near. In the houses of the old-fashioned nobility—as that of the late Marquis of Abercorn—the music would play 'See the Conquering Hero comes,' when the great Gaudet entered. The talk of a dinner-table lulled into repose before him. Wonder succeeded silence. What an expensive salad dressing-case! What delicacy of touch over the light green leaves! What charming little stories to beguile the moments of suspense! How gracefully and pleasantly he magnified the noble art of salad-making! The great Gaudet concentrated the entire force of his powerful mind on salad; great, therefore, was his success. Gaudet, like joy, was sought at every feast. He drove in his own cabriolet from dinner to dinner. To secure his services, the high and mighty left cards at his house some weeks before they were required. Have we not seen with our own eyes a letter addressed by him to a noble duke, recommending that person to postpone his dinner until nine o'clock, because he, the great Gaudet, was pledged to another noble lord at eight? The fee of the great Gaudet rose to ten guineas; and none who ate his salad grudged the money it cost them.

"Near the city of Rome there lived, about the same time, a certain Madame Drake, who also illustrated by her own renown the delightful salad science. With German solemnity she accepted her mission. It was her belief that salad, to be truly fresh, should not be exposed to light until the moment of its being eaten; she, therefore, in a dark room mysteriously performed her office.

"Thus much I have written, and have not yet told you how a salad should be made. It cannot be made by telling. You must be born a salad-maker. Salad is a production of taste; it belongs to the Fine Arts, and can no more be acquired by rule than can poetry, or sculpture, or painting. You may, indeed, measure, or hew out, or daub off a salad. You may know that lettuce requires very little oil and endive very much; that rape needs beetroot and celery; that cold cauliflower is the basis of a delicious salad used very much in Italy, but almost unknown in England; you may know that four table-spoonsful of oil should go generally to one of vinegar; that the salt is a matter to be nervous with; that, above all things, it is necessary to dissolve thoroughly the salt in the vinegar before you add the oil. All this you may know; and you may know how to collect at the right season the right herbs: yet, nevertheless, you must be born a salad-maker, with the full measure of native tact, if you would shine in the profession. It has even been doubted, in the face of the great Gaudet, whether one man can combine in himself all the qualities which go to make a perfect salad-maker; because, to complete a salad properly, is said, in fact, to require the united efforts of four different men: a spendthrift for the oil, a miser for the vinegar, a sage for the salt, and a maniac for the mixing."

We had marked for extract our author's Philosophy of Dining, his Hints to Young Travellers, his Life in a German House, and other excellent passages. But that old and dire necessity of all Reviewers—the necessity of taking up as little space as possible—compels us to refer the reader, at once, from this notice to the book itself. In these days of shilling Literature—

which is too often not even worth the shilling that it asks—we are seldom able to recommend cheap books, as being good books too. This merit the Roving Englishman may fairly claim; and we say to him at parting—what we never think of saying to Travellers in general—Farewell, Sir, for the present; and mind you do not forget to let us hear from you again!

SATIRE AND SATIRISTS.

Satire and Satirists. By James Hannay, author of "Singleton Fontenoy," &c. Bogue. Six lectures on great Satirists, delivered not long since in London, form the contents of this volume. Mr. Hannay treats his subject mainly from the biographical and the personal point of view. He begins with the classical satirists, Horace and Juvenal, and proceeds with Erasmus, Boileau, Butler, Dryden, Swift, Pope, and Churchill, until he gets to the satirists of the present century, and the periodical satire of our own day. By treating his subject on the plan we have indicated, he has been enabled to vary and enliven it by plenty of interesting anecdotes, and by some curious biographical speculations. In less skilful hands, remarks on satire and satirists might have been very instructive and very wearisome as well. But Mr. Hannay has the art of writing attractively—or, in other words, is an exception to the dreary general rule in the matter of lecturing. Throughout his volume he may fairly lay claim to two inestimable literary virtues—he is never pedantic and never dull.

The only fault of consequence which we have discovered in *Satire and Satirists* has been caused, we suspect by the author's excessive enthusiasm for his subject. Not content with showing his readers what they ought to admire in the intellectual characters of the famous men who form the topics of his lectures, he must also endeavour to elevate the moral characters of his heroes, by laying down, and what is more, attempting to prove the general proposition that the great satirists were men with kindly instincts, and with more than average generosity of nature. In endeavouring to sustain this assertion, he has to deal, in one or two cases, with some extremely ugly and obstinate facts, which it is utterly impossible for any man to refute, but which he endeavours (quite vainly) to set aside by skilful phrase-making. This sort of defect is especially glaring in the pages of the book devoted to Swift, whom Mr. Hannay actually undertakes to "back as a specimen of manhood, and real honesty, and generosity, and nobility of tendencies" against any man of his time! Now, the popular notion (and as we believe the right notion) about Swift, is that he was a mighty genius, intellectually, and, morally, a filthy and cruel man. If we are asked for a proof of his filthiness, we cite (as once instance, where many more might be given) his "*Lines in a Lady's Dressing Room*"—and we ask whether men of noble tendencies write such dastardly nastiness as that poem contains? Again, as to Swift's generosity—the facts of his treatment of Stella and Vanessa are on record. Every one knows them who knows anything of books. Yet Mr. Hannay must actually attempt to explain them away to Swift's advantage, by saying that "a mysterious destiny compelled him to make her suffer" (page 172)—that "he suffered with her"—that "Vanessa flung herself at his head in the teeth of prudence and judgment"—that we must "keep ourselves in a state of moderation about the poor lonely Dean" (page 173)—and "that we must go and behave well to our own Stellas and Vanessas, if we are happy enough to get them." Such are the logical "last shifts" to which a clever writer is reduced, when he undertakes to theorise in opposition to facts.

Having now exemplified what we believe to be the main defect in Mr. Hannay's treatment of his subject, we very gladly address ourselves to the much pleasanter duty of telling him what we admire in his book. Whenever he is not attempting to maintain untenable propositions, he is singularly frank, fearless, and just in his judgments. He has the great merit, which he gets into a good train of thought, of knowing also when he ought to get out of it and address himself to something new. His knowledge flows from him easily, and is addressed to his audience unobtrusively. He has an artist's eye for the picturesque, and shows genuine dramatic feeling in laying the right emphasis on the right parts of a narrative. As a specimen of his style, his information, and his easy attractive manner of instructing his audience, we will select a passage from his second lecture, the greater portion of which is devoted to ERASMUS. Here is Mr. Hannay's vivid description of the life of

A SCHOLAR OF THE OLD TIME.

"Good old mother Nature, however, is not easy to beat. The old dame loves her boys, and treats her brilliant darlings fairly enough. Erasmus's head might be tonsured, but that operation was performed on the outside of it. He remained in fact, in purpose, and in influence, a scholar, a literary man. It is curious to read and observe how shy he fought of preferment in his nominal profession. Give him money, if you like: he will take a little money; for the scholar must dine as well as the dunce; you cannot make soup of laurels:—yes, he will take a little money; also a jar of wine, if you choose (not sweet wine, for his constitution is delicate, and it does not agree with him), but sound, fine wine,—giving the preference to Burgundy, if you happen to have any of that. All he wants is to support life decently, while he writes his books, edits his Greek Testament, his St. Jerome, collects and discourses on Proverbs, or gives a free loose to his humorous heart, and lashes beggarly and ignorant monks. He does not want a living; he would rather have a pension—a smaller pension even. Literature is his vocation. They talked once of making him a bishop; 'at which,' say the biographers, 'he laughed.' Of course he did; and it is very easy to purse-up one's mouth into an ugly state of orthodox expression, and talk of his levity. But it was far better that he should have laughed, and steered clear of ecclesiastical preferment than that he should have crushed the natural man in him, and temporised, and been hypocritical! Better be a good humorist than a bad bishop! Erasmus is open to censure for failings and weaknesses, like mankind (clerical and laic); but it is quite impossible to deny, that in his relation to the Church he showed much intellectual honesty and personal self-denial.

"In his career as a man of letters he had a hard and strange life of it for many years; and in informing oneself of the particulars, one meets innumerable causes for surprise, and opportunities of musing on the changed condition of Europe! How far off lie those days, though only some three hundred and fifty years have passed away since he looked out from the garden of Sir Thomas More's house at Chelsea, and saw the old Thames flowing away beneath him! He was first in London when about thirty-two years of age, having come from Paris, where he had been reading with pupils, acting as tutor to Lord Mountjoy, living at times in the castle of a great lady in the Low Countries. The life of a scholar in those days was a strange affair. Just as the minstrel of an earlier day had done, he wandered about, bringing with him knowledge as his music; asking little of the world but moderate pay, bread and meat, in exchange for Latin and Greek, for wisdom and wit. You trace

Erasmus from spot to spot;—as in a dark-lantern hunt at school, one got a glimpse of the boy with the lantern, by the occasional flash he threw out. He is in France, Germany, England,—always a little spot of light in places of darkness, superstition, ignorance, violence. But consider how his knowledge was acquired too; how different was the task of being a scholar then than in our day, with its grand apparatus of books, maps, globes; and an intellectual machinery so perfect, that you can turn out moderate *literati* as copiously as they make pins, getting a few yards of ordinary wire, and working them up, heads and all, in comparatively no time! To be a great author remains as difficult as ever; but in the days of Erasmus, you could hardly be a man of attainments without being a man of genius. The first editions of the Classics, works which now are the curiosities of libraries (and I believe fetch large sums, particularly if you can get a copy with the leaves uncut, which is a *bijou*), were slowly crawling out from the presses of Venice, Florence, and further north sometimes, in Erasmus's younger days. He says once, in a letter, that, 'if he could get some money, he would buy first Greek books, and then clothes.' There were about three men at Oxford capable of teaching Greek at that time. The great scholars, in fact, taught themselves, and by huge personal exertions. It was a time of grand energy and indomitable enthusiasm. Europe began to learn, as, centuries before, she had fought, with a heroism that was demonic. Erasmus, Budæus, and those who followed these great leaders, were the Vikings of literature. They embarked on the sea of knowledge with hearts as daring as those with which our forefathers long before had spread their sails on the Baltic and the German Oceans!

On a very different subject from this, Mr. Hannay writes just as vividly and agreeably. Here are some good thoughts about.

HORACE AND HIS POETRY.

"I esteem Horace as a moralist and satirist (and the Roman satire is essentially ethical; and indeed all great satirists are moralists) more than as a poet. It would be more accurate to describe him as a satirist who wrote poetry, than as a poet who wrote satires. A late biographer (Milman) deals again with that fatal old question (so often raised also about Pope), was he a poet at all? The very doubt is dangerous to him; and unhappily these doubts just rise when poetry itself is taking a fresh development. Who shall deny the charm of his *carmina*—the finish of his art? They must be read again and again with pleasure. But it seems to me that the key to the whole question was furnished by Buttman, when he said, 'Horace is not one of those poets who wrote from an impulse of Nature.' It is a certain condition of mind, original and creative, which makes a man a poet; and that that was possessed by Horace, I do not see reason to believe.

"When one examines his poems, one sees at the first glance that the creation of many of them was merely artificial. He avails himself of a tradition—of a situation—of some little scene foreign to Rome in place and character; and this he works up in Italian marble, and gives out as a Latin poem. Thus, many of his lyrics are paintings of old subjects (Greek subjects: on Roman frescoes); imitations of the old classic models of the Archipelago, and the east of the Mediterranean; and embodyments of a mythology in which he did not believe. Then, consider the difficulties to which all attempts to treat these poems historically give rise. What are we to make of the Greek names in the lyrics, for instance? The commentators have done their best; and have endowed the philosophic Horace with such a bevy of Greek acquaintances, particularly damsels,—lute-playing dancing-girls, with ivy-bound heads or rose-crowned heads, with hair of one form and hair of another,—that criticism pauses in despair. The acute scholar I quoted a moment ago takes these young Greek persons to task: he exposes Horace's contradictions in his statements about them; shows that one *Lalage* is quite different from another *Lalage*; condemns the notion of their historic existence; stigmatises those who maintain it as 'gossiping anecdote-mongers'; and lays it down, that non-reality is an essential feature of Horace's Odes. A misconception is thus removed about Horace's private life: but, further, one finds many literary difficulties removed likewise. I cannot fancy Horace believing, except in an artistic kind of way, in his mythological subjects. You leave him skill, tact, taste, language; you conceive him, too, under this theory, a much more natural and coherent being,—as a fine-tasted satirist, and man of the world, who did pictures after the Greeks,—than you do if you suppose him, as the author of the moral and satirical discourses, to have been directly inspired by old Pagan piety towards the gods; or, living in the plain way he did, to have been habitually enchanted by Greek girls and boys, while sitting under the myrtle or the vine. I esteem him in his lyrical capacity, as an exquisite reproducer of old forms; while, of course, the value of his lyrics is immeasurable in this light, as a picture of the ancient life, its beliefs, its sentiments, its gaiety."

One more extract from Mr. Hannay's last lecture, treating of Byron, and we must have done.

BYRON AND DON JUAN.

"It is to be remarked, that all the while that he was indulging in the excesses of his age, he never believed in that course of life. He had to drug his heart and conscience, somehow, before he gave himself up to it. He was always open to remorse; and when we talk of his *soda-water*, let us remember that he took *repentance* along with it. There is a strong distinction between the dissipation of a man whose heart is true, and that of our friend the 'pig' of the 'garden.' He doesn't glory in being a pig; on the contrary, he means to leave the 'garden' after this one debauch: at all events, he does not make a philosophy of it, and assert that, after all, the 'garden' is the only place for a man. Yet even the dissipation of Byron was but a phase: when we remember what he thought, did, read, and wrote, it can only have been a small phase in his life. And we know, from his last actions and his last poems, that he was developing into the high and pure man, of whom what he had written was the prediction. *Don Juan* was the state of transition from Byron the Denier to Byron the Positive, the Doer. In all his first works, from *Childe Harold* to *Manfred* and *Cain*, he was at war with the world and with himself; and these dark figures, with their various costumes, and their one note, were expressions of that fact. Misanthropy can be no permanent status for a man; accordingly, as he got older, and more tranquil and composed, he came to a pause in that career; and in *Juan* we find the results of the pause between the *Corsair*-view of life and the higher stage (the last to which he attained), the ambition to serve mankind practically in the case of struggling Greece,—an enterprise, one object of which was to redeem himself in the opinion of his countrymen. *Juan*, therefore, is the healthiest and most cheerful of his productions; and in spite of certain levities here and there, which I regret as much as any man (and which may serve as a theme to Stiggins in his leisure hour), it is a high and valuable work. Its predominant tone is humorous and satirical; it is full of sharp good sense; and it is, in truth and fact, a work with a good object. It pictures life genially and soundly; excites your love of the beautiful and the lofty; demolishes cant in many a stirring line; and, above all, the utter sense of weariness and disgust it gives you for the mere life of pleasure, and for the false tone of English society, is most beneficial and healthy. I think it disgraceful, the way in which this book is often treated. I do not consider it a dangerous book to anybody who is fit to read it. A fool here and there may make the mistake to suppose that it is intended to stimulate him into being a Cockney-Rochester; but that cannot be helped. The form is humorous, and the adventures romantic; but the result is the thing to be considered. The whole poem, as a picture of life, leaves you with a sense of melancholy and of satiric scorn,—both, however, much more natural and healthy than those excited by his other works. Meanwhile, your best feelings have been awakened by many most tender and most noble strains of writing, which have taken your heart by storm. And for the rest? The rest is pleasant and gentlemanly buffoonery, and fantastic affectation, where the element of humour and intellect has kept the doubtful matter from being mischievous, as pure water keeps herbs fresh. Let us bear in mind, that the great humorists, free as they may be now and then, are not the corrupting men. If I wanted to corrupt a youth (which God forbid), I would not give him *Juvenal*, or *Tristram Shandy*, or *Don Juan*; the intellectual exhibition would delight him, and check the mischief to his feelings: no, I would hand him a Jesuit text book of moral questions!"

With these examples of what the reader may expect to find in *Satire and Satirists*, we close our notice of a book which really deserves attention from the public as an interesting and useful contribution to the critical literature of our own times.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- Russia and Turkey.* By J. R. McCulloch, Esq. (The Travellers' Library.) Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.
Indian Leisure. Petrarch—On the Character of Othello—Agamemnon—The Henriad—Anthology. By Captain Robert Guthrie Macgregor. Smith, Elder, and Co.
The Perils and Adventures of Priscilla Eaton. An Historical Tale. John F. Shaw.
Hogg's Instructor. No. 13. James Hogg.
Sewell Pastures. By the Author of "Sir Frederick Derwent," &c. 2 vols. George Routledge and Co.
The Assurance Magazine, and Journal of the Institute of Actuaries. No. 14. G. and E. Layton.
Our Friend. A Monthly Miscellany designed for all Classes. John F. Shaw.
The Southern Quarterly Review. New Series. No. 19. Trubner and Co.
Funny Memoirs of Foreign Lands. By Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. 2 vols. Sampson, Low, Son, and Co.

Portfolia.

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

VIVIAN AT THE WATER CURE.

DOUCHE THE SECOND.

THE processes of the Water-Cure may sound ridiculous to the uninitiated and considerably alarm those whose ablutions, being constantly of "the lick and promise" character, have an epidermis as much alarmed at the mention of cold water as lovely woman is at a cow in Regent-street or at a duck of ferocious aspect in a lonely lane. Nevertheless, the processes are, in reality, extremely agreeable. I cannot deny that they cleanse the skin—they are "open to that objection," as the man said of the foot-bath; but I distinctly deny that they are other than exquisite luxuries; and whatever curative virtue there may be in water, it has certainly the negative merit of being unlike curative drugs, which are not on the whole agreeable to the palate or system. I think, indeed, that if some of the Water-Cure processes could only be called vices, and proved as injurious as alcohol and tobacco, they would be as largely indulged in. The immense and exhilarating animal vigour, and general tendency to "whip one's weight in pole-cats," which succeeds a good bath and rubbing, are sensual indulgences not to be despised; and it is only the idea of medical treatment which can suggest the contrary. The human being objects to "treatment"—shudders at black draughts as at sermons; and drugs are physical sermons, sermons are moral drugs. But if I begin to moralise I shall outrun my space, so let me describe.

At six o'clock, a brawny bathman with large fat hands tears aside the "blanket of the dark," and informs you that your bath is ready. If you are to be packed, this is the process: a counterpane is taken off the bed, a wet sheet is placed on it, and you, in the character of an Antinous or Satyr, as the case may be, slim or dumpy, bandy or obese, recline your form upon that wet sheet, which is then folded very carefully over you; the blankets are systematically packed round that, and when you are thoroughly swathed in this way, you are left, with your hands pinioned at your side, to represent rudely a perspiring Mummy—the Amenophis of private life—in which extremely historical condition you remain for half an hour or an hour. If you consider the well-directed horror of the European mind against damp sheets, you will perhaps be startled at this notion of being packed in a wet sheet; the difference is not in the dampness, but in the "packing," which prevents evaporation, and, consequently, produces a steady suffused glow of warmth, which soothes you into a gentle slumber. I have but one comment to make upon this process, and this is the inconsiderateness with which the bathman leaves you packed, instead of remaining to attend to any little wants. Imagine the torture of lying, swaddled and helpless, while volatile flies career upon your face, or stray hairs tickle you to madness! More serious than this, is the objection that possibly your condition is so low that you have not heat enough to produce the necessary reaction, and may be, as I was at the first trial, obliged to take a cup of hot tea, or some other stimulant.

To return to the process: You are awakened from your doze by the return of the faithful bathman, brawny and assiduous, who after unwrapping you, invites you to get into a long shallow bath of cold water. The luxury of this cold water, aided by his energetic rubbing, is indescribable! It threw me at once, historically, into the Roman baths, and made me appreciate the wise magnificence of those old sensualists. Getting out of the bath, I made the man rub my wet skin with easy vigour; he then threw a dry sheet over me, and rubbed with energy till I was dry. That rubbing was succeeded by a rubbing with a dry blanket, which in turn was succeeded by a rubbing with a soft, dry hand. The mysteries of the toilette followed, and having oiled my whiskers (for even at Malvern one likes to be prepared) I seized a hill post (or *alpenstock*), and made a desperate charge up the heights. The good docile water patient at this stage of the proceedings, walks briskly to St. Ann's Well, or elsewhere, and swills water with bacchanalian gusto; but I was not a docile patient, and objecting to water taken internally, both as a liquid and as a medicine; believing, indeed, the water-drinking to

be a very vicious part of the treatment, I stepped over that part of the process, and solaced myself with the never-ending delights of the Malvern Hills. The cool crisp morning air—the hills mist-crowned with sunlight bathing their sides and hollows—and the prospect of a breakfast stimulating one's imagination, together make up a sensation which of itself is a cure. After breakfast there was more climbing the hills; then a theoretical bath (which I never took) with preludes of water-drinkings, which I also disregarded, reserving all my stomachal power for the two o'clock dinner. After dinner, a little rest, and half an hour's sleep prepared me for another walk, on coming in from which the bath was very welcome. This bath was either a sitting-bath or trunk-bath, and if I was very much jaded, a simple cold-water foot-bath, which I recommend to all walkers as a simple and effective refreshment. A hearty tea, and bed at half-past nine o'clock, conclude this "strange, eventful history."

Such is a very brief account of the processes I went through. I leave aside all question of compress, bandages, dry packings, &c., and, what is more, I leave aside all rhapsodies about the Malvern Hills—all descriptions of donkey rides and picnics—of wanderings into space, with hard-boiled eggs and strawberries as provender, and the Reverend W. Maggles, of Bungay, as a "guide," and the Reverend's Sister as "philosopher and friend"—I spare you passages of the picturesque which I have no time to write, and, as a farewell, advise you (if jaded by a London season) to try the Water-cure at Malvern.

VIVIAN.

The Arts.

HEADS OR TAILS.

UNDER this title, an excellently constructed little comedy, adapted from the French, has been produced at the OLYMPIC THEATRE. As to the plot, we must be permitted to take our usual course, and not forestall the interest it excites, by saying a word about it. We refer our readers for the story of the play to the theatre; assuring them, beforehand, that they will find their time very pleasantly occupied if they devote it for an hour or so to *Heads or Tails*. As to the acting of the play, however, we may say a word or two of very sincere approval. Mr. Wigan, in the part of *Harold Dyecaster*, who trusts everything to chance, and solves all his mental difficulties by tossing up a halfpenny, was really admirable. His acting was finished, easy, and delightfully natural. He made a character of the part, without once slipping into exaggeration from beginning to end—amused his audience always by thoroughly legitimate means—and so managed his bye-play as to occupy his proper place in the scene, yet never to interfere with the other actors. The heartiest praise is due also to Mr. Emery, who acted the part of an irritable old gentleman with really original humour, and thorough truth to nature. His bell-ringing scene was one of the most genuine pieces of comic acting we ever saw on any stage. Mrs. Wigan had a capital servant's part, and performed it with a quaint truth and quiet humour which some other ladies now on the stage whom we might mention, would do well to imitate. Strangely enough, the only conventional acting in the play, was the acting of Mr. Robson! He had the part of a muddle-headed dupe to perform—a low-comedy part; and pure low-comedy is not his forte. He sneezed and talked through his nose (being supposed to have caught cold in a shower of rain) incessantly and comically enough—but he did not act, in the true sense of the word; and he disappointed us the more, because we had seen him at his best, earlier in the evening, in a farce (taken, of course, from the French) called

PERFECT CONFIDENCE.

Here Mr. Robson was excellent, for here he had a part suited to his peculiar and unique talent—the combination of the serious with the comic. *Perfect Confidence* is impersonated by Mr. Easy, who believes devoutly in his wife, who is (theoretically) quite incapable of being jealous of her, but who does nevertheless actually become jealous of her, after witnessing one apparently suspicious interview between the lady and a young visitor at the house. Parts of Mr. Robson's acting—especially the serious parts—were really wonderful, in the character of Mr. Easy. The first jealous suspicion—the frantic attempt to conceal it—the changes from hope to despair—from suspicion to certainty—from assumed calmness to real agony of mind—were given with extraordinary force and startling truth to nature. There was exaggeration here and there, but it was exaggeration in giving the comic side of the character. The serious side—as to voice, gesture, and expression—was presented with an absolute and marvellous truth which cannot be too highly praised. Since the days of *Plot and Passion*, Mr. Robson's performance in *Perfect Confidence* is the finest thing he has done.

LES DIAMANS DE LA COURONNE.

IN announcing the production of this opera at the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE last week, we ventured to predict that it would be the crowning success of the season, and the event has proved that we were right. The theatre was crowded from floor to ceiling. Every available foot of space about the

stalls was invaded by extra chairs—every bench in the "slips" had its occupant. Only give the public a chance of hearing a delightful singer in an opera which is full of the loveliest melodies from beginning to end, and people will crowd into any theatre you choose to open until the place overflows with them. Madame Cabel has added another leaf to her laurels by her performance of *La Catarina*. As a piece of acting it is charming—vocally, it is the best rendering of the part that we have heard. Even Madame Thillon (for whom the music was composed, and who sang it some years ago, with immense success, at the PRINCESS'S THEATRE) is equalled, and in some cases surpassed, as the heroine of this delightful opera, by Madame Cabel. The new "*Catarina*" sings the charming air *Oui Monseigneur Il faut Partir*, and the difficult solo of the second act, more perfectly than any of her predecessors that we have heard, either in England or France. Her execution of the solo, especially, was so admirable that the theatre rang again, after she had ended, with some of the heartiest applause we have ever heard in it. If *Les Diamans de la Couronne* had only been produced at the beginning of the season instead of the end, what magnificent nightly tributes might have flowed into the treasury of the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE!

W.

OTELLO.

The performance of *Otello* on Saturday last was a striking contrast to the performance of the same opera in the early part of the season. This marked difference is to be attributed to the change in the Desdemona, for on both occasions the *Otello* and *Iago* were represented by Tamberlik and Ronconi, with a power and finish not easily surpassed. Lablache lends a massive grandeur of aspect and voice, and an imposing dignity of presence to his traditional *Elmoro*; but the success of this not usually attractive opera on the one occasion, and its comparative failure on the other belong to the merits and defects of the respective Desdemonas. Mademoiselle Sofie Cruvelli's daring impulse and ambitious exaggeration of style, made up of splendid inequalities, were not sufficient to atone for a certain harshness unsoftened by womanly tenderness, and untempered by the repose of self-subduing art. Madame Pauline Viardot Garcia resumes the character in which she first won the welcome of a public still glowing with the remembrance of all that beauty and genius which in life were called Malibran. It was, if we mistake not, as Desdemona that Pauline Garcia first appeared before an English audience, who were content to find that the mantle and the lute of the lamented had become the heritage of the sister. Still there was some unripeness about that *début*. There was power and passion, but not the complete self-possession of art. Now we have no hesitation in pronouncing Madame Viardot's *Desdemona* a creation of true genius, sustained by inspiring and consummate art. In her singing she proves what can be done, in spite of natural deficiencies by devoted study and cultivation, and all that constitutes her imperfection, as it is called, is subtle and delicate in the extreme. Her attitudes are ever noble and sculptural, although she does not in the last act (as Alfred de Musset says poor Malibran *should* have done) think more of how to hold the lyre than of the passionate melancholy of a fatal presentiment. Nothing could be more satisfying to the most exacting taste than her delivery of the Willow Song; it seemed to well up from the heart. We must not forget to say how completely Tamberlik realises, in spite of the imbecile Italian librettist, the *Othello* of Shakspeare—we mean in presence and bearing as well as in the large and impassioned nobleness of his singing. Not less does Ronconi realise the *Iago* of the drama: the incarnation of catlike cruelty, disguised in deadly pleasantry; all that is most in contrast to the noblehearted Moor. The great duo in the second act "carried away the house," as usual. Tamberlik's exquisite singing of the gondolier's air—

"Nessun maggior dolore
Che ricordarsi del tempo felice
Nella miseria,"

might well have suggested to George Sand her last sympathetic little Art-story, *Adriani*, which is founded on those words, like a fantasia in music on a "motif" from *Otello*.

The second grand concert yesterday turned out, we regret to say, a chapter of accidents and disasters. A placard at the doors announced that Madame Grisi was unable to appear on account of a very severe hoarseness. The result was that the public who filled the house (we believe it is the "religious public" who draw a fine distinction between operas and concerts, that compose the audience at these monster concerts), took their seats rather with a sullen determination to make a row than for the sake of hearing the very excellent music set down in the programme. When Mario appeared to take his part in the *Stabat Mater*, he was received with shouts and hisses, and cries of "Where is Grisi?" from the "religious public" in the pit and boxes. Signor Mario was set down for other music; but in consequence, we suppose, of the conduct of the audience, declined to re-appear. When Tamberlik came forward, in a trio, he was welcomed by the humane, generous, and indulgent public, with shrieks of "Mario!" which resulted in his throwing up his music altogether. A gentleman, apparently well broken in for the work, then came forward with elaborate stagey politeness.

ness, and unalterable calmness, to make apologies; but it was not till he appealed a second time to the most sensitive part of the British constitution—the pocket—that he succeeded in making his meaning clear. There was one bright exception to this hubbub and uproar: it was the presence of Mademoiselle Clauss, like an angel of peace, at the grand pianoforte. She never played more beautifully, and was rapturously recalled. M. Vivier's fantastic extravaganza on the French horn did not succeed, however, in preserving the better feelings of the audience. We came out of the theatre in a crush of showily-dressed "ladies and gentlemen," evidently *habitués* of Exeter-hall rather than of the Opera, interspersed with indignant clergymen who were taking their money back. They had raved at Mario as they would weep at a Stowell or a Macneil. It was not, on the whole, a gratifying sight to a patriotic Englishman, this indecent outburst of coarse ingratitude to a great singer, who for twenty years never, except in very rare cases of positive illness, deserted an engagement or failed in service to the public. But we beg the intelligent foreigner to remember that it is the "religious public" who compose the audience on these occasions: the Bashibajouks of Exeter-hall, who have a proper horror of the stage—except *en deshabille*. No doubt there were some country cousins, who seize the opportunity of a monster concert, not so much for what they may hear there as for the sake of astonishing their provincial Browns by having heard Grisi and Mario; and their disappointment was natural enough. But the "religious public" it is who carry the behaviour of Exeter-hall into the more harmonious arena of the Royal Italian Opera.

E. P.

Grisi has appeared in *La Favorita*—the first of the three operas in which it was announced that she would sing, during the supplementary eight nights of her renewed engagement. Her farewell benefit is fixed for the 7th of August.

RELATION OF INDIGESTION TO CONSUMPTION AND SCROFULA.—Many scrofulous and phthisical subjects are not dyspeptic, or only become so in the advanced stages of the malady: on the other hand, many dyspeptic subjects never become scrofulous or phthisical. In order that dyspepsia coincide with tubercular disease, the FUNCTIONS OF THE LUNGS AND SKIN MUST BE SIMULTANEOUSLY AND PROTRACTEDLY INACTIVE. Now a majority of dyspeptics are careful of their diet, eschew excesses, breathe a pure air, take much exercise, and keep their skins in high condition, giving them every advantage of clothing, and bathing, and suitable temperature in-doors. Besides, they are generally keen men of business, or ardent students, and, with occasional anxieties, have on the whole much pleasurable mental excitement. All these are conditions totally opposed to the inroads of consumption; but let the circumstances of the case be reversed—let the individual be ill-fed, ill-warmed, ill-housed, ill-ventilated, ill-habited, the inmate perhaps of a cellar-residence, or a prison-cell, with depressed spirits, &c.,—and it will be a miracle if he do not soon exhibit some form of scrofula, most probably an incipient tubercular deposit in his lungs. But these morbid consequences take place less because of the implication of the digestive organs than because his lungs and skin have been condemned to comparative, if not absolute, inactivity. Soldiers on a retreat, and starving, droop of fevers by the wayside, but never become tuberculous.—*The Water-Cure in Consumption and Scrofula*, by Dr. Balbirnie.

MAN NOT A SEDENTARY ANIMAL.—The structure and functions of man show that he was not intended to be by any means a *sedentary animal*! Those who live the longest, and enjoy the best health, are invariably persons of active habits. From the moment man becomes a civilised being, the depuratory process of his blood becomes less perfect—in other words, the grand excretory functions of his skin and lungs are less completely exercised. From that moment begins Scrofula to show its ravages on his frame! Why? Because his habits become then less conformable to the instinctive requirements of his constitution. His exercise is less frequent or less natural—either unremitting or not at all: his lungs are compelled to long periods of comparative inactivity; and his skin is equally diminished in function by loads of superfluous clothing, as well as made susceptible to every atmospheric variation of all sorts of "coddling" in warm rooms. By all these anti-hygienic agencies, the blood of the civilised man is infinitely less oxygenated than before. He voluntarily debars himself of the means of carrying off the effete matters of his body. When the lungs are imperfectly exercised, it is impossible for the skin to be *healthily* active in its duties, for the two go together. Baths and cleanliness are indeed a great compensation. But nothing perfectly compensates the want of active exertion in a pure air, for nothing else can perfectly keep open the body's safety-valves, or secure the perfect elimination of the corporeal waste. And when the products of decomposition are not all thrown out, a virtual and valid *materies morbi* remains to vitiate the process of recomposition. Hence the commencing loss of high condition whenever man comes materially to infringe the hygienic laws—when superfluous food or pernicious drinks combine with the want of due activity of lungs and skin to derange

the balance between waste and supply. Even the diet may be proper as to quantity and quality, and the alimentary canal may be kept clean, but all will not avail to produce healthy blood and firm textures, so long as the pulmonary and cutaneous safety-valves are marred in their play. It is a grand truth, of which we challenge refutation, viz., that NO ONE WITH PERFECTLY-ACTING LUNGS AND SKIN EVER BECOMES SCROFULOUS, OR, BEING SCROFULOUS, LONG REMAINS SCROFULOUS. People only become consumptive, when—

together with causes impairing the general health—the active play of the lungs is impeded from any circumstance whatever, bad posture, confinement, absorbing passions, or inflammations which consolidate portions of the pulmonary tissue.—*The Water-Cure in Consumption and Scrofula*, by Dr. Balbirnie.

INFLUENCE OF AGE UPON THE PREDISPOSITION TO CONSUMPTION AND SCROFULA.—The susceptibility of the constitution to tubercular manifestation is greatest at the commencement of life, and decreases progressively with its advance. The solids and fluids undergo physiological changes as years creep on. In infancy, for example, the blood is less abundant in solid constituents and in red corpuscles, than from maturity to middle life. Besides, the frame naturally sets, and hardens with its growth—acquires increased stamina and durability with time, and is better able to resist deteriorating influences. There is every reason to suppose, therefore, that these functional and organic modifications—the result of the natural phases of corporeal development—are efficient counteractives, within certain limits, of the tubercular taint or tendency. Particular ages predispose to particular varieties of tubercular disease. Inflammation of the brain is characteristic of infancy; Scrofula is most frequent in childhood and youth; and Consumption in early maturity. Till puberty scrofulous manifestation is on the increase: it then rapidly and progressively declines till between forty and fifty years of age, when the liability becomes almost extinct. The liability, however, to death from Scrofula, does not begin to decline till between twenty and twenty-five years of age. From twenty to twenty-five, on to thirty-five and forty years of age, Consumption reaches its maximum of frequency, and then progressively decreases. It is a popular idea, but an incorrect one, that if persons have passed the middle term of life, or its grand climacteric, they may calculate on an exemption from Consumption. The disease, however, is far from unfrequent up to the age of sixty; and even at seventy, eighty, ninety, and one hundred, its ravages are not unknown.—*The Water-Cure in Consumption and Scrofula*, by Dr. Balbirnie.

INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE AS A CAUSE OF CONSUMPTION AND SCROFULA.—Modifications of temperature *per se* are totally inadequate as a determining cause of the tubercular constitution. The population of cold climates evince no peculiar liability to Consumption or Scrofula, nor do those of hot climates evince any peculiar exemption. British soldiers stationed in cold climates (e. g. Canada) are even less inviolated for Consumption and Scrofula than those stationed in warm (e. g. West Indies), or even in temperate climates (Great Britain). Consumption is rare in Greenland, Iceland, Lapland, and Russia—countries that ought to be very rife with the disease, if simple inclemency of climate has ought to do with its causation. According to the statistical reports of the United States' army, 10 3-10 per 1000 is the average deaths from Consumption in the Southern states; while in the most inclement parts of the Northern only 5-1-10 per 1000 are attacked. The records of the British Army show the same extra frequency of Consumption in Southern regions as compared with Northern. The proportions of attacks at various stations was as follows:—Jamaica, 13 per 1000; West Indies, 12; Bermuda, 9; Canada, 6; United Kingdom, 6½.—*The Water-Cure in Consumption and Scrofula* by Dr. Balbirnie.

SALUTARY INFLUENCE OF COLD IN CONSUMPTION.—It may be safely laid down, that coldness of temperature, *per se*, is rather a preservative against, than a promoter of, Consumption. Phthisis is unknown in the Arctic regions. A cold bracing air offers infinitely greater chances of cure than a warm relaxing climate, even of the temperate zone. Accordingly we find some of the best cures of those not advanced in the disease effected in Malvern in the winter season; but for severer cases, its bracing summer and autumn are the best seasons. In cold weather the digestive organs are sooner regulated, and more easily kept in condition; hunger, and the appetite for oxydisable materials, is greater, and—provided the right kind of food be supplied, with sufficient exercise and proper clothing, as well as obedience to the hygienic laws in other respects—an entire resistance to the morbid effects of cold is secured. In fact, it is the heat-elaborating functions of the body, duly regulated that constitutes one of the most beneficial elements of the water-cure.—*The Water-Cure in Consumption and Scrofula*, by Dr. Balbirnie.

THE INFLUENCE OF CLOTHING ON CONSUMPTION.—Insufficient protection of the chest by dress is popularly, and even professionally, considered an active agent in producing Consumption. But there does not seem much show of reason for this opinion. The most exposed out-door labourers—hawkers and other people very inefficiently clad, and certainly not over-scrupulous in hygienic observances—are least liable to Consumption. In fact we have no masons, bricklayers, plasterers, stuccoers, and hodmen in the list of applicants at the Brompton Hospital—the class precisely that should present in greatest numbers—if exposure to all weathers, and scanty clothing, were very operative in the causation of the malady under discussion. Probably it will be found that the most frequent sufferers from phthisis are the persons who have prided themselves most on their punctilious avoidance of exposure, and their care in protecting themselves by clothing. The greater liability of males—in the metropolis at least—than females, to whom fashion assigns much less covering to the chest—proves the alleged influence of deficient clothing to be ill-founded. At Gröfenberg, where to go without great-coats, or even neckerchiefs, was the *mode*, coughs and colds were very rare—and this in a winter season quite Siberia! It is matter of familiar observation that those who muffle up most about the throat are the most liable to throat affections; whilst to abjure muffling is the certain cure, or "hardener." By parity of reasoning—and of experience too—I have no doubt it will be found that the most free of chest-complaints are those who are most free of "bosom-friends," hair skins, "comforters," and all sorts of swaddling-bands about the throat and chest.—*The Water-Cure in Consumption and Scrofula*, by Dr. Balbirnie.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

LINCOLN.—July 8, at 53, Queen Anne-street, the wife of the Bishop of Lincoln: a daughter.
MORI.—July 6, at 27, Milton-street, Dorset-square, Mrs. Frank Mori: a daughter.
PETO.—July 11, at 12, Kensington Palace-gardens, Hyde-park, the wife of J. Morton Peto, Esq., M.P.: a son.
STEWART.—In Belgrave-square, Lady Octavia Shaw Stewart: a son.
WALPOLE.—At Rainton Hall, Norfolk, the Hon. Mrs. Frederick Walpole: a son.

MARRIAGES.

DOMVILLE—MEADE.—July 12, by the Rev. the Lord Saye and Sele, William Compton, second son of Sir Compton Domville, of Sundry House, county Dublin, Bart., to Caroline, sixth daughter of the late General the Hon. Robert Meade, and granddaughter of John, first Earl of Clarendon.
HALIBURTON—HALIBURTON.—June 27, at Windsor, Nova Scotia, Alexander Powden Haliburton, Esq., to Augusta Louisa Neville, daughter of the Hon. Mr. Justice Haliburton, of Clifton, near Windsor.
HAMPSON—ENGLAND.—July 12, at Eccleston, Lancashire, Sir George Francis Hampson, Bart., Captain, Scots Greys, to Ann, only child of Thomas Hutchings England, Esq., Snitterfield, Warwickshire.
MURRAY—HASTINGS.—July 8th, at Hockfield Church, Sir William Keith Murray, Bart., of Ochiltree, and Dunottar, North Britain, to the Lady Adelaide Augusta Lavina Hastings, youngest daughter of Francis, first Marquis of Hastings, and Flora, Countess of Loudoun.

RANDOLPH—BOSCAWEN.—July 13, at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, the Rev. Leveson O. Randolph, son of the Rev. Thomas Randolph, to the Hon. Anne Boscawen, fifth daughter of the late Hon. and Rev. J. Evelyn Boscawen.

WOODS—HINDLEY.—July 12, at St. Margaret's Westminster, Henry Woods, Esq., of Wigan, to Hannah, only child of Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P.

WHITTINGHAM—REID.—July 13, at St. James's Church, Paddington, Lieut.-Colonel Ferdinand Whittingham, C.B., Twenty-sixth Cameronians, second son of the late Lieut.-General Sir Stamford Whittingham, K.C.B., K.C.H., to Charlotte Anne, third daughter of the late Novile Reid, Esq., of Rannymode, Old Windsor, and granddaughter of Francis, seventh Lord Napier.

DEATHS.

ALEXANDER.—July 10, at 10, Fitzwilliam-square East, Dublin, the Lady Elizabeth Alexander, sister of the late Earl of Caledon.

BERKELEY.—June 8, at Mexico, where he was First Attaché to the British Legation, in his twenty-ninth year, Alexander Henry Hastings Berkeley, second son of General Sir George Berkeley, K.C.B.

CARLYON.—July 4, at his seat, Tregochan, Cornwall, Major-General Carlyon, aged seventy.

GRESHAM.—June 27, on board H.M.S. St. George, Baltic fleet, Lieutenant Thomas Gresham, R.N.

SCOTT.—July 8, W. Scott, Esq., for twenty-seven years professor of mathematics at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in the fifty-first year of his age.

SCOTT.—July 11, at Delgany, James Smyth Scott, Q.C., Ireland, aged seventy-two.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, July 14, 1854.
Consols have been considerably depressed during the week. The weather has influenced the market; a good many of the old "Bear" party having changed their tactics and become "Bulls," got frightened and closed their accounts, some real *bona fide* sales and a couple of disastrously wet days did the rest, and at one time on Wednesday Consols were 92½; yesterday they rose to 92, and to-day have fluctuated between 91 and 92. Railway shares are flat, save Leeds and Paris and Lyons. Crystal Palace shares are already at a discount, although a trifle better this morning. In mines but little doing, Aqua Fria a shade better. Peninsulas have had their meeting, and a satisfactory statement from Captain John Hitchens has been presented, but some talk of another call has depressed the shares; they are only a premium at present, with a 2s. 6d. dividend per share to come off.
The Bank return to-morrow will be very fair, and may drive up Consols to 93 again.
Consols closed at 4 o'clock 91 91½.

Consols, 91, 91½; Caledonian, 62½, 62½; Chester and Holyhead, 15½, 16½; Eastern Counties, 13, 13½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 60, 62; Great Western, 74½, 74½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 63½, 64½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 107, 108 ½; London and North-Western, 103, 103½; London and South-Western, 82½, 83½; Midland, 63½, 63½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 30, 32; Scottish Central, 92, 94; South Eastern, 62½, 63½; South Wales, 35, 36; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 72½, 73½; York and North Midland, 53½, 54½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 34, 34 dis.; East Indian, 14, 2 pm.; Luxembourg 34 34; Madras, 4 dis. 4 pm.;

Namur and Liege (with interest), 74, 8; Northern of France, 33, 33; Paris and Lyons, 16, 17 pm.; Paris and Orleans, 45, 47; Paris and Rouen, 39, 41; Rouen and Havre, 22, 23; Paris and Strasbourg, 30, 31; Sambre and Meuse, 8, 9; West Flanders, 3, 4; Western of France, 5, 6 pm.; Aqua Frias, 4 dis. par.; Brazil Imperial, 3, 4; St. John del Rey, 28, 30; Linars, 10, 11; San Fernandos, 4 dis.; New Linars, 4 dis.; Pontgibauds, 16, 17; Australasian 81, 83; London Chartered Bank, Australia, 3, 14 pm.; Oriental Bank, 46, 48; Union of Australia, 73, 75; Australian Agricultural, 45, 46; Crystal Palace, 4, 5; North British Australian Land Loan, 4 dis. par.; Scottish Australian Investment, 13, 14; South Australian Land, 35, 37.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, July 14.

LOCAL TRADE.—The supplies of Wheat this week are moderate—say under 20,000 qrs. To-day there is rather more disposition to buy, but the amount of business done is small. Barley is unchanged in value. Oats are better sale, and a good business has been done at fully Monday's prices.

FLOATING, FREE ON BOARD, &c.—Since this day week the trade has been extremely quiet throughout the country. There have been scarcely 10 really fine sunny days since the early part of May, and though accounts of the appearance of the crops are favourable from all parts, it is unlikely that such a season as the present will produce a good yield of any grain. At the same time, should fine weather set in now markets may be expected to be dull and prices probably receding somewhat for some time to come. A feeling seems to begin to prevail that the new season will open with prices of Wheat at about 60s., and in a few markets the expected decline to this point has been in a great measure discounted—61 lb English Wheat having been sold as low as 63s. this week, and several farmers in different parts of the country having contracted to deliver their whole coming crop at 61s. to 63s. per qr. Should the present weather continue a fortnight longer, the result will be very serious.

In France the weather is also unfavourable in some districts, but the crops are more forward there than here; and though the condition may be, still the quantity will not be affected. In Algeria, Sicily, and the South of Italy, the crops are abundant, and from the North of Germany and Denmark good accounts have arrived.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	209	207½	210	210	210	210
3 per Cent. Red.	93	92½	91½	91	91½	91½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92½	92½	91½	90½	91½	91½
Consols for Account	93½	92½	91½	90½	91½	91½
3½ per Cent. An.	93½	92½	92½	91½	92½	92½
New 3½ per Cents.....			91½			
Long Ans. 1860.....		11-16	9-16	4½		
India Stock.....	230	223½	223			225
Ditto Bonds, £1000	4 p					4 p
Ditto, under £1000		1 p		3 p		
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	2 p	2 p	2 p	1 d	1 d	1 d
Ditto, £500.....	3 p	1 d	par	1 d	2 p	
Ditto, Small	5 p	5 p	2 p	2 p	4 p	4 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	100	Russian Bonds, 5 per	
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents. 50		Cents 1822	96½
Chilian 6 per Cents.....		Russian 4½ per Cents....	82
Danish 5 per Cents.....		Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def. 187	
Ecuador Bonds.....		Spanish Committee Cert.	
Mexican 3 per Cents.....	24½	of Coup. not fun.....	
Mexican 3 per Ct. for		Venezuela 3½ per Cents. 25	
Acc.		Belgian 4½ per Cents....	89
Portuguese 4 per Cents. 30½		Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	58½
Portuguese 5 p. Cents. ...		Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. 90	

OPERA COMIQUE, ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

Final Arrangements of the Season.

On Monday, July 17, (for the last time) LES DIAMANS DE LA COUNONNE. La Catarina, Madame Marie Cabel.

Wednesday, July 19, (for the last time) LA SIRENE. Zerlina, Madame Marie Cabel.

Friday, July 21, (by desire, and for the last time, LA PROMISE. Marie, Madame Marie Cabel.

MADAME MARIE CABEL begs respectfully to announce that her BENEFIT, and Last Appearance but One, will take place on Wednesday, July 26, 1854, on which occasion she will have the honour of performing (for the first time) in a Favorite Opera.

Nights of Performance next week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Boxes and Stalls at the Box-office, and at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street. Boxes, 5s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 2s. Doors open at Seven.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday and during the week will be performed

PERFECT CONFIDENCE.

Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Emory, F. Robinson, Miss Marston, Miss E. Ormonde, and Miss E. Turner. After which

THE JEALOUS WIFE.

Characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emory, F. Robinson, H. Wigan, Mrs. A. Wigan, Mrs. Chatterly, Miss Marston, and Miss E. Turner. To conclude with

HEADS OR TAILS.

Characters by Messrs. Emory, A. Wigan, F. Robson, Miss Marston, and Mrs. A. Wigan.

Will Close on the 22nd inst.

SOCIETY of PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS.—The FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION is now Open at their Gallery, 5, Pall-mall East, from Nine till Dusk.

Admittance, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

CRYSTAL PALACE, MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COURT.—Mr. Wm. REA has the honour to announce to the Nobility and Gentry that he will, next Saturday, perform a series of compositions on the New Repetition Grand Cottage Pianoforte. Manufactured and Exhibited by MESSRS. LEVESQUE, EDMANDES, and CO., of 40, Cheapside. To commence at Three o'clock.

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The Best Pekoe Congou	8 s. 8	the pound.
Strong Breakfast ditto	3 0	"
Good sound ditto	2 8	"
Choice Gunpowder	4 8	"
Finest Young Hyson	4 4	"
Good Plantation Coffee	1 0	"
Cuba, Jamaica or Costa Rica	1 4	"
Choice old Mocha	1 6	"
The Best Homoeopathic Cocoa	1 0	"

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Best Moyune Gunpowder, 4s. 8d.
The Best Pearl Gunpowder, 5s.
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allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London.

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immediate object of this Institution is, to commence an Organised System of Supply for a great variety of articles of consumption, with a public guarantee for their quality, genuineness, fair price, measure, &c. It is hoped thus, within the limits of the agency, to make the operation of supply a kind of public service, not speculative, but regularly and sufficiently remunerative, and at the same time to relieve the consumer of the uncertainty arising from the impostures and unfair dealing practised by unscrupulous merchants and tradesmen. This can only be secured by making it the main object of a trust, governed by persons of acknowledged character, and administered in detail only by such as are found honest upon trial. The profits applied to the benefit of the officers of the Institution, and of those who supply its capital, are to be limited, so as to allow only fair remuneration, and all surplus proceeds to be applied to such public objects as have a fair claim on the profits of distribution.

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