

Alfred Edmund Galloway, 7 Wellington Street, Strand.

The Leader.

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

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SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1855.

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News of the Week.

EVERYTHING converges to a political crisis. The evidence of the Duke of NEWCASTLE discloses the totally disorganised state of the public departments. Lord PALMERSTON took the lead of the Government to introduce vigour and sincerity into our war administration: he has not proved equal to the task. It is no reproach to him that he is not; his age is not in fault. We believe that no man can do the work thrust upon him, except he be prepared to take a totally new position; to break entirely with the organised upholders of the present corrupt "system," and to claim a support from the country.

Mr. LAYARD has laid upon the table of the House of Commons a series of resolutions which he is to move. They correctly describe the actual situation: we do but follow their words, and state the one notorious fact, when we say, that the manner in which fitness and efficiency have been sacrificed to party and family influences, and to a blind adherence to routine, in the appointments to the great offices of State, of diplomacy, of the army, and other branches of the public service, is destructive to the best interests of the commonwealth. It has already given rise to grave misfortunes, threatens to bring discredit upon our national character, and to involve the country in serious disasters. It will not be denied, by any but the purely official mind, that at all times the administration of public affairs should be entrusted to those best qualified to discharge the duties imposed upon them; how much the more necessary, therefore, it is, that such should be the case at a moment of great national emergency. At such a moment, then, Mr. LAYARD invites the House of Commons to make this declaration:—That this House will give its support to any Ministry, which, in the present emergency, shall propose to itself no other object but the efficiency of the public service in every branch, and the vigorous prosecution of the war, as the only means of securing an honourable and lasting peace.

Parliament has been engaged this week in exposing its total inefficiency and insipidity. Of "business" it has done little,—trifling with "deceased wife's sister," pottering over newspaper stamps, and doing as it is bidden, "postponing" decisions like a bankrupt schoolboy;—but asking

the news from Ministers as recognised editors of the "latest" telegraph for the evening. The most like real business has been the second reading of the Cambridge Reform Bill in the House of Lords, without opposition: the discussion is to be taken in committee. The CHANCELLOR promises amendments, which we hope will include a freer constitution. Lord LYNTHURST lost the opportunity to pass a eulogy on the old "solid" system of University education. Does he know what a "passman's" education was? Surely it is time to have done with such cant.

Oxford Convocation has passed by a very small majority a statute exempting Dissenters from the Divinity Examination. Mr. HEYWOOD, attempting a further removal of academical and scholastic tests, in the House of Commons, got upon a mud-bank of technicalities and foundered. The Articles are still to be signed by Masters of Arts "with a smile or with a sigh."

The War Budget was scarcely before the whole public, ere we had the report that Russia had broken off the Conference at Vienna; and that report was preceded rather than accompanied by another more painful, that Austria showed signs of departing from her good faith in the alliance; while the opening of the telegraph from Balaklava to London discloses the ominous fact that the siege had proceeded down to the 25th without any material change. This state of affairs increases the feeling of uneasiness and dissatisfaction in the public.

The position of Russia appears to be characteristic and very intelligible. The course of the concessions will be remembered. Russia had consented to negotiate upon the basis of the Four Points, and the first Protocol of the Plenipotentiaries recorded that first step in their proceedings. The Plenipotentiaries then proceeded to consider the four points separately. Russia provisionally accepted the principle involved in the two first—the withdrawal of her intervention in the Principalities, and the complete freedom of the Danube navigation; but on the third point—the reduction of Russian power in the Black Sea—her Plenipotentiaries professed a necessity of referring home for instructions. This is extraordinary, since the point was, of course, involved in "the Four Points," and it might have been supposed that the Plenipotentiaries had at least enough information respecting the views of their own Government provisionally to accept

that principle as a basis of further negotiations. For to such acceptance the first admission of any one of the points only amounted. The nature of the "further instructions" is disclosed in the fact, that the Russian Plenipotentiaries declined to make any proposition upon the third point, and there the Conferences were broken off. The chief Plenipotentiaries of France and England, Lord JOHN RUSSELL and M. DROUYN DE L'HUYS, were expected to leave Vienna on Monday; but on Thursday they report from that capital that the departure of M. DROUYN DE L'HUYS had been delayed, and that Russia had made new propositions, which the Allies summarily rejected.

For the moment this last report possesses peculiar interest beyond that which appears on the face of it. It seems to bear collaterally upon the position of Austria. The Austrian Government was the moving cause of these Conferences; the Western Powers having been quite prepared to proceed without further negotiation; and, indeed, it may be said that it was Austria who converted the question of the Principalities into a directly European question. From the first the interests of Europe were involved; but, as the case was treated by the Western Powers, the action remained, to a certain extent, local; the attack upon Russia in the north being only an auxiliary proceeding, and not involving any but purely Russian territory. It was at the request of Austria that the Allies considerably moderated their demands upon Russia; and these concessions were no doubt made under the impression that Austria was meeting the Western Powers more than half-way, first in pressing coercive demands upon Russia; and, secondly, in preparing to act with arms if Russia should refuse compliance. Russia has refused compliance; and now it is reported that Austria, instead of preparing for instant action, deliberates and debates. It is said that she put to the Allies the question, whether enough had not been gained by the Russian evacuation of the Principalities and of the Black Sea, and by the excited jealousy of Germany against the advances of Russia in the northern part of Europe? There is no statement that Austria appears to be in direct and separate communication with Russia, or this new attitude on her part would unquestionably assume the blackest character. The renewal of the offer on the part of Russia afforded an opportunity for the Allies again to present themselves side by side; and there is no evidence that Austria took a dif-

ferent course on this occasion, or one more friendly to Russia. Respecting the actual position of Austria, therefore, we must await further information, treating the somewhat desponding spirit which appears to link under the admonitions of our own official journals to be, perhaps, as much overstrained as their previous confidence in our ally. This is rendered the more probable by a new tone said to have come over the Austrian Ministers, even since this last display of Russian arrogance and duplicity.

The FRENCH EMPEROR, who was careful to date an ordinance, addressed to his own subjects, and signed "NAPOLEON," from "Windsor Castle," is equally careful to publish in the *Moniteur* the addresses which he received from London, Manchester, Southampton, &c. There is every sign that, officially, the union with France and England is considered to be as close as it could be rendered by the strongest pledges and the utmost cordiality. This also is a fact which has a more interesting signification than for the moment appears. There seems to be no question whether the EMPEROR intends to proceed to the Crimea. Some day soon after the 1st of next month is now fixed for his departure. He goes to take the field against Russia, and war therefore continues; and from the state of affairs it must continue on an enlarged scale, with greater bloodshed, more exertion, and further sacrifices; for the EMPEROR wills it. The alliance between the Tuileries and Downing-street is complete, and we must follow the march of the "brave et beau Dunois."

It is under these circumstances that we proceed with the War Budget. It is made a boast on behalf of the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, that he has amply provided for the year, and has secured even a surplus upon the actual expenditure. The military outlay, we are told, will be 43,000,000*l.*, while he has taken more than 4,000,000*l.* for contingencies, with power to issue 3,000,000*l.* of Exchequer Bills—apparently to meet any defalcation in the Loan, though that is not probable. The Exchequer Bills are not to be issued pending the receipt of instalments for the Loan, so that they will either not be issued at all, or only be used in the interval between the 18th of December and the subsequent meeting of Parliament. But how is any mortal man to know that the expenditure for the financial year 1855-6 will be limited to the amount set down *beforehand* by Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS? The expenditure of 40 or 50,000,000*l.* for war alone out of a Budget realising 63,000,000*l.* as revenue, leaves us, in fact, a real deficit. The whole extent of the Loan is a deficit. Yet that is an expenditure calculate only for the war in the Crimea and the Baltic; but who knows that we shall stop there? Who knows that the Sardinian loan will be our only advance to allies? Who knows, in short, upon what fields the contest may be waged during the current year, or the part which this country may have to take in following the EMPEROR?

While the finance is in this condition of probable development, our administration seems to be threatened with a break-down. The Sebastopol Committee has pushed its trenches right into the War Ministry, and has, with the assistance of the Duke of NEWCASTLE, who was examined at full length for several days this week, thoroughly inquired into the disorganised state of that Ministry, which divides its authority amongst the Secretary of State and his subordinates, the Treasury, the Horse Guards, the Ordnance, and even the Admiralty, with all kinds of subdivision amongst their subordinates. Even Lord RAGLAN, Commander-in-Chief in the Crimea, did not fully carry out the instructions sent to him; but unable to fulfil the inquiries which he was ordered to make before the Crimea expedition, he set out unassisted by those inquiries. Lord HARDINGE appointed Lord LUCAN and other Generals

without consulting the War Minister—Lord LUCAN being one of the active causes of disagreement. The Board of Admiralty and the Board of Ordnance had debates between themselves as to their liabilities and jurisdiction in matters of transport and the like. The spirit of insubordination seems to have been exhibited by all departments and all ranks, even up to the Commander-in-Chief. Lord PALMERSTON has stated in the House of Commons this week, that a thorough reform of the War Department is under consideration; and it has been announced, not for the first time, that Lord PANMURE has resigned, his broken health rendering it absolutely impossible for him to continue at the head of the War Ministry. Until we have Lord PALMERSTON'S promised new administration, we may be said, to a great extent, to be without a military administration. The war is carried on by the Cabinet, and the departments fulfil so much of the instructions received from the Cabinet as they think fit; so that the ultimate result is a matter of chance.

Even the small scandals of the army belong to the news that colour the week. We have two cases before us. At Canterbury is stationed a depôt of the Enniskillen Dragoons, and in that depôt is a Cornet BAUMGARTEN, who has been subjected to treatment of the Perryan order. Though he has none of the incompatibilities of a PERRY, he is warranted by an old College friend at Oxford to be an accomplished sportsman and a pleasant companion. His sword broken, the plume of his helmet broken, buckets of water thrown in his bed, his linen-chest deluged, his window and looking-glass smashed, his charger tailed and cropped, with other indignities that gentlemen cannot even mention. Driven at last to some desperate measures, afraid, perhaps, to "peach," he challenges his tormentors, and then appears worthy Sergeant BRODIE with a strong protest against "murder!" The treatment of this sergeant introduces a new incident quite unexpected enough for romance. Adjutant WEBSTER comes up with a file of men and seizes, not the duellists, but the sergeant, who is ordered to be knocked down by the men with the butt-ends of the carbines if he resists. The breach of discipline in this last incident is so complicated that we know no parallel to it except the position of Whiskerandos and the Nieces. It will be curious to see how Sergeant BRODIE is treated by the sophists who rule our military discipline.

This case was preceded by another, in the Thirtieth Regiment, where they seem to have brought the practical joking to high perfection. Ensign FALKNER was subjected to threats that he should be thrown out of window; attempts were made to throw him out; his mouth was smeared with tallow; he was kicked out of the room, and otherwise maltreated by "officers and gentlemen." The Commander-in-Chief resolutely set his face against these practices: one officer who apologised is let off with a reprimand; another who repeated the offensive conduct is threatened with expulsion, and subjected to surveillance with periodical reports.

So far, well. But while money is made the test of admission to the army; while the hands of officers are prevented from defending their own personal inviolability by puritanical rules against duelling; and while the post of officer is a close place, the property of the purchaser—there must continue a rottenness in our army calculated to render it inefficient before the enemy.

SCREW PROPULSION.—A committee has been formed for presenting some testimonial to Mr. Francis Pettit Smith, the inventor, or at any rate the great improver, of the screw-propeller. We understand that Mr. Smith has received no public acknowledgment or pecuniary reward of his services. The committee, we trust, will meet with the success it deserves.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

IN reply to a question from Mr. BRIGHT, on Monday touching the termination of the Vienna Conference Lord PALMERSTON said:—

"The question which the hon. member has put such great importance that I cannot shrink from giving the House and the country some explanation. It may be the time at which her Majesty's government may think fit to give a more detailed explanation, not at present in a condition to state. But it is known to the House that the English and French governments, in concert with the Government of Austria, had determined that the proper development of the Point, which regarded the treaties of 1840 and 1848 respect to the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, required, amongst other things, that the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea should hence cease. That principle was laid down by England, France, and was agreed to by Austria, and it is a principle which, in the abstract, was accepted by Russian plenipotentiary. On Thursday last, the plenipotentiaries of England, France, Austria, Turkey, and Russia, met to consider this point. The plenipotentiaries of England, France, Austria, and Turkey proposed the mode of carrying out this principle, which had admitted and accepted by Russia, either that the arm of the Russian naval force in the Black Sea should henceforth be limited by treaty, or that the Black Sea should be declared neutral ground entirely, where ships of war would be excluded from that sea, so that it would be a sea for commerce only in future. Russian plenipotentiary required forty-eight hours to take that proposition into consideration. These eight hours having elapsed on Saturday, another conference was held on that day, and there the Russian plenipotentiary absolutely refused to accept either of those alternatives thus pressed unanimously by the plenipotentiaries of the other four powers. Thereupon the conference was adjourned *sine die*, and my noble friend and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, the ministers of England and France, were to take their departure from Vienna on the course of the present day."

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY—"Was any counter-proposition made by Russia?"

Lord PALMERSTON—"Russia made no counter-proposition whatever."

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, the Earl of MALMESBURY asked certain questions with regard to the debates in the Congress, and the attitude assumed by Russia. He likewise desired to know whether it is now intended that Prussia shall be one of the protecting powers over the principalities; also what the Government consider to be the object of the war, and a fitting equivalent for the expenditure of so much blood and treasure. Lord Malmesbury expressed his opinion that, if Russia had acceded to the proposal for limiting her ships in the Black Sea, she would not have held to the treaty more than she has held to that for opening the mouths of the Danube.

The Earl of CLARENDON replied:—

"My noble friend is right in his assumption that the First and Second Points Russia acceded, and they were finally determined. When the Third Point came under discussion, the representatives of the other Powers, in order to prove that they had no wish to militate against Russia, but, on the contrary, desired to co-operate with her dignity, proposed to the Russian plenipotentiaries to take the initiative as to the measure which they would give effect to the principle of the proposition. The Russian plenipotentiaries acknowledged the courtesy of the proceeding, but asked for time to consult their Government. That time was given; but in the meanwhile, and for obvious reasons, we declined to engage in the discussion of the Fourth Point. The answer from St. Petersburg arrived, and it was that the Russian Government had no proposition to make. . . . John Russell left Vienna on Monday. With respect to the position which Prussia has occupied in the course of these negotiations, I can only say that the position which she has occupied, and which she continues to occupy entirely excluded her from the Conference, and therefore from all the arrangements that might have been made. Regarding the consequences that might be expected from the limitation of the power of Russia in the Black Sea, and the manner in which Russia would be bound by stipulations, I think that at this moment it would not be convenient to refer to them till your lordships are

in possession of all the information you are entitled to, and which, I assure you, the Government will be most ready to furnish."

In reply to Lord HARDWICKE, the Earl of CLARENDON stated that, up to Friday last, Austria held language on the Eastern question identical with that of the allies. The time for anything beyond language had not yet arrived; so that it was impossible to say what course Austria would take.

THE ISLAND OF AVES.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to questions from Mr. HORSFALL, said that some Americans had ascertained that there was guano on the island of Aves, though the British officers who had previously examined the place could not discover it; that the Government of Venezuela had granted to the American adventurers an exclusive right of taking guano for a certain number of years; that the law officers of this country had decided that England could not claim any sovereignty over the island by virtue of being the first to occupy it; but that instructions had been sent to our consul at Caraccas to require that our Government should have equal facilities with other governments in obtaining the guano.

THE HOSPITAL AT SMYRNA.

Mr. PEEL, in answer to Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT and Mr. LAYARD, said that, according to a letter he had received from Dr. Meyer, the number of fever cases in the hospital is diminishing, and that no danger is to be apprehended from the situation of the hospital. The wooden huts had not yet been sent out, but they would be immediately.

WAYS AND MEANS.—THE BUDGET.

On the report of the Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. GOULBURN said that he did not wish to offer any objection to the contract for the Loan, which appeared to him fair both to the contractors and the public; but he thought that in this case the usual objection to loans, viz., that they throw a burden on posterity, is increased by the obligation to redeem the principal by a million a year. He thought it highly improbable that Parliament would consent to raise this sum for sixteen years, since in former cases it had not adhered to its resolution to maintain a sinking fund. He looked upon the Loan, therefore, as an irredeemable annuity, and consequently thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have acted more wisely if he had made an offer for the Loan in the New Three per Cent. Annuities, which are redeemable in 1874, instead of in Consols. In the event of peace, the interest of money would fall; and the country ought not to be shut out from the benefit of this contingency. He did not think the public would gain any ultimate advantage from the terminable annuities. His belief was, that the purchasers of the present annuities, from the profit they made on them, would be able to offer them to the public on more advantageous terms than the public department could offer them; and, therefore, that what they gained on the one hand for the public debt by the granting of these annuities, they would lose on the other hand, and exactly in the same proportion, by preventing the public from coming into the open market to purchase annuities. He had no wish to embarrass the Government, but he thought they should have left open to themselves the privilege, which every other borrower has, of availing themselves of the opportunity of a fall in the rate of interest to reduce the public debt.

Mr. BARING expressed his surprise at what had fallen from Mr. Goulburn. It is a sound rule, and a matter of honesty (he said), that money borrowed in time of war should be repaid during peace. It would be highly inconvenient to borrow this money in the new Three per Cents. The amount of that stock is already 250,000,000*l.*; and it will be trouble enough to the minister of 1874 to reimburse such a sum without any addition to it. The principle of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer is an honest one; and Mr. Baring therefore hoped that he would persist in setting apart 1,000,000*l.* annually for the redemption of the Loan.

Mr. GLADSTONE agreed with Mr. Baring that it was not possible for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to contract for so large a sum in the form of terminable annuities. Nevertheless, he thought Mr. Baring had not fairly represented Mr. Goulburn's argument. The latter fully acknowledged the necessity of discharging a national obligation; but he thought that the clause they were invited to pass would not practically effect that object. For himself, he (Mr. Gladstone) was entirely convinced of the honourable nature of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's design; but he doubted if the design could be attained by the means proposed. Future parliaments might question the right of the present to fetter their discretion. It would be the right of future parliaments to declare the proportion of surplus revenue and the application of it, which they could better do. In what position were they in 1855 to declare that in 1860 or 1870 one million should be taken for the purpose of redeeming the public debt? They were making provision, not for their own time,

but for the time of their children. They were trespassing on the province of those who were to come after them, when they said that in such and such a year one million was to be taken for the redemption of the debt. They were going beyond their province, and dictating to future parliaments. There was another disadvantage attending their mode of proceeding. They declared that this million was to be applied to the redemption of Consols; but how could they tell that in 1870 it would not be more advisable to apply that money to the redemption of Exchequer Bonds or Exchequer Bills, or some other species of stock? They could know nothing of the future, and were going beyond their business in dictating to their successors.

After some desultory remarks from Mr. JOHN MCGREGOR, Mr. JAMES MCGREGOR, Mr. LAING, Mr. HANKEY (in support of the proposal), Mr. WILKINSON, and Mr. CARDWELL (the last of whom reiterated the objections of Mr. Goulburn),

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the Government intended to adhere to their proposition. He observed, in answer to Mr. Gladstone, that the House could not make an irrevocable law, binding upon future Parliaments. The effect of the clause now before them would be to create a charge upon the Consolidated Fund, for which it would be the duty of every successive Government to make provision out of the Ways and Means of the year, unless Parliament, which could provide for any emergency, should see fit to untie their hands. In answer to Mr. Goulburn, Sir G. C. Lewis said he did not think it would be possible in the lifetime of the present generation to reduce the interest of the Three per Cents.; but, if Government should have a surplus revenue, it could go into the market and buy its own perpetual annuities.

The clerk then proceeded to read the resolutions, which, after a good deal of miscellaneous discussion, were agreed to.

NEWSPAPER STAMP DUTIES BILL.

On the order for going into Committee on this bill, Mr. COWAN and Mr. BARROW offered some suggestions in favour of the repeal of the restrictions upon the number of sheets and the dimensions of newspapers or other periodical publications; and of the conveyance of all printed matter through the Post-office at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for every two ounces.

The House then went into Committee on the bill. On the Second Clause, enacting that periodical publications printed on paper stamped for denoting the rate of duty now imposed on newspapers shall be entitled to transmission and retransmission by the post, Mr. COLLIER moved to amend the clause by the insertion of words enacting that, instead of 1*d.*, a duty of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. be imposed, and that $\frac{1}{4}$ d. be paid on each transmission by the post of all periodical publications.—Lord STANLEY having made a few remarks in opposition to this proposal, which he thought was not feasible because, as far as he could learn, a halfpenny would not pay for the cost of transmission,

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the object of the present bill was to remove the difficulties arising out of the existing law; and, although it was possible that, as urged by Mr. Collier, the reduction of the duty to one halfpenny might increase the revenue, that assumption rested upon the most uncertain data. He must therefore oppose the amendment.—It was subsequently withdrawn, and the clause was agreed to.—In resisting the amendment, Mr. MILNER GIBSON pointed out the injustice of allowing newspapers to pass through the post at so low a charge, while pamphlets and occasional publications are saddled with 5*d.* or 6*d.*

The Fourth Clause, authorising the registration of periodical publications, if desired, in the same manner as newspapers, was postponed, together with the 5th, 6th, and 7th, relating to registration and securities, in order to reconsider the whole subject and to re-frame the clauses.—With respect to the question involved, Mr. WHITESIDE contended that registration should be made compulsory upon all periodicals, as he did not see why there should be a distinction.—It was argued by Mr. DISRAELI and various members that, without registration, there would be no protection against piracy and libel; in opposition to which it was contended by Mr. MILNER GIBSON and Mr. GLADSTONE, that compulsory registration would greatly fetter the press, and could not be carried out without the creation of legal machinery specially designed for that end.

The remaining clauses to the end of the bill were agreed to.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.—NEW MEMBER.

Mr. ROEBUCK withdrew his motion that Mr. De Vere be added to the Sebastopol Committee, stating that it was the opinion of the Committee that no new member need be added in the place of Mr. J. Ball, who, having accepted office under Government, had resigned.—Mr. BRINTON, however, moved that Captain Gladstone be added. He conceived it but fitting that there should be a naval officer upon the Committee.—After some brief observations in favour of the motion by Mr. LIDDELL and Mr. PACE, and against it by Mr. DRUMMOND, Lord PALMERSTON said that

the Government were perfectly indifferent upon the subject, but that, out of deference to the opinion of the Committee, he should vote against the motion.—Mr. DISRAELI thought the House should hesitate before allowing a Committee to which such large powers had been entrusted to diminish its numbers.—Sir GEORGE GREY said he thought they should defer to the opinion of the Committee; but, if the House thought otherwise, the Government had no objection to the appointment of Captain Gladstone.—Mr. ROEBUCK declined to take a division on the subject; and the nomination of Captain Gladstone was then agreed to.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on this bill, on Tuesday, the LORD CHANCELLOR gave a sketch of its chief features, which are mainly analogous to those of the Oxford Act, and the object of which is to enable the University to carry out its own reforms by conferring upon it new powers. A body would be constituted which should fairly represent all the interests of the University, and also include the interests of the public, and which from time to time should submit to the consideration of the Senate such measures as the interests of the University might seem to require. According to the altered plan of the bill, the council would consist of four heads of houses, four professors, and four senior, as well as four junior, masters of arts. In one respect, therefore, the council would be decidedly superior to the corresponding body in the Oxford University, because it would always have a considerable infusion of young blood; and the junior members of the council, being comparatively fresh from their studies, would know what the wants of students are, and would be able to render valuable assistance in the deliberations of the council. Another class of enactments worthy of attention was designed to render unnecessary the taking of a large number of oaths that were now imposed in the University, and would therefore make it illegal to administer the oaths that are now taken not to disclose anything relating to the colleges, and not to aid in the promotion of any changes or innovations in their statutes. The enactments which, next to those determining the constitution of the council, form the substance of the bill, were intended to give power to the colleges and to the University in the case of trusts, to alter and modify those trusts as they might see fit, the original views of the testators notwithstanding. The clauses with this object were modelled upon those of the Oxford Bill, as were certain other clauses rendering it unnecessary, on matriculation at Cambridge to take any oath or declaration as to religious opinions. All experience shows that these oaths and declarations are worthless, and even mischievous, and few of those who have taken them are able to tell, when asked some time afterwards, what it is to which they have subscribed.

Lord LYNCHURST regretted the introduction of this measure, though he did not see how it could be resisted after the companion act with regard to Oxford. He referred to the many illustrious men whom Cambridge had produced under the existing system; and concluded by saying that he would do his best towards making the bill as perfect as possible, as regards the University, the country, and the Church "as it is established."

After some remarks from Lords POWIS, REDESDALE, and CANNING, the bill passed through Committee.

CONVENTION WITH SARDINIA BILL.

This bill was read a third time, and passed; and on Thursday it received the Royal assent.

ACT OF UNIFORMITY.

Mr. HEYWOOD rose to move that this House would resolve itself into a Committee, to consider such clauses of the Act of Uniformity of 1662 as impose religious tests, limiting the advantages of academical, or grammar, or free school education; and so much of any regulations of national institutions, either in England or Ireland, as impose religious tests as conditions or qualifications for any advantages connected with education, in the English or Irish universities or public schools. The basis of the measure he proposed to found on that resolution, if agreed to, was the fact that in all the great public educational institutions those persons who do not belong to the Established Church are absolutely and entirely ignored. The Act of Uniformity requires every public schoolmaster to sign his conformity with the Church of England, the result of which is to make every grammar school throughout the country a Church of England institution, in which the master thinks himself entitled to make all the boys conform to the practices of that Church. This is, of course, quite agreeable to members of the Establishment, but very hard upon the children of Dissenters; and to remedy this evil he should be quite willing to adopt the clause proposed by Sir John Pakington in his education bill, where he stated that he would not have any child forced to receive religious instruction to which his parents objected. Mr. Heywood observed that Lord Bacon

had been a reformer in this respect; and that it is now high time to set our great educational institutions free.—The motion was seconded by Sir ERSKINE PERRY.

Lord PALMERSTON said he agreed with Mr. Heywood in the propriety of sweeping away those obsolete provisions which require religious tests for schoolmasters and tutors in private families; but, with respect to that part of the proposed measure which would disturb the settlement made last year in connexion with the University of Oxford, he thought Parliament should not interfere until some practical experience has been had of the working of the Oxford Bill. He would not oppose the resolution, but must reserve to the Government full liberty to object to any part of the proposed arrangement.—Mr. GLADSTONE urged similar views, and recommended Mr. Heywood to limit his motion to that part which affects schoolmasters and tutors.—A rapid and rather desultory discussion ensued, the result of which was that Mr. Heywood withdrew his original motion, and then requested to move the first part of the resolution as a substantive motion; but the SPEAKER decided that he could not make another motion without the full consent of the House.

THE CHARITY COMMISSION.

Mr. PELLATT moved a long series of returns, under no fewer than twenty-two heads, relating to appointments, informations, cases, memorials, briefs, reports, &c., connected with the Charity Commission. His object in moving for these returns was not to attack individuals; but he was anxious to have some explanation on the subject, because he believed that the expenditure on behalf of the Charity Commission is far higher than it ought to be, considering the amount of business transacted. He admitted that considerable benefit had accrued to the country from the labours of the Commission, and it appeared to him that some of the appointments he referred to ought to be made by the Commission rather than the Attorney-General, or any other person, and that they ought not to be of that incongruous nature, that an individual should have the power, in one capacity, of advising the Commission to take measures which would bring him profit in another capacity, nor should one officer be placed in the peculiarly inconvenient position of acting at the same time both for plaintiff and defendant.—Mr. HADFIELD seconded the motion.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said this was a most extraordinary motion, and the mover he described as "the mouthpiece of a discontented solicitor." The greater part of the returns had already been laid on the table of the House, and he thought the form in which they were now required conveyed undeserved insinuations against persons of high respectability.—The motion was withdrawn.

LANCASTER SHOT MANUFACTORY.

Mr. MONSELL, in answer to Captain L. VERNON, said that Colonel Foster, of the Royal Engineers, Woolwich, and Major-General Hardinge, R.E., had stated that the building erected by Messrs. Fox and Henderson at Woolwich for the manufacture of the Lancaster shot was not safe; but that the contractors had guaranteed that the building should stand for six months, which was all that was considered necessary.

ARMY COMMISSIONS.

Replying to a question from Major REED, Lord PALMERSTON said he believed it was quite true that occasionally sums larger than the regulation price were given by officers for commissions. But it was contrary to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, and no officer was ever passed over who was willing to give the regulation price. These practices, therefore, were entirely without the sanction of any department of the service.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE HEBRIDES.

Mr. H. BAILLIE called attention to the system under which the Post-office is administered, and moved that the orders given by the Treasury to the Postmaster-General in the year 1848, to establish a Post-office communication at the expense of his department between the islands of North and South Uist, Harris, and Barra, be carried into effect without delay. The inhabitants of all the Hebrides, until the year 1848, were compelled to maintain the packets which conveyed the letters from the main land; but in that year the pressure of the famine was so great that the people refused to pay for the packets, which consequently ceased to ply, and all postal communication was cut off. From that time, the Government undertook to maintain the communication as far as the island of North Uist; but they never carried it further. The cost of maintaining the boats to the remoter islands is about 80l. a-year—a heavy charge for the poor inhabitants.—At this point, the House was counted out, only thirty-eight members being present.

MARRIAGE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order for the second reading of this bill, on Wednesday, Mr. WALPOLE moved to defer it for six months. He opposed the measure upon the grounds frequently stated before—viz., that it was contrary to true religion and morality, and that it

would introduce great confusion into social arrangements. Marriages with a deceased wife's sister were, he knew, contracted in this country; but it would be a complete innovation to legalise them. The people of Scotland and Ireland dislike these marriages; in England, a great majority think them wrong; and 11,000 English women have petitioned against a change in the law. Mr. Walpole, therefore, implored the House to reject a measure which would sacrifice the interests of the many to the wishes of the few.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL defended the bill, reiterating the arguments he had advanced on the first reading. He should vote for the repeal of the present law, since he conceived it was mischievous, uncalled-for, and tyrannical.—The bill was supported by Mr. COLLIER, Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, and Mr. T. CHAMBERS; and was opposed by Mr. WIGRAM, Mr. NAPIER, Mr. SEYMER, and Mr. WHITESIDE. The arguments used on both sides were precisely the same as those previously employed. As regarded the religious aspect of the question, it was contended on the one hand that the proposed marriages are contrary to Divine law as set forth in the 18th Chapter of Leviticus; and on the other that the Levitical law was made for a people who practised polygamy, and that the prohibition applied merely to the time when the wife was living.—Subsequently, the debate was adjourned to the 9th of May.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS BILL.

This bill was recommitted *pro forma*; some amendments were introduced, and the further consideration was appointed for next Monday.

CHURCH RATES.

Sir WILLIAM CLAY brought in his bill for the abolition of Church rates, which was read a first time.

THE ALDERSHOTT CAMP.

Lord PALMERSTON, on Tuesday, in answer to Colonel BOLDERO, said that arrangements had been made at Aldershot for the erection of huts for 10,000 men. The greater part of these were already prepared, and the rest would be soon ready. It was the intention of the Government to have twenty regiments of militia there, a few regiments of the line, three battalions of field artillery, and two or three troops of cavalry. It was not intended to have any yeomanry there, for reasons that must be obvious to every one. The yeomanry regiments were only called out for eight days, and unless that happened to be in the vicinity of the encampment, the greater part of the time which was required for training these regiments would be spent in marching to and from the camp. It was considered advisable not to draw these valuable corps far from their homes.

CAVALRY.

Mr. FREDERICK PEELE, in answer to Mr. NOEL, said the cavalry force, both in men and horses, was double what it was this time last year, and with the view of giving effect to that increase arrangements had been made for raising the cavalry regiments for service 120 men and 300 horses each. The cavalry force in the Crimea had been increased by bringing two regiments from India, *via* Egypt, and, in addition to that, 550 men, and double that number of horses, were on their passage from this country to the Crimea. Besides that, 1100 men, and double that number of horses, were under orders to proceed there. One of the vessels taken up for the conveyance of the cavalry was the Arabia, a steam-vessel—the others were sailing vessels. It was also the intention to form a reserve of 150 men and horses for each regiment at Scutari.

REFORM IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Lord PALMERSTON, replying to a question from Mr. MILES, said that the details of the contemplated reforms in the War Department were under the consideration of Lord Panmure, and would be submitted to the House at the earliest possible time.

THE CRIMEAN TELEGRAPH.

A question from Mr. LAYARD elicited from Lord PALMERSTON and Sir CHARLES WOOD the facts, that the telegraph was now open from Balaklava to London; that the First Lord of the Admiralty had received on Wednesday a despatch from Sir Edmund Lyons, which merely announced the opening of the telegraph; that the portion of the line from Varna to Kaliakra was not yet complete; but that we could have intelligence from Balaklava in the course of four-and-twenty hours. A similar statement was made in the Lords.

THE BUDGET.

Several bills, involving the propositions comprised in the recent financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, were successively brought forward for second reading. These bills respectively sanctioned the raising of the 16,000,000l. loan; the one per cent. increase to the income tax; the enhancement in the Customs duties on sugar and tea; and the addition to the Excise duties on Scotch and Irish spirits. Some miscellaneous comments were offered upon the details of each bill as it was presented; but ultimately the whole were read a second time without serious opposition. The chief objection was that we were reversing our late Free-trade policy by sub-

stituting indirect for direct taxation.—Mr. L. was of opinion that it would have been wise make a large addition to the income-tax, or, better still, to extend the loan to eighteen or twenty millions.—On the other side, Mr. GLADSTONE strongly objected to the principle of loans, and feared the House would continue to revert to protective duties, though for protective purposes; and Mr. LABOUCHERE contended that, when there is a necessity for a large addition to taxation, some part of it should be by indirect imposts.

TESTAMENTARY JURISDICTION BILL.

Mr. MALINS, on the order for the second reading of this bill, moved that it be read a second time day six months. He said that, had the proposition been to reform the Courts of Probate, and not them temporal courts, the bill should have hearty support; but the design was to abolish the Court of Chancery. He desired to know on what principle the business of the testamentary courts was to be transferred to the Court of Chancery. The Solicitor-General given as a reason that the probate and the constitution of a will are so intimately connected, that should be placed under the jurisdiction of the court. Mr. Malins, however, was of opinion there is a great distinction between the two, and that it would be practically very inconvenient for one court to take cognisance of both. Chancery Commissioners, in their report of 1841, had stated their belief that testamentary business ought not to be transferred to the Court of Chancery or to a separate court connected with it. Bankers and merchants of London, also, are against this change, which would cost a large sum in compensations, and which would abolish a body of practitioners who work well and cheaply. Mr. Malins added that he did not desire to throw out the bill, but merely to induce the Solicitor-General to modify that part of it which transfers the business of Probate Courts to the Court of Chancery.

Sir FREDERICK THESIGER advocated similar opinions; and asserted that the present system of proving wills in common form gives great security, and that suitors derive immense advantages from Court and a bar specially trained for this branch of the law. Referring to the fact that these Courts often before been threatened, without receiving injury, he proceeded to read portions of a humorous document, called "The last Will and Testament of Doctors' Commons," which he alleged to have been written as far back as 1641. The document, he ran as follows:—

"I, Doctors' Commons, of the parish of Saint Ildes, Paul's Ward, London, being very aged, and finding by general computation, that my time draws to an end, and being much shaken, both in mind and body, with the Westminister ague, yet being now of a perfect mind and memory, to avoid all suits and controversies that may arise concerning my estate, or any part or parcel of it, and to the intent and purpose that my testamentary deeds may be consummated and ended in peace, I do institute thus:—For my personal estate, I have never been possessed of any lands—I willingly bequeath my reverend judges, vicars general, chancellors, commissioners, archdeacons, deans of chapters, and their successors, and also my doctors, advocates, and proctors, the High Court of Parliament, there to be cherished according to their merits and deserts. Item, I bequeath all my registrars, deputy-registrars, examiners, public notaries, to the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, to be admitted as attorneys. He (Sir Thesiger) need not go on to read the other bequest of Doctors' Commons, such as that of all his 'libel defamation' to the Penitentiary; and all his 'decrees of the Court of Chancery; and all the rest of his 'written records, manuscript, and superfluous paper white to cooks, bakers, grocers, and chandlers.' (A laugh.) The House would observe that that ancient document was the only true model on which the Solicitor-General must have framed the present bill. But instead of that menace, and in spite of every reproach, the testamentary jurisdiction of Doctors' Commons had continued to flourish, and to bear a good name and reputation to the present day."

Sir Frederick concluded by asking the House whether they would disregard the opinion of Chancery Commissioners, and adopt the rash experiment of the Solicitor-General.

Mr. WHITESIDE fully admitted the necessity of some reform in these Courts; but he objected to the present bill, and cautioned the House against being misled by ignorant clamour with respect to ecclesiastical courts, and by misplaced confidence in the despatch of the Court of Chancery.

Mr. HEADLAM, although inclined to vote for second reading, thought that the system proposed would be more expensive than the present, by requiring more officers, and that therefore the House would suffer by it. The bill required amendment.

Mr. COLLIER supported the bill, which he regarded as introducing a very great improvement upon the existing system, though he did not conceive it the measure was perfect. He approved of it, however, because it went upon the principle of abolishing ecclesiastical courts, which are a mockery to

on of the age, and a reproach to the administration of justice. He did not, indeed, see the need for any separate Court of Probate at all, the present bill proposed to establish in conjunction with the Court of Chancery; but he would not upon that view lest he should endanger a reform which he thought a vast improvement. He would propose certain amendments. The bill was also supported by Mr. ROUNDELL, who observed, in opposition to Mr. Malins, that he had complied with the recommendations of the Law Commissioners as to establish a separate jurisdiction in the Court of Chancery for testamentary jurisdiction.—On the motion of Dr. PHILLIMORE the debate was adjourned.

PUBLIC OFFICE BUILDINGS.

Mr. WILLIAM MOLESWORTH moving for leave to bring a bill to enable the Board of Works to erect additional offices for the public service in the Strand, he was asked by Mr. NORTHGATE if he intended to carry out any plan for connecting the offices with the Houses of Parliament, and what plans had been prepared for his connection by Sir Charles Barry, for building offices in the vicinity of the Houses of Parliament, and had he done so before the Treasury. The object of this bill, he said, "is chiefly to rebuild the offices in the Strand, which are now in a most dilapidated state." (Laughter.) For instance, the Foreign Office offices are in such a condition that they are to be propped up on every side. (Great laughter.)

In fact, those offices are nuisances.—(laughter)—and any change would be for the better. Leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

MONDAY.

By the Duke of Newcastle was examined with reference to his mode of conducting the War Office. The room was crowded.

He, after describing the nature of his duties—namely, the general direction of the war, the forces to be sent, &c.—said, in answer to a question, that, on the breaking out of the war he had been placed with the Commander-in-Chief and the Secretary of the Ordnance, but that he did not interfere with the Director-General of the medical department, because the business of that department, previous to the division of the War Office and the Colonies, was generally conducted by the Secretary-at-War. He also said that he did not communicate with the Quartermaster-General regarding the class and character of the troops to be placed under him: he always dealt with "the heads of the department." Some of the officers selected for command were for Her Majesty's approval by the Commander-in-Chief, after he had first consulted with the Secretary of the Ordnance. That is to say (he said), the administration was "generally" good, but there were exceptions. Upon being asked to mention the names of those who formed the committee, the Duke at first begged to be excused. He then said there were three of these exceptions; that he appointed without the knowledge or consent of the Government, and that they continued in command; that his Grace had reason to know "it was all done inadvertently, and not intentionally." Ultimately, he consented to mention the names of the officers so selected, which were, Lord Lucan, and Brigadiers Lord Goldie. No official notice was taken of his proceeding, though the witness said that a great amount of responsibility fell on him for the selection of those officers. As regarded the Commissariat, he said that those who had the management of the department what the duties were, he expected them to make the requisite arrangements. As regards the Ordnance, he said that the Master-General of the Ordnance Board of Ordnance. Still, he did not mean to say that he divested himself of all care on these matters, for he often interfered. The medical department, to a certain extent under his notice; but, the separation of the secretaryships of War and the Colonies, the business of that department, speaking, was carried on by the Secretary-at-War. The witness then went on to state that every precaution was taken before sending out the ex-Sir John Burgoyne and Major Dixon were to make inquiries into the character of the troops of the Danube, both as regards salubrity and fitness for military operations. Lord Raglan had given Omar Pacha a strong assurance of the success of Varna; but the result did not justify it. The invasion of the Crimea was decided on, the occupation of Perekop was recommended to him; but the Duke received a communication from Lord Raglan, expressing his opinion that it would be desirable, or desirable, to occupy Perekop or Azof; and it was only four or five months that they ascertained there was another access to the Crimea, some miles eastward of the Perekop. This information came through the capture of a vessel from some Tartars. The witness said that Captain Drummond had made offers

to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to go into the Crimea for the purpose of examining into these matters.

His Grace then proceeded to give an account of the steps which he had taken upon its being determined on to keep the troops in the Crimea during the winter. Extra supplies of blankets and warm clothing, together with huts and fresh meat, were sent out. There was a reserve of troops in case of casualties in the army formed at Malta at the end of November; but the Commander-in-Chief did not inform the witness that the troops suffered greatly from overwork in the trenches before Sebastopol. His Grace was not aware that in December an offer was made by a Spanish colonel to provide the English government with 10,000 Spanish troops. There were, indeed, several offers of that description at the Foreign-office; but at that period there was a strong feeling against the employment of foreign troops. The despatch from Lord Raglan asking for more troops was when the pressure on the troops became very serious. That despatch was dated the 3rd of November. Referring to the ill-fated ship, the Prince, the Duke said:—"It was stated that the medical stores were shipped under the heavy ordnance, as well in the Prince as in other vessels. When I heard a statement of so disgraceful a character as that, I called upon the Ordnance authorities to explain it, and they positively denied the truth of it. I also appointed a commission of three gentlemen to inquire into the matter—one from the Admiralty, another from the Ordnance, and another from the War Department—and they reported that it was not the fact that those medical stores were shipped under the ordnance stores."

Touching upon the division of authority, his Grace observed that apparently there was not between the Admiralty and the Ordnance that proper understanding of their relative duties which ought to have existed. This led to the reconstitution of the old transport board. His Grace added:—"I never received any information as to the receipt of the goods by the army." A design was entertained of constructing huts for the army on the spot, but, to the witness's surprise, wood could not be obtained at Constantinople. Supplies of wood were then sent from home, from Trieste, and from Malta, but there were no means of conveying the wood from Balaclava to the front. The troops therefore went without the benefit of the huts for a great length of time. The witness further stated:—"I was well aware, from the complaints made to me by private individuals, and also from statements in the newspapers, of the failure of the transport animals from want of forage and from exposure to the cold; but I never received any official intimation of that, nor any complaint from the Commissariat department that the shortcomings of other departments prevented them (the Commissariat) from executing their duties. Certainly no information was given to me as to the probable failure of the road to the front before that failure took place. I remained entirely in the dark upon that point."

His Grace then gave a brief narrative of the expedition of Miss Nightingale; and, referring to the alleged want of medicines, said he believed some accident had taken place on the arrival of those articles, and he, therefore, sent out fresh supplies. With respect to Dr. Andrew Smith's letter about the clothing of the troops, he said:—"My impression is, that Dr. Andrew Smith never sent to me any such letter. My conviction is, that I never saw his letter on that subject; but he may have drawn my attention in conversation to the necessity of making changes in the clothing of the troops. I do not think any blame attached to the military secretary for not sending Dr. Smith's letter to me. That blame would rather attach to Dr. Smith himself for not making arrangements for bringing that letter under my notice."

His Grace's evidence occupied the whole day, and was not even then completed. It will have been seen by the reader that its chief tendency is to trace the evils of the war to the divided authority which directed it.

TUESDAY.

The Duke of Newcastle was again examined, and said, in answer to Mr. Layard, that "undoubtedly" he found great difficulty in connexion with the forms which had to be gone through. The routine system prevailed throughout, and existed equally before and after the separation of the secretaryships of War and the Colonies. His Grace said he superseded these forms in numerous instances, more especially in the case of the medical department, which was one of the worst cases, and in which the head of the medical board, to obtain medical comforts and supplies, was obliged to go through a large circuit of forms and offices before he could obtain them. The witness directed this to be superseded, and he had no doubt it was; but it was merely a personal exercise of authority on his part. To the best of his knowledge, these forms still exist. He did not, however, make any reports on the matter, for the business of the office was so onerous that it was impossible for him to do so. Inventions calculated to be useful to the public were very much delayed by the process of form and routine they had to undergo at the Ordnance. He had no doubt that many inventions were not investigated nearly so soon as it was desirable they should be. These delays sometimes arose from the inadequacy of the Ordnance staff; but, from the fact of there being so many separate war departments, the public are necessarily in ignorance to whom they ought to apply. The same

observations are to a certain extent pertinent to the War Office, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Horse Guards; but there are no forms to be gone through between the Secretary-of-State and the Horse Guards. Witness believed that the present constitution of the War department necessarily entails a larger amount of correspondence than is desirable. He did not think, however, that the relations subsisting between the War department, the Horse Guards, the Ordnance, and the other departments of a cognate nature, are on an unsatisfactory footing. He believed that no extensive change had taken place since he left office. There was some change; but he was not aware of the exact nature of it. Referring to the details of the campaign, his Grace stated that he carried on a correspondence with Lord Raglan, but did not submit the letters to Lord Hardinge: that was not usual or necessary. The witness's despatch, giving a sketch of the proposed military campaign, was shown by him to Lord Hardinge, and, of course, Lord Hardinge, if he had seen any reason to object to it, would have communicated his objections; but his Grace does not in any way hold Lord Hardinge responsible for anything contained in that despatch or in other despatches, nor is he responsible for any of the movements of the army during the campaign. Witness thought that, in some respects, the line of demarcation between the Minister of War and the Commander-in-Chief is undoubtedly vague and inconvenient. There are many alterations in the whole of the war departments which are desirable; but he had never been consulted by the present Government on the subject.

Referring to Lord Raglan's position as Master-General of the Ordnance, his Grace said, in reply to a question from the Chairman, that his lordship, he believed, still continued to receive his pay, though the work is performed by Sir H. D. Ross. With respect to the navy, witness had very little control over it—nothing more than results from the issue of a general outline of operations. Until lately there was no blockade in the Black Sea; but that arose entirely from political reasons. Upon being asked if it had not been stated in the House of Commons that a blockade was actually in force, the Duke replied, he thought the statement was that "orders had been issued to institute a blockade in the Black Sea." The non-institution of the blockade did not arise from any disagreement between the Admiralty and the Government, and the latter were principally responsible for the omission.

Mr. Layard—"Were any reasons sent to you from the East which were considered satisfactory to the Government for not enforcing the blockade?"—"Reasons were sent, but that they were in all respects entirely satisfactory I cannot say; and I really would rather not say why I consider they were not satisfactory. They would not apply merely to those departments into which the hon. member might wish to inquire."

(Upon the whole of this subject his Grace exhibited some uneasiness, and more than once declined entering into details.)

The witness then went on to give a variety of particulars respecting the ambulance corps and other military arrangements in the East, and stated that Lord Raglan had plenary powers in such matters, and had no necessity to refer to the Government at home; but possibly he thought it desirable to do so. Dr. Andrew Smith never forwarded to the Duke any complaints of the state of the hospitals; but his Grace had received complaints from private sources. He communicated with the Admiralty after the battle of Alma, and the Admiralty sent out instructions that a fleet of ships should be appropriated for the use of the sick and wounded; but these instructions were not attended to for a considerable time afterwards. He believed they were at length carried out by Admiral Dundas. He (the Duke) was satisfied that the state of things at the hospital at Scutari was anything but what it should have been.

With regard to the transport service, the witness said that the first statement he received from Lord Raglan as to the deficiency in the land transport was a mere casual one, and was made in order to explain other things to which witness had called his lordship's attention. That must have been quite the end of September. He (witness) had certainly received, in the way many others had received, information as to cavalry horses, each worth from 50*l.* to 70*l.*, being devoted to purposes in the Crimea for which small ponies of the value of 5*l.* would have been adequate; but he had received no official information on the subject. The last statement he received from Mr. Filder was that the commissariat horses he had in the Crimea very little exceeded 400. When the land transport became so reduced, no steps were taken to send out horses from this country. That was quite impossible under the circumstances, and he (witness) organised a separate and independent transport corps on a military system, which he placed under the direction of Colonel M'Murdo. Before that period, no attempt was made to organise a transport service in England. The statement that the men placed in charge of the ambulances were very old was not true; but it must be acknowledged that they were in the habit of getting drunk, though not more frequently than the average of the whole army. Witness had heard that large quantities of the stores ordered to be sent out were dishonestly detained; but he found upon inquiry that they were private stores, and that they were only waiting for means of transport. The

defects in the trenching tools were at an early period brought under his Grace's notice in a private letter, and he looked upon that as so very important a matter that he immediately wrote to the Ordnance department, desiring to have a thorough investigation of it. They reported to him in a manner which he thought was unsatisfactory, and he sent their report to Lord Raglan, and asked him whether there was any truth in it. Lord Raglan instituted inquiries, and wrote to him (witness) to say that many of the tools were of a very inferior character. By means of a second inquiry, instituted at his request by the Ordnance authorities, it was found out that the objectionable tools had been made at the outposts depôts, and were of a very antiquated description. (A laugh.) He then intimated to the Ordnance that the transaction was a very reprehensible one, and hoped that there would be no repetition of it.

Referring to the assertion that Lord Raglan disapproved of the expedition to Sebastopol, the Duke said that the very contrary was the fact. Speaking of himself officially, he said he had not a deficiency of power, but a deficiency of means. In order to enable any Secretary of State for War to carry out his duties satisfactorily to himself and the public, there must be very material changes in all the war departments. He was hampered by his subordinates. He was bound to say, however, that everybody under him evinced the greatest cordiality, and made the greatest efforts to do their duty. He did not attach blame to any individual, but he thought the system was bad.

WEDNESDAY.

The examination of the Duke of Newcastle was concluded on Wednesday, when his testimony consisted mainly of an amplification of his previous evidence. The chief additional points may be briefly summarised. He said the responsibility of authorising expenditure was conferred on Lord Stratford de Redcliffe because he had the means of obtaining all requisite supplies from the Turkish Government; but it was not intended that he should personally interfere with the hospital. Generally speaking, the witness was dissatisfied with the organisation of the medical department, of the Ordnance, and of the Commissariat. At an early period he anticipated that the system of sea-transport would be found defective in its working in time of war. It was impossible to have any fixed idea as to the arrangements necessary for the wintering of the army in the Crimea so long as the result of the siege was unknown; but admirable winter quarters, Sebastopol being taken, might have been had in the south of the Crimea, or the Bosphorus, and, said the witness, "I provided for both contingencies." Immediately afterwards, however, his Grace observed, in answer to the Chairman, that "he could not say" whether he had provided for the contingency of Sebastopol not being taken. "Because," added the Chairman, "that contingency has happened." At which there was some laughter.

The more extensive scheme of organisation in the War Departments proposed by the witness as Minister of War was overruled by the cabinet. It was determined by the cabinet that nothing should be done beyond the separation of the two secretariats and the removal of the Commissariat from the Treasury. It would have been of the greatest importance to the public service if those arrangements had been made before the breaking out of the war; but he was of opinion that the greatest difficulty and mischief would ensue if extensive alterations were made at a period when it was necessary for every one to be working as hard as he could. Although the system might be faulty, yet there were moments when it was almost preferable to continue for a short time a faulty system than to adopt a better one, which would take two or three months, or a longer time, to get into gear.

The Chairman then read a communication relative to the supply and construction of the huts for the Crimea, by Messrs. Price and Cotter, representing that they sent in their plans and specifications to the authorities, but received no communications for several weeks, and that when they applied to the Ordnance their plans and specifications were lost, and they were requested to furnish fresh ones; that the Duke afterwards ordered them, on his own personal responsibility, to make the huts, but that a peremptory order afterwards came from the Ordnance, telling them to stop the works; that the Duke again ordered them to go on on his own responsibility; and that the huts were finished and reached the Crimea only when they ceased to be wanted, and thousands of men and horses were lost owing to the delay.

"The Duke—" That statement, as is too often the case, is a very highly-coloured one in many respects. I never heard that the plans had been lost; but that the Ordnance sent word to stop the works, is true. Differences of opinion arose as to the proper form of their construction, and the Ordnance sent to stay the works until that point was determined; but that the delay, which was only two or three days, entailed disasters I utterly deny. It is true, the huts arrived late in the Crimea; but they were in ample time to save the troops from disaster."

No delay took place in the contracts for the Milsrifles, but great delay occurred in the execution of those contracts. One of the first subjects to which he turned his attention on becoming Minister for War was the supply of the Milsrifles and other small arms; and, in consequence of the delay in the manufacture of these

arms, he ordered 25,000 rifles to be manufactured at Liege, which had the effect, among others, of precluding the manufacturers there from executing a large order for rifles for the Russian government, which was given just after witness had ordered them to make the 25,000 rifles for the English troops. (A laugh.) He found such difficulties in getting the Birmingham manufacturers to supply the contracts for small arms, that he was obliged to go to Liege for them. There was no meeting of the Cabinet in August after the prorogation of Parliament, or in September, although that was an exceedingly important period of the campaign. The lowest state of the army was on the 19th January, when the total effective force of all arms, including rank and file and officers and non-commissioned officers, amounted to 26,080. On the 23rd December, the total effective force, including officers and non-commissioned officers, was 23,921. In conclusion, his Grace reiterated his opinion that our military system ought to be reformed. He thought that the whole staff system of the army in this country is erroneous. His belief was that we ought to have a staff of the army something like that of the continental armies; without that, the evils of the existing system would never be removed. He had reason to believe that considerable advantage would be obtained by an examination of the French military system, and from the assimilation of our own to it as much as possible. Some time ago, with that view, he appointed a commission composed of three officers, to make inquiries into the subject upon the spot; and he believed those gentlemen had made their report to his successor in office, Lord Panmure.

THURSDAY.

The earlier part of the sitting on Thursday was occupied in hearing explanations from Mr. Potter, of the firm of Potter and Price, relative to the huts supplied for the army in the Crimea. These substantiated the statements given before the committee on the previous day. It appeared that the order to construct the huts was given by the Duke of Newcastle, but that a vast amount of time was lost in consequence of Sir Frederick Smith's perpetually telegraphing on the subject between London and Gloucester, first countermanding the order, then altering the construction of the huts, and finally in ordering them to be loaded and sent out. The huts were built upon the Portsmouth and Gloucester system, and also on a modification of both. The contract was finally finished on the 11th of December; but no definite orders were given to the contractors as to whether the huts should be made on the Portsmouth or the Gloucester plan. The diversity of plans adopted increased the expense to 27. 10s. per house more. The first contract price of the huts was 25s. per hut, and each hut weighed 2 tons 8 cwt. The Ordnance, by the alterations, added to the weight and expense of the huts, but not to the accommodation. He experienced a difficulty in obtaining his money. There was a dispute which was finally settled by Mr. Hayter, of the Treasury. Each hut was calculated to contain twenty men. Witness's firm subsequently supplied 1,850 similar huts to the French Government, and the contract was completed in five weeks. There appeared to be a great confusion of jurisdiction in the transactions he had in this matter with the various war departments. The French thus were cheaper and lighter than the English; there was less material, and they were more serviceable, though a little lower. There was not so much cubic space in them, which was to avoid the heavy winds about Balaklava; and they were very much easier to be taken up in front for the troops.

Deputy Commissary-General Smith said he was stationary at Constantinople, and his duties were to act upon all orders sent from the Crimea by the Commissary-General. He established stores and magazines at Constantinople, which possibly could not be seen by those who had said there were no stores, as they were under the barracks in one case, and in another two miles from Constantinople. They contained large quantities of provisions, salt meat, rum, and other supplies, and there were two extensive granaries on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. He never experienced any inconvenience from the forms, or complaints from the officers in the army on the score of forms, and could not suggest a more simple one than that in use for provisions and rations. With respect to the issuing of green coffee, he said it was never the practice of the Commissariat to issue it in any other than a raw state; and that he heard only a few isolated instances of complaint. He was not ordered immediately to send cattle from Constantinople, but only after the hurricane at Balaklava. There was no difficulty in obtaining them, there being large quantities in reserve at Constantinople. The hurricane very seriously crippled, by delay, the operations of the Commissariat. In consequence of the wreck of the vessels, and owing to it, the troops were left without fresh meat at Constantinople. The delay that took place in the case of the Harbinger, employed to convey vegetables to Balaklava, which delay resulted in the whole or the greater part of those vegetables being spoiled, he attributed chiefly to Admiral Boxer in detaining the ship unnecessarily long in the Golden Horn. Admiral Boxer was the supreme naval authority at Constantinople. There was an English harbour-master at Constantinople, but he had no control over the naval transport. He was not able to

send all the charcoal he was asked for, owing to the want of transport, though he had reason to believe that at that time vessels were lying at Balaklava doing nothing. Witness then read a letter he wrote on the 28th November to Commissary General Filder complaining of the want of transport; a passage of which—stating that "Admiral Boxer was a confused man, and that the shipping masters who came to Constantinople had neither respect for nor fear of him"—created considerable amusement. He regretted he had not copies of the letters he wrote to Admiral Boxer from time to time importuning him to meet the wants of the service, which, unfortunately, the admiral characterised as a bore. (Laughter.) He attributed most of the great delays and difficulties in the sea transport of the commissariat stores to Admiral Boxer. He must, however, say Admiral Boxer had an incomplete staff; added to that, his duties were excessive; but he had not the administrative genius necessary for conducting such difficult and complicated duties as devolved upon him. Witness gave other details of a technical character; but their repetition would not be of interest to the general reader.

FRIDAY.

The first witness examined was Captain Dacres, R.N., of the Sanspareil, who stated that he went to Balaklava on the 26th of October. He entered into several details, the upshot of which was to show that the harbour was not in the filthy condition which had been described by other witnesses, although he acknowledged that it was always overcrowded.

Captain Milne, of the Admiralty Board, who had the direction of the transport board, was next examined. His evidence sought to prove that all had been done which it was possible to do. He said, however, that he thought the consolidation of the two departments of Somerset-house and Whitehall ought to have taken place long ago, for much inconvenience arose under the old system in consequence of Admiralty business being carried on at the two places separately. He was not prepared to admit that the transport department was the only one which had failed; since every demand made upon it by the Government had been strictly and promptly complied with. The requisition made upon him for the sending out of winter clothing and huts was so sudden that some time was lost, owing to the difficulty in obtaining transport vessels. With regard to the forms used in the Admiralty, he did not think there was any superabundance; at all events, not too many to check the efficient discharge of the duties of the service.

THE WAR.

THE fire from our batteries, at the latest advices, still continued, though we seem as far as ever from getting possession of Sebastopol, or being forced to retreat. The Russians, with a deadly determination to dispute every inch, repair almost directly the injuries which our guns produce; the Allies, with an equally deadly determination to advance, keep getting nearer and nearer to the walls, and are now bringing their tremendous weight of metal to bear upon the fortifications. And so these Titanic foes stand glaring at each other in mortal combat, each, apparently, too strong to yield, and not strong enough to triumph.

The cannonade opened before daybreak. A wretched morning ushered in the work; for a heavy mist hung over the earth, and scuds of drifting rain, carried by a strong wind, drenched the poor shivering gunners as they served the artillery. Fortunately for us, however, the wind carried the rain and smoke over towards the Russians, who were half blinded by the incessant beating in their faces. Both sides might have quoted Ben Jonson's line:—

"It rises like a morning full of fate."

"Our fire," says the *Daily News* Correspondent, "was directed principally against the advanced line of Russian defences around the arsenal and Karabelnaia suburb; commencing from the two new redoubts on the right of Careening Bay, and following the line of the works to the south, or Admiralty Harbour. This comprehends the Lunette battery immediately above Careening Bay, on the left or west side; a new redoubt thrown up lately on the cliff above the roadstead, and still further to the left than the last-named work; the Mamelon redoubt; and the Malakhoff, Redan, and Barrack batteries."

The opening of the batteries was kept so close a secret that the Russians were taken completely by surprise, and for a moment were almost paralysed. They soon, however, got the Flagstaff battery into play; but the Round Tower and the Mamelon were some time before they could answer to our volleys, and, for half an hour after they commenced, they were but feeble in their demonstrations. Even our own men were astonished; for nothing was known of the intention the night before.

This grand operation was prefaced by several proceedings of a strategical character on both sides. The Russians had connected their rifle-pits into a deep trench, which they joined on to their advanced trench close to the French works. "They had also

made further approaches towards the redoubts on the right above the Careening Bay ravine; and seemed steadily advancing to the allied positions. We, on the other hand, had continued to push forward our works; and, in the course of the night previous to the opening of our batteries, we succeeded in dislodging the Russian sharpshooters from an ambuscade which had been planted almost in the line of our progress.

Several telegraphic despatches relative to the bombardment have reached us in the course of the week from the indirect sources of Marseilles, Vienna, and Berlin; but we have no news through the Balaklava telegraph, which, according to the announcement in Parliament, is now opened, giving, with a brief gap from Varna to Kaliakra, a direct line of communication between the camp and London. This silence, it must be confessed, is not very encouraging, and people cannot help suspecting that the Government know more than they choose to tell; but the last intelligence we have, on which any reliance is to be placed, speaks hopefully. Up to the 19th, nothing of a serious nature had befallen us. On the night between the 18th and 19th, the enemy made a strong sortie, but it was promptly repulsed. A despatch from Prince Gortschakoff, the substance of which is derived from St. Petersburg through Berlin, says that the object of this sortie was to destroy the most advanced works of the Allies, and that that object was attained; but we all know the tendency of the Russian commanders to exaggeration. The same despatch (which is dated the 19th inst.), says the firing of the besiegers on the 16th, 17th, and 18th was less violent; that the Russians replied successfully; and that the losses of the garrison within the last few days have been "less considerable"—a very vague phrase, which seems to imply a consciousness of something which it were best to keep shrouded in a delicate obscurity. A communication from the French Admiral Bruat, of the same date, and published in the *Moniteur* of Wednesday, says:—

"On the 17th, the fire of our batteries maintained its superiority. In front of the Central Tower we have carried a series of ambuscades, and those works where we have established ourselves are now comprised in our lines. We have crowned a ravine in that direction, which runs along the fortifications of the town, where the enemy formerly kept their reserves in safety. Before the Flagstaff Bastion we sprung a mine (*fourneaux de mine*) at a distance of about fifty metres. This operation, which perfectly succeeded, gave us a new parallel, and was successfully joined to the others. From the 12th to the 14th, notwithstanding the renewed attacks of the Russians, we had only about 300 men *hors de combat*."

The scaling-ladders and pontoons have been got ready and sent down to the trenches; but this was merely that everything might be in training, and did not indicate that the assault was imminent. The allied generals, including Omar Pacha, have had long and frequent conferences; and Lord Raglan visits the front every day, to examine the effect of the fire. On one occasion, an English lady was observed on Cathcart's Hill, watching the progress of the bombardment. The Russians continue to receive fresh stores; but it does not appear that their army is increased. The Turks have arrived; and Balaklava is thereby greatly strengthened.

PROGRESS OF THE BOMBARDMENT.

The *Times* correspondent, writing on April 10, says:—"The French had silenced eight or nine of the guns of the Bastion du Mât (Flagstaff), and had inflicted great damage on the outworks and on the buildings inside the batteries in the western tower. They had also almost shut up the Inkerman batteries. On our side, we had silenced half the guns in the Redan and Round Tower, and had, in conjunction with the French, left the Mamelon only one out of seven guns to reply to us; but the Garden Battery, the Road Battery, and the Barrack Battery were comparatively uninjured, and kept up a brisk fire against us all day."

On April 12, he adds:—"Our Allies fire to-day with great energy. Their Inkerman and Tchernaya batteries are admirably served, and they have not only kept down the firing of the Mamelon, aided by Gordon's Battery, but they have also answered the batteries at the north side of the harbour, the Inkerman Cave Batteries, and have silenced for the present the Lighthouse Battery, No. 2. Our fire from Gordon's Battery and its advanced works has swept away the Rifle pits, has damaged some six or seven guns in the Round Tower, and has kept under the fire from one face of the Redan, while the fire from Chapman's Battery has been very successful against the Redan, the Barrack Battery, the Road Battery, and the Garden Battery."

Of the bombardment on the 18th we read:—"At 4 o'clock A.M., the Russians opened a powerful and destructive fire on our 6-gun advanced battery, which was in a very imperfect state, and, by concentrating the fire of twenty guns on it, dismounted some of the pieces and injured the works severely, so as to render the battery useless for the day. The sailors in No. 2 Battery, in Chapman's attack, silenced three of the best guns in the Redan yesterday; but the Russians replaced them

during the day, and actually opened fire at 5 P.M. from the very embrasures which had been knocked to pieces. The reports of injury done to our batteries have been greatly exaggerated. In addition to the 13-inch mortar, which was burst, and the Lancaster destroyed by a shot, there have been only four guns disabled by the enemy's fire, and one of our 9-pounders, directed against the Rifle-pits, has been 'dinted' by a shot. One of our 24-pounders was burst by a shot which entered right at the muzzle as the gun was being discharged. Another gun was struck by a shot in the muzzle, and split up to the trunnions; the ball then sprang up into the air, and, falling at the breech, knocked off the button. It is impossible to deny to the Russian engineers great credit for the coolness with which they set about repairing damages under fire; but words cannot do more than justice to the exertions of our own men, and to the engineer officers and sappers engaged in this most perilous duty. When an embrasure is struck and injured it is the business of the sappers to get into the vacant space and repair the damage, removing the gabions, &c., under fire, and without the least cover from shot, shell, or rifle. Our Allies, also, exhibit the utmost coolness and gallantry in a similar manner. Poor Jack pays the penalty of his excessive courage in the loss which he sustains. The sailors will not keep under cover. When they fire a gun they crowd about the embrasures and get upon the parapets to watch the effect of the shot; and the result is that they are exposed to many more casualties than the artillerymen, who are kept under cover by their officers.

A BRUSH WITH THE RUSSIANS ON THE NIGHT OF THE 13TH.

On the left, it seemed as though all the constellations in heaven had settled on the earth, and were twinkling in flashing and flickering threads of fire in front of the Russian lines. The effect of the desperate work which has been going on between the French and the Russians can be compared to nothing that I can think of save a broad street, as seen from a distance, brightly illuminated for some festive occasion, with the wind playing fiercely and irregularly along the fretted gas-pipes. Since 11.10 the fight has been raging, and I have returned to my den in despair at its cause. I am now inclined to think it was a sortie in the trench, which was unsuccessful, was renewed, and was finally repulsed victoriously, and with great loss to the enemy. It appears that about ten o'clock drums were heard beating a charge, or alarm, all along the French lines at first; but whether they were Russian or French drums no one can say. The cheers were undoubtedly Russian. There is now a profound silence—not a gun can be heard, and the horrid din of shot and shell screaming and whistling through the air, the bursts of cannon and bombs, the cheers, and rolling volleys, have all died away, and the deadly lights have died out and left all the black waste in darkness. While the fight lasted the quantities of shell thrown by both sides were prodigious. They might be seen six and eight at a time seaming the sky with their fiery curves, and then bursting with a bright red flash which lit up for an instant the smoke, and flashed through it like a beam from the setting sun through a murky cloud.—*Times Correspondent.*

THE OPENING OF THE BATTERIES.

The following singularly vivid account of the memorable 9th of April is from the *Times* correspondent:—"The horses could scarcely get through the sticky black mud into which the hard dry soil had been turned by one night's rain; and, although it was early dawn, it was not possible to see a man twenty yards off. A Scotch mist, mingled with rain, settled down on the whole camp. As we approached the front there was a profound silence in the camp. Suddenly, three guns were heard on the left towards the French lines, and the whole line of our batteries opened at once. The volume of sound was not near so great or so deafening as that of the 17th of October, and the state of the weather rendered it quite out of the question to form a notion of the gradual effect of our fire, so that the most interesting portion of the day's proceedings was lost. Just as the cannonade opened the sailors came streaming over the hills from the batteries, where they had been relieved, and a few men turned out of the huts in the 3rd Division to the front, evidently very much astonished at the sudden opening of the fire. The rain then descended in torrents; and, as there was nothing to be seen, heard, or learnt, every one withdrew to shelter after a long and hopeless struggle with the weather. The storm was so heavy that scarcely a soul stirred out all day. It was dark almost as night. About five o'clock the sun slowly descended into a rift in the dark gray pall which covered the sky, and cast a pale yellow slice of light, barred here and there by columns of rain and masses of curling vapour, across the line of batteries. The outlines of the town, faintly rendered through the mists of smoke and rain, seemed quivering inside the circling lines of fire around and from them; but they were the same familiar outlines so well known to us for the last seven months—the same green cupola and roofs, and long streets and ruined suburbs, the same dockyard buildings, and dark trenches and batteries. The little details of ruin and destruction which must have taken place after to-day's fire could not be ascertained. The eye of painter never rested on

a more extraordinary effect, and his art alone could have rendered justice to the scene which shone out on us for a moment, as the sickly sun, flattened out, as it were, between bars of cloud and rain, seemed to have forced its way through the leaden sky to cast one straitened look on the conflict which raged below. The plateau between our standing-place was lighted up by incessant flashes of light; and long trails of white smoke streamed across it, spiriting up in thick masses, tinged with fire, for a moment, till they were whirled away in broader volumes by the wind. In the deep glow of the pasting gleam of sunset, the only image suggested to me calculated to convey the actual effect of the fire of the batteries to our friends at home was a vision of the Potteries' district as it is seen at night, all fervid with fire and pillars of smoke, out of the windows of an express train. This glimpse of the batteries, brief as it was, proved extremely satisfactory."

THE FIRE OF THE BATTERIES AT NIGHT.

April 9, 10 P.M.

The night is dark and tempestuous, the wind continues to blow strongly from the south-west, and the rain, though less continuous, still falls in heavy, fitful showers. No stars are visible in the heavens, and the fire from the batteries continues. The dashes of light from the guns, and the roar and roll of the echoes among the mountains, suggest the idea of an Alpine storm by the close resemblance of the latter to the crash and stunning sound of thunder. The horizontal flight through the air of some of the larger shot and shell, with their peculiar shrill, rushing noise, contrasts strongly with the deep booming of the guns, and adds to the confusion of sounds which strike the ear. The report from each piece at the instant of explosion is so modified by the weight of metal, amount of charge, position, and distance, that no two sounds appear alike either in tone or intensity. Sometimes the explosion and discharge are made with such force that even at a considerable distance the concussion of the air strikes the spectator forcibly, and he experiences the sensation of having received a blow on the chest. The noise would be much increased if the wind blew from an opposite direction, even on these open heights: what must be the roar in the streets and buildings of the town below! The shells rise thickly and brightly from the English batteries, and in less number from the French works on the right, but become dimmer as they travel through the misty atmosphere towards the Russian side. The Russians are replying comparatively feebly.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

ENGLISH SEAMEN AND FRENCH SOLDIERS.

I cannot help observing that everyone remarks that the seamen, in their camp, are better off than the soldiers. Why should this be? Simply because the men are handy and try to shift for themselves, and their officers of all grades—not trusting to the system of "reports"—look well after them. The seamen build cozy little cook-houses, get fires ready, and make pots boil; while our poor men, who have never been accustomed to do anything for themselves, seem listless and indifferent. They are now suffering from this system. Our seamen much resemble Frenchmen in their vivacity of manner and disposition, and in making the best of their situation. The consequence is, they are not suffering like the troops.—A Frenchman will stroll out of his tent, and in a few minutes will pick up a handful of herbs, with which he can make a very palatable and savoury dish. Those fellows can get a delicious repast ready, when our men would actually starve. It was only two days since I saw a couple of Frenchmen prepare a delicious salad. It was done thus. They picked up the young dandelion plants. The vinegar was prepared by exposing their ration of *vin ordinaire* to the sun, which converted it into vinegar; the young plants were cut up, and the vinegar and a little oil, which is part of their rations, were poured over all. This eaten, with a little broiled or roast mutton, was most refreshing. . . . Lord Raglan has been out a good deal of late through the camp, and seems to dive more than hitherto into affairs in general. He has been to see the suspension bridge, constructed by the seamen gunners, over the ravine and stream which courses along the southern side of their camp. It is admirably contrived out of very simple means. It is about 100 feet long. The sides of suspension are thrown over capstan bar pillars, and composed of 4-inch rope, which are made fast at both ends to a sleeper, made out of the cross-piece of a gun carriage, sunk in the ground. The flooring is composed of staves, or stakes, laid across and fastened to three 3-inch ropes. The whole apparatus is hauled tight by blocks. It is a most useful and ingenious contrivance, and is another proof how handy naval officers and seamen are in shifting for themselves.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

Before Sebastopol, April 10.

My Lord,—In accordance with the arrangement made between General Canrobert and myself, the batteries of the French and English armies opened upon Sebastopol soon after daylight yesterday morning.

The weather was extremely unpropitious. Much rain had fallen in the course of the night, and it continued during the day, accompanied by a tempestuous wind, and a heavy mist which obscured everything, and rendered it impossible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy

the effect of the fire, which has been continued with little or no interruption from the commencement, and has been superior to that of the enemy, who were evidently taken by surprise, and, except upon the extreme left, did not respond to the attack for nearly half an hour.

This morning has been hazy, and for some time there was a drizzling rain; but it is clearing this afternoon, and there is again a prospect of fine weather.

The country yesterday was covered with water, and the ground was again very deep. The trenches were likewise extremely muddy, and their condition added greatly to the labours of the men employed in the batteries, who consisted chiefly of sailors, artillerymen, and sappers.

They conducted their duties admirably, and I am sorry to say that the two former, particularly the navy, sustained considerable loss.

I have not yet received the returns of the casualties beyond the 9th instant, which are herewith enclosed; but the death of Lieutenant Twyford, of the Royal Navy, a most promising officer, and greatly respected by all, has been notified to me; and Captain Lord John Hay, who has taken a most active part in the gallant and distinguished services of the Naval Brigade, was wounded almost at the very moment, I believe by the same shot. I hope the injury he has received is not very serious, but the loss of his assistance even for a time is much to be regretted.

The Russians have not shown themselves in any force in front of Balaklava.

I have, &c.,
The Lord Panmure, &c.

RAGLAN.

Before Sebastopol, April 14.

My Lord,—Since I wrote to your Lordship on the 10th inst., a steady and heavy fire upon the works of the enemy has been maintained from all the batteries of the Allies.

The fire of the British artillery, chiefly directed against the Garden Batteries, the Barrack Battery, the Redan, the Malakhoff Tower, and the Mamelon, has been most effective, and the enemy's works have suffered very considerably, although they have, as usual, made a good use of the night to repair damages, notwithstanding that the vertical fire has been continued throughout the twenty-four hours.

The practice both of the Naval Brigade and the Artillery has been excellent.

The casualties have not been very numerous, but the loss has fallen heavily upon the sailors, as your Lordship will see by the accompanying returns, and the Royal Navy has to deplore the death of Lieutenant Douglas, who had served with great ability and zeal from the commencement of the siege.

Lieutenants Urnston and D'Aeth, Royal Navy, and Steele, Royal Marine Artillery—all valuable officers—have been wounded.

The Royal Artillery has also to lament the death of Lieutenant Luce, who was an officer of much promise; and Lieutenants Sinclair and L'Estrange are among the wounded. The former has sustained several severe injuries; but I am happy to add that there is every hope of his recovery. They are both highly meritorious officers.

Captain Crofton, of the Royal Engineers, who had in the course of the protracted operations before Sebastopol rendered most essential service, has also received a wound, which will, I fear, detain him from duty for a very considerable time.

Our batteries and parapets continue to stand remarkably well, notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather.

The enemy's fire has been comparatively slack, but the practice good, and, owing to their having ascertained the range of our batteries with great nicety, several guns have been disabled in both the right and left attacks.

Towards the Tchernaya nothing important has been observed, but small bodies of men, from 150 to 500, have been seen, with a heavy gun, and some ordnance carriages, moving along the Inkerman heights towards Mackenzie's Farm-road, near which it has been placed in position.

Although the duties have been unusually severe and arduous, both by day and night, during the week, they have been carried out with the utmost cheerfulness and zeal, reflecting much credit both on officers and men.

The submarine telegraph has been safely brought to the Monastery from Cape Kalegra; and as soon as it is established at the former place, the engineers will proceed to convey it from the latter to the immediate neighbourhood of Varna, where I hope it may be in a state to act in a week or ten days from this time.

The first division of the 10th Hussars arrived this day at Balaklava.

The Lord Panmure, &c.

I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

WAR MISCELLANEA.

POLISH SOLDIERS IN THE SERVICE OF FRANCE.—A letter written from Saintes to the *Courrier de Marseille*, says:—"I have already informed you that a number of Polish prisoners had enlisted in our army. On the 18th, 188 of these volunteers left the Isle of Aix for Marseilles, where they are to embark. A detachment of 52 men,

with two women and three children, are proceeding to Bastia, to join the dépôt of the 2nd Regiment of the Foreign Legion, and another detachment of 138 men and two women will be conveyed to Constantinople, where they are to be incorporated with a Turkish legion in the service of France."

THE EARL OF PERTH has published in the daily papers a letter in defence of his son, Lord Forth (late of the 42nd Regiment), whose conduct in the Crimea has been the subject of various unpleasant allusions. In this letter, the retirement or dismissal of Lord Forth from the service is attributed to an altercation with his colonel on being ordered to go into the trenches, his lordship refusing, on account of ill-health, to go until he had had his dinner. On being taunted with cowardice, he changed his mind. "This most unfortunate altercation, arising, I deplore to say," writes the Earl, "in great measure from my son's inattention to his military duty, and want of subordination to the orders of Colonel Cameron, has been the foundation of the many anonymous, slanderous, and absurd falsehoods which have been so uncharitably set about regarding him, and which it was out of my power to deny until I had ascertained from various persons who were on the spot, and from Colonel Cameron himself, the truth of this most painful affair."

THE RUSSIAN ARMY AT RIGA.—A communication from Riga in the *Daily News* says:—"A regiment of Baschkirs, about 800 strong, has marched into this city, but will be sent on in a few days to watch the coast near the Prussian frontiers. Their head-quarters will be at Liebau. This is the first detachment of Asiatic troops that we have yet seen; others are to follow. They come from Orenburg, a distance of 2000 miles, and have been nearly six months on the march. They are fine-looking men, with small, scrubby horses, long-haired but active. The men are armed with a lance, gun, sabre, and pistol, like the Cossacks, and wear a white caftan, embroidered with red, and lined with sheepskin. Their head-dress consists of a high fur cap with a red tuft on the top. The officers wear a uniform of blue and white, and their sabres, of the real Damascus manufacture, are richly ornamented and inlaid with gold. The movements of troops in this neighbourhood are going on with great activity. Sites have been selected for four different entrenched camps, which will shortly be commenced."

HERTFORDSHIRE HEROES.—Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, in recently delivering an address to the members of the Literary Institution of Buntingford, a small town in Hertfordshire, said:—"We, in this county, have had our share in the national glory and the national grief. My nephew assisted to place in a soldier's grave the gallant and promising son of that true country gentleman, Mr. Delmé Radcliffe, who, like the Roman of old, is about to send forth another son to supply the loss his country has sustained. More recently, Major Powell, the distinguished son of a respected neighbour at Welwyn, and Ensign Clutterbuck, of a family which Hertfordshire has other causes to esteem, have also fallen. Honour to their memories!"

WHAT THE BALTIC BATTERING-VESSELS WILL HAVE TO BEAR.—Lord Dundonald, writing to the *Times*, says:—"The iron-encased battering-vessels, whereon the *vis viva* of average shot of half a hundredweight shall be suddenly arrested, are subject, at the battering distance of 500 yards, to a shock equivalent to the crush of 60 odd tons' weight falling through 16 feet. How many such shocks will each iron-encased vessel's frame sustain? As to the fragile steam-gunboats, they do not merit notice in operations of such magnitude."

ACCOUNTS FROM LIMA (Peru) to the 11th of March, received *via* New York, state that a vessel, said to be Russian, but under Argentine colours, had been seized by the British Admiral on the Pacific station, and that a number of Russian sailors had volunteered to serve on board the British ships of war bound for Petropavlovski.

THE CRIMEA is now flooded, and the Russians find the transport of troops and material extremely difficult.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

THE Times of Friday, in a telegraphic despatch from Vienna, says that the Conference were resumed on Thursday, in consequence of the Russians intimating that they would make new propositions. These, however, were rejected by the Allies; and M. Drouyn de Lhuys was to leave, it is said, on Friday.

We read the following in the *Daily News*:—

"The record of the recent Congress has been closed, and, nevertheless, the Austrian Government announced on Wednesday, through its accustomed organ, the *Correspondence*, that 'the conferences are not terminated, but will continue without interruption,' and that 'the language of the English and French plenipotentiaries is of a nature to second the work of peace.' The leading part in the work which Lord Westmoreland is said to be seconding is, of course, taken by Austria. The *Independence* of Brussels states that Austria is at this moment seeking, *avec grand désir*, to find a middle term between the rejected proposition of the Allies and the also rejected counter-proposition of the Russian plenipotentiaries. Lord Palmerston's statement that Russia made no counter-proposition related—says the *Inde-*

pendance—simply to the proceedings at the twelfth and last conference, when Prince Gortschakoff and M. Titoff having reported the rejection of the French and English demands, found that the whole circuit of diplomatic expedients had been travelled."

Lord John Russell left Vienna on Monday.

MR. LAYARD AT LIVERPOOL.

THE owners of the Liverpool and Melbourne "Black Ball" line of Australian packets, entertained Mr. Layard on Saturday at a banquet on board the new American clipper ship, Donald McKay. Mr. S. Mackay, one of the firm, occupied the chair; and among the guests was Mr. Nathaniel Hawthorne, the celebrated American author, now a consul at Liverpool. Mr. Layard made a long speech, in which, after giving a sketch of his career, and of his introduction to public life, he touched upon the "Four Points," which he did not think a sufficient object to struggle for. He said:—

"Let us take the First Point, which is the most important. What are we going to pledge ourselves to? Instead of giving Wallachia, Moldavia, and Servia one master, we are going to give them four—not truly four, because neither France nor England could have a voice in the subject; you are going to place these three provinces under a double despotism—that of Russia and Austria. I know many of the leading men in Wallachia and Moldavia; and you may have seen recently in the papers an expression of their feeling towards the Austrian Government. Not even the despotism of Russia is more feared there than the despotism of Austria; and if you once admit Austria as a protective Power over them, you would ruin every chance of securing popular liberty, and would ultimately put an end to British industry in those provinces. (*Cheers.*) I have not so much interest in Moldavia and Wallachia as in Servia. She (Servia) holds the most important position in the East. The Servians are a Slavonic people, the same race as the Russians, one of the most remarkable in Europe. I have been intimately acquainted with them; I was there in 1842, when the revolution broke out. I was in an official capacity there, and I took part in that revolution, so that I know what the Servians are. There is no race in the East more calculated to bring forward the energies of the Christians in the East than the Servians. That province is the nucleus to which every Christian Slavonic race looks in the East; and if we knew our true position, and had statesmen at the head of affairs who understand their business, and have an intimate acquaintance with the subjects with which they have to treat, they would not sacrifice Servia to Austria and Russia. (*Cheers.*) In the first place, Russia had no protectorate over Servia; she had merely a guarantee that the liberties of the Servians should be respected by Turkey. Why, the Turks never infringed their liberties; but who did? The Russian government. And who has also endeavoured to infringe them? The Austrian government. You may remember the protest which was published last year, and which was laid before the House of Commons. You well know the indignant feeling with which Servia viewed our countenancing an Austrian protectorate over her. If you keep her free, and do away with this wretched protectorate, I believe you will find in Servia a great means of regenerating the East. It is to Servia we must look for the true solution of this question; and I therefore ask, if you place these people under this quintuple or quadruple protectorate, what have you done for civilisation? What have you done for the rest of the Christians in the East? What have you done towards a true solution of this question?"

With respect to the free navigation of the Danube, Mr. Layard said, that never could be secured as long as Russia retains the whole of the north bank. He denounced our having allied ourselves with Austria, who, he said, he had always prophesied would fail us; and then passed to a consideration of the nature and tendencies of the present government, and of our parliamentary and military systems.

"A calculation has been made of the number of persons in the House of Commons who are either sent by rotten boroughs, or who have been sent to Parliament by constituencies which have no views of their own, but are compelled to send members of great families; and I believe it consists of only one-third of the House—enough, however, to turn any question. There are nine members of the present Cabinet members of the House of Lords against four in the Commons. Of course, under these circumstances, every question is decided, both in the Cabinet and in the House, by the voice of those who are not the representatives of the people. Is that being governed by ourselves? I say, decidedly not, and that the system is bad and false. Even under Lord Aberdeen's Government, this state of things did not exist; at least we had a fair admixture of members of the House of Commons; but now, even in the petty place of Chairman of Ways and Means, Lord Palmerston cannot go out of the narrow circle; and, with the exception of Mr. Smith, we have not one man that represents any class of what we may call the people of England. I say that it is scandalous, and cannot exist. (*Cheers.*) . . . What have I heard in the Sebastopol Committee every day? I never can get beyond that

blessed Peninsula. (*Laughter.*) I wish it had never existed. (*Renewed laughter.*) I wish we could take a sleeping draught, and forget that there ever was a Peninsula. If I ask a question, why this or that is done, the reply is, 'Oh! it was done in the Peninsula!' (*Laughter.*) I do not know what the poor people did before they had the Peninsula—I suppose they went to Agincourt or Cressy. (*Continued laughter.*) Why, if Mr. Mackay was to bring me on board one of those broad-bottomed Dutch-looking vessels, and say, 'We send her to Australia because vessels of this sort were used one hundred years ago,' we should think him downright mad. (*Great laughter.*) But he does not do that; he applies the best of modern inventions to his business, convinced of their success. And why cannot we do that with Government? (*Loud cheers.*) You cannot carry on Government and war upon the principles of commerce, but still you can adapt such principles to both. I asked a gentleman in London, 'Why feed our troops upon salt meat when you can get fresh?' 'Oh,' said he, 'it was so in the Peninsula!' (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Layard concluded an effective speech by expressing a hope that the inhabitants of Liverpool would help him to remedy this disgraceful state of things.

DEPARTURE OF THE EMPEROR.

THE Emperor, the Empress, and their suite, left England on Saturday; and the noise and pageantry of their reception are past, leaving upon the mind a confused sense of glare and glitter, of tumult and movement, not unlike the after effect of an Easter spectacle or a Christmas pantomime. The illuminations are extinguished; the parti-coloured flags have vanished from the brown mediocrity of the Strand, Fleet-street, and Cheapside; Guildhall has relapsed into sobriety, and the Mansion House become again nothing more than a police-office; the Lord Mayor and the Aldermen are staying at home, in company with headaches, *ennui*, and mutton-broth; the Opera House has withdrawn its imperial glazed calico and gold; and all things are as they were before. Only the memory of what was remains; only the street boys perform "Partant pour la Syrie" as they loiter on their errands.

On Saturday morning, the Emperor and Empress left Buckingham Palace at twenty minutes past ten o'clock, in an open carriage, attended by an escort of the Horse Guards. The Bricklayers' Arms station of the South Eastern Railway was gaily decorated; and a considerable number of persons lined the route, and cheered loudly. At the station, a detachment of the Coldstream Guards was drawn up. A platform, draped with pink and white, had been erected, and was occupied by ladies and gentlemen who had obtained tickets. The Lord Mayor, together with the Prefect of the Seine, and the other members of the municipality of Paris, were in attendance, to pay their respects to the Emperor and Empress, who arrived a little after half-past ten. The Emperor, having shaken hands with the Lord Mayor, he and the Empress entered their carriage (in which was a time-table printed on white satin and fringed with green), and arrived at Dover at five minutes past one.

At the station at Dover (says a contemporary) the same arrangements prevailed as upon the occasion of the arrival of their Majesties, and the station was crowded with spectators, who were loud and enthusiastic in their cheering. On descending from the carriage, Mr. Rich, M.P., the chairman of the company, inquired of his Majesty whether the arrangements made by the company had given him satisfaction. The Emperor made a reply which neatly combined a compliment with the expression of his personal feeling: "Everything has been excellent. I regret only one thing—that is, that you have conveyed me too quickly out of England." The guard of honour outside the station, and around the Lord Warden, and lining the pier, was formed of the Bucks and North Leicestershire Militia; and every available spot upon the pier and in the neighbourhood was densely crowded. As they were walking along the station, the Emperor observed Mr. Payne, the Mayor of Dover, who was the first Englishman to welcome his Majesty on his debarkation, and placed in his hands a small box, saying as he did so, "I hope, Mr. Mayor, you will keep this in kind remembrance of me." Upon opening the case, it was found to contain a very handsome and valuable jewelled snuff-box. It was of blue enamel, richly ornamented with gold, and having upon the lid the letter "N," set in brilliants.

The Imperial visitors then embarked in the Empress mail packet belonging to the Dover and Calais Company. Prince Albert and the Duke of Cambridge went on board, and remained until the last moment; and then, amidst the thunder of cannon and more shouts from the people, the paddles revolved, and the vessel steamed off towards Boulogne, arriving there about four o'clock.

We learn from the *Court Circular* that the Emperor invested the Duke of Cambridge with the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour while staying at Windsor.

The Cross of the Legion of Honour (says the *Daily*

News) was presented to Captain Smithett at Boulogne. Messrs. Churchward and Jenkins (of the Dover and Calais Mail Company) had valuable diamond rings, and the chief engineer of the Empress a large gold medal, presented to them. The Emperor insisted on paying the expenses of the voyage, when the directors reluctantly named 20*l.* as the price; but his Majesty at once ordered 40*l.* to be paid with an additional 20*l.* to be distributed in gratuities to the crew.

A review of a portion of the army of the north took place at Boulogne on Sunday; and on the evening of the same day the Emperor and Empress arrived in Paris.

On Saturday, the Lord Mayor gave a farewell banquet at the Mansion House to the Prefect of the Seine and his companions. Several patriotic and friendly speeches were made; the Prefect and the Lord Mayor holding each other by the hand as they proposed their respective toasts. Sir John Burgoyne (who was one of the guests) alluded to the state of affairs in the Crimea, from which he has just returned, and observed that Sebastopol no doubt presents to our arms an enterprise of great difficulty, but that he liked it all the better for that, and that he was sure the termination of the siege would be favourable to the Allies.

The Prefect and his companions left for Paris on Sunday.

The Lord Mayor has received from the Emperor a snuff-box set with diamonds. The Emperor, before leaving Windsor, caused to be placed in the hands of the Mayor the sum of 400*l.*, for the relief of the poor of the borough. He also gave 100*l.* for the poor of Dover; and, on the part of the Empress and himself, he presented the sum of 500*l.* in aid of the funds of the Société Française de Secours, of which the French Ambassador is president.

MORE ARMY SCANDALS.

A COMMUNICATION from Canterbury in the daily papers informs us that Cornets Edward Baumgarten and John Evans, of the Inniskilling Dragoons, have been charged before the magistrates at Guildhall, in that city, with an intention of fighting a duel.

"The hostile meeting, which was fortunately prevented, arose out of a series of scandalous indignities to which, it is stated, the former officer (a quiet, inoffensive young man) has been for some time subjected at the hands of his brother officers. According to reports current in the regiment, some of these 'jokes' had proceeded beyond the limits of common decency, and prohibit specific allusion. The following, however, may be mentioned:—Cornet Baumgarten's sword was broken to pieces and the plume of his helmet destroyed. Two buckets of water were thrown into his bed, and his clothes placed in the bath, while the chest containing his clean linen was filled with water. Six panes of glass in his window, and his looking-glass, were smashed. The chamber utensils were broken and placed in the bed, and the door and window fastened, while he was in his room. His horse (which cost eighty guineas) has been deprived of its tail and topnet. In consequence of this treatment, Cornet Baumgarten sent Cornet Evans a challenge, as he imagined he was the ringleader in the affair; and Saturday last was fixed for carrying it into execution. The parties met at the time appointed, accompanied by Adjutant Webster of the dépôt, a surgeon of the town, and other gentlemen."

The contemplated result, however, was prevented by the humanity and determination of Sergeant Brodie, of the 1st Royal Dragoons. He thus narrated his own story before the magistrates:—

"I was in the Old Park, at the rear of the Canterbury Barracks, between five and six o'clock on Saturday morning last. Adjutant Webster, of the dépôt, and Cornet Baumgarten, were there, and also a little gentleman who I was told was Doctor Cooper, of the town. Mr. Hartopp was also present. The first three were walking together in the direction of the sand-pit, the doctor and Mr. Baumgarten being a little in advance. Adjutant Webster said, 'Sergeant Brodie, what do you want here?' I made no reply, when the adjutant said, 'Go away home, sir.' I replied, 'No, sir, I shall put a stop to this that is to take place.' The adjutant then said, 'Go to your room, sir, and consider yourself a prisoner.' With that, the adjutant, after saying, 'I will go and get a file of the guard and bring you,' went in the direction of the barracks. I then jumped over the stile, and ran up to Mr. Baumgarten and the doctor, and placing my hands out in front of them, said, 'You shall not fight a duel, Mr. Baumgarten, in my presence; you shall shoot me first before you shall do it, sir.' Mr. Baumgarten, however, got away, and I ran after him. He said, 'Leave me alone; I have been an injured man, Sergeant Brodie, which you know, and I will have it out now.' He was making his escape from me, and, as I saw I could not stop him, he was in such a raging state, I ran forward to some men working in the field and asked them, for God's sake, to assist, as there were two gentlemen going to kill one another. They hesitated at first, but subsequently went and caught hold of Mr. Baumgarten, who kicked, and tore, and tried to get away from them. I went to the farm-house to obtain further aid, and Mr. Baumgarten was taken into the house. I

then returned towards the barracks, when I met Adjutant Webster and Mr. Hartopp with a file of men. I said to the adjutant, 'Good morning, gentlemen; I give myself up as a prisoner.' Adjutant Webster told his men to knock me down with the butt-end of their carbines if I resisted them. I replied, 'No, adjutant, I am an old soldier, and know my duty—don't hurt me.' I was then arrested and taken to the barracks."

Mr. Austin, solicitor, said the whole affair was a mere joke; but the magistrates ordered the two defendants to enter into their own bonds of 100*l.* each, and two sureties of 50*l.*, to keep the peace towards one another. The bail was speedily put in, and the officers left the court.

The honest, manly conduct of Sergeant Brodie in this affair cannot be too highly praised. It presents a noble contrast to the beastly ruffianism of the "gentlemen" officers who persecuted their inoffensive companion.

Lord Hardinge has issued a memorandum severely censuring two ensigns of the 30th regiment for insulting Ensign Falkner of the 50th regiment, in a manner very similar to the outrages committed upon Lieutenant Perry and Mr. Baumgarten.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.

(From the Registrar-General's Report.)

THE present return exhibits a decided improvement in the health of London. The deaths, which had been respectively 1226 and 1347 in the first two weeks of April, fell in the week that ended on Saturday to 1087. The temperature of the last fortnight was little higher than it is expected to be in April; but it was 10 degrees higher than in March; and human life reaps the benefit of the change. In the last four weeks, the mean temperature has been 36.5 deg., 41.9 deg., 47.2 deg., and 49.1 deg.

In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number of deaths registered was 1085, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1138. The number of persons who died last week is 51 less than the estimated number.

Diseases of the respiratory organs, exclusive of phthisis and hooping-cough, destroyed about a fourth part of the persons who died in the first three months of this year. The deaths from that class of diseases were reduced last week to 222, about a fifth of the total mortality of the week. From phthisis, 139 persons died; in the winter months, the mean weekly number was 165. Smallpox was fatal in 19 cases, of which 14 occurred under 10 years of age; scarlatina was fatal in 46 cases, hooping cough in 50, typhus in 33, measles only in 12, diarrhoea in 11. Six cases of scarlatina were fatal in Hammersmith and Fulham; 3 cases of smallpox in St. James's, Bermondsey.

Last week, the births of 916 boys and 872 girls, in all 1788 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks in the years 1845-54, the average number was 1472.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

THE BALTIC FLEET.—Eleven sail of the line, forming part of this fleet, arrived at Kiel on the 19th inst. They had left the Downs on the 9th. The Nile, flag-ship, *pro tem.*, of Admiral Dundas, formed one of the detachment. Their voyage was not attended by any features of peculiar interest.

A COURT MARTIAL was held at Portsmouth on Monday, to try Mr. William Kerr, the senior naval instructor in the fleet, serving on board the Victory, on a charge of being drunk and incapable of performing his duty. The Court declared the charge proved, and adjudged the prisoner, in consideration of his long services (upwards of thirty-one years, we believe), to no further punishment than to be dismissed from the Victory, and to lose four years' rank as a naval instructor in her Majesty's naval service.

CONTRACT FOR RIFLES, &c.—The Government has entered into an extensive contract for Minié and other rifles, rifled carbines, plain bore muskets and revolvers. A large number of the Minié rifles and revolvers will be supplied by an American firm, and the remainder by Liege, London, and Birmingham manufacturers. The estimated number to be sent in weekly to the Ordnance stores is 3000 stand.

THE SICK SOLDIERS AT PORTSMOUTH.—The friends of the soldiers who are sick in hospital at Portsmouth will be glad to hear that all are doing very well, and are receiving the kindest attention from the medical staff, as well as extra comforts from Major-General Sir Frederick Smith and Lady Smith, and other thoughtful benefactors.

THE NORTH SEAS.—The fleet still lies at Kiel, and the ice continues to oppose its progress; but letters from St. Petersburg state that warm weather and heavy rains promise an early opening of the navigation. From Riga, according to advices of the 16th instant, it appears that the ice in the river had broken four days previously, and caused the water to rise higher than at any period since 1829. The flood soon subsided, but not until it had damaged much property, and destroyed all the roads round the town.

THE MILITIA.—The rapid extinction of the militia, owing to Lord Pannure's act of grace, seems in some

degree to be arrested. Several reattestations have taken place, and volunteering for the line still goes on to a moderate extent.

CAPTURE OF A PRIZE.—The schooner *Miron*, under Lubeck colours, but formerly Russian property, has been captured by the *Desperate*. She was laden with corn and iron, and is the first prize of the season. It is thought she will not be the last.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—"Among the objects of art expected to be admitted for the approaching Exhibition in Paris, not the least interesting is an oil painting representing the Battle of Inkerman, by a young French officer of the Staff, who took part in the action, and was wounded in it. The circumstances under which it was painted will not fail to impart a value to it, independently of its merits as a work of art. The subject itself, the fact of its having been sketched on the very spot, and when the din of battle had hardly subsided, the studio being a tent, which was blown down frequently while the painter was at his work, give an interest to it of a peculiar kind, and it shows at all events the sort of men that are in staff employments. The artist's name is Jumel; he is a Captain on the Staff, was orderly officer to General Canrobert on the day of the battle, some of the exciting details of which he has, it is thought not unsuccessfully, transferred to canvas; and he is still before Sebastopol as aide-de-camp to General Fauchaux. He is only twenty-six years old. The moment chosen for the picture is when the French are coming up to the succour of their allies; the Zouaves are already charging, and the Chasseurs are hurrying on to take part in the combat. An English officer is seen, with his bearskin cap on his sword, cheering on the men; and another, mortally wounded and supported by his men, is faintly pointing to the French the direction they should take. The picture, which is about 3 feet by 7 or 8, has been sent by Captain Jumel as a present to his mother, who resides in Paris, together with a fragment of a Russian shell, and a bullet from a Russian musket, which slightly touched him. The work is a curiosity in its way. Captain Jumel had previously made seventeen different views of Sebastopol for General Canrobert."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

We read in the *Moniteur*:—"In the course of last year a detachment of seamen, belonging to the French brig of war the *Olivier*, were, without any provocation on their part, assailed by the inhabitants of the Greek village of Cohona, and the officer in command and two men seriously wounded. In the month of December last, three French soldiers were also the victims of an attack in the neighbourhood of Patissia, where, as it may be remembered, the King and Queen of Greece, when walking in the neighbourhood of Athens, found them weltering in their blood, and caused assistance to be procured for them. The government of the Emperor has obtained the satisfaction which it demanded against the authors of these two attacks, whom the Greek tribunals have just condemned to the severe punishment which they had merited. The cabinet of Athens, on its part, evinced the most praiseworthy eagerness to have them arrested and delivered into the hands of justice."

Twenty-five non-commissioned officers of the army of Paris were arrested in the night of Wednesday week, and are now confined in the military prisons in the Rue du Cherche-Midi. They are charged with political conspiracy, as to the precise nature of which there are conflicting rumours.

The Spanish Cortes, on the 20th of April, adopted the 2nd and 3rd articles of the Bill for the Sale of Church Property. Reinforcements are to be sent to Mellila, in Africa, for the protection of the presidios, or Government prisons.

A letter from Madrid says:—"The committee of the Cortes, charged to effect the investigation respecting Queen Christina, has called for the registers of the baptism of her children by the Duke de Rianzares, but they cannot be found in any parish or in the palace. The utmost tranquillity prevails in the provinces."

The Institute of France, cherished by its members as the sole remaining institution where individual worth and political independence might find due honour, and stigmatised in official circles as the last refuge of defeated factions, was on Thursday week swamped by an academic *coup d'état*. Henceforth, the title of academicien will doubtless be a social distinction; but it will be only obtainable upon the same conditions as the post of senator, deputy, prefect, mayor, or forest gamekeeper—it must bear the government stamp. An infusion of new blood has reversed the majority of the hitherto self-elected literary and scientific body; it is officially declared that its statutes must be made to harmonise with the order established in the state. The annual meeting will be held on St. Napoleon's-day, August 15th; a new prize of 10,000 fr. per annum will be awarded every three years in the Emperor's name, the first prize to be given on August 15th, 1856; all functionaries employed in the Institute will be nominated by the Minister of Public Instruction; and the ten members pitchforked into the academic chairs, as a new section of

the academy of moral and political sciences, to be called the section of "politics, administration, and finance," are proclaimed to be entitled to the same salary, rights, and privileges, as the members of the other sections. Thus is the "heavy debt of vengeance paid" for M. Guizot's recent speeches and M. Berryer's refusal to go to court. The Academy must now cease to be an *imperium in imperio*.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent*.

The Stettin journal, *Norddeutsche Zeitung*, contains a long article on the Sound Dues, and confirms the statement that the official notice of the expiration of the treaty between the United States and Denmark has been sent off from Washington, and is now probably in the hands of the cabinet of Copenhagen. The result is looked forward to with great curiosity and some anxiety. The first American ship that passes the Sound will of course refuse to pay the duty, but will be compelled by force majeure, and have to pay the amount under protest. The captain will then complain to his Government at Washington; and, from the well-known energy of Uncle Sam, a reclamation will be forwarded to Copenhagen, demanding satisfaction for stopping an American vessel on the high seas. What then will follow is uncertain.—*Daily News*.

The *Times* Prussian correspondent, writing under date of April 20th, says:—"Yesterday, at Potsdam, the King made over to the safe keeping of a deputation of the 6th Regiment of Cuirassiers (named after Nicholas I., Emperor of Russia) a uniform of that regiment which the late Emperor had sometimes worn. At a later hour the entire regiment, now stationed at Brandenburg, was drawn up at the railway station to receive the deputation on its return with the treasure. As soon as the uniform, borne by sub-officers, arrived in front of the regiment, arms were presented, and the Russian national hymn was played by the band. After forming his men into a square, the Colonel of the regiment made a speech to them, and pointed out to them the honour conferred on the regiment by its having this peculiar and 'precious' present bestowed on it, and then caused the various documents connected with the donation and endowment to be read aloud. The regiment then returned to its barracks, the precious uniform being borne by one favoured squadron, with its standard, at the head of the regiment, to the sanctuary where it is in future to be preserved! Due preparations are being made for the religious ceremony of the 23rd in honour of the memory of the Emperor, on which occasion the Berlin Dom Chor has been ordered to attend."

The pretty English danseuse, Lydia Thompson, who lately attracted a large share of public favour at the St. James's Theatre by her graceful imitations of the Spanish dance, and at the Haymarket by the performances of *Silver Hair* and *Bo-peep*, is creating quite a sensation at the Friedrich Wilhelmstadt Theatre in Berlin. The Berlin journals speak specially of the effect produced by the English Hornpipe—a marvel of grace, spirit and originality. Applause, encores, and bouquets reward the fair danseuse nightly. One journalist remarks naively, that while concurring in doing homage to the personal charms of Albion's daughter, he had no notion that they could dance; and prophesies, that on whatever other subjects there may be a disagreement, there will be long a cordial agreement of opinion among the Western Powers as to the beauty and merit of our fair compatriote.

An Imperial decree, dated Windsor, the 19th inst., appoints Admiral Hamelin Minister of Marine and of the Colonies, in the place of M. Ducos, deceased. The First Napoleon fought and toiled in vain for the honour of dating an Imperial decree from an English city: the Third Napoleon attains it without a struggle.

M. Ducos was buried on Wednesday, with great military pomp. The Madeleine, where the religious ceremony was performed, was hung with black drapery, embroidered with silver. The Pope's nuncio attended; and large bodies of infantry, cavalry, and artillery lined the streets. The body was ultimately taken to Bordeaux, the deceased's native town.

The report on the bill presented by the Government relative to the creation of Protestant cemeteries has been presented and read to the Spanish Cortes. It is favourable to the measure. Some advantages have been granted to the foreign import trade in Spain, and some of the Consular formalities have been simplified.

General Forey has departed for Africa. The Emperor, in an order of the day, pays a high tribute to the worth of that officer, and to his services before Sebastopol.

Advices from St. Petersburg mention that for some weeks past no British subject has been allowed to leave the country. Applications for passports have been answered by the military governors that under present circumstances none would be granted. This refusal was coupled with an intimation that, cases having transpired of British mechanics having held meetings and refused to work, any repetition of such conduct would cause them to be sent into the interior. The subscriptions of the English residents at St. Petersburg and Moscow for the English prisoners at Varonetz are stated to have reached about 500*l*.—*Times City Article, Friday*.

A letter from Rome, of the 20th, in the *Univers*, says:—"The Pope received the congratulations of the Emperor of the French and the Emperor of Austria on his fortunate escape, by telegraph, on the day after the late accident. General Allouveau de Montréal was

enabled to leave his chamber on the 15th, and immediately repaired to the Vatican to pay his respects to his Holiness. A public thanksgiving, to last three days, commenced on Sunday in the French church of St. Louis, where a *Te Deum* was sung in the presence of the French Ambassador and of the officers of the garrison.

THE FÊTES AT ORLEANS.—We recommend those of our readers who may visit Paris on the occasion of the opening of the Exhibition to extend their journey to the historical city of Orleans, on the 7th of May. As usual on that evening, a series of historical fêtes, in honour of the inauguration of the equestrian statue of Joan of Arc, will be heralded by a torchlight cavalcade representing the heroes and nobles who figured at the siege of Orleans in 1429. Many of the personages who will take part in the procession are actual descendants of the men whom they will represent, and whose banners they will bear. The cavalcade will consist of no less than one hundred and fourteen characters, in historical costume, attended by archers, pages, heralds, pursuivants, &c. The military cortege will be formed by detachments of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. The procession will follow the route traditionally taken by Joan of Arc, and will proceed to the Hôtel-de-Ville, which has been admirably restored, and which on this occasion will be solemnly inaugurated. There the standard of La Pucelle will be given to the mayor. This standard, unfortunately, is not that borne by the virgin warrior, but it will have a more modern interest of its own. It is presented to the city by a subscription of the ladies of Orleans, and embroidered after an ancient model by one of the first houses in Lyons. It may appear singular that in the procession every historical character will be represented except the heroine. We think, however, it has been wisely resolved to abandon the idea of an impersonation so ideal as that of Joan of Arc. It has been the custom to represent the heroine of the procession of the 8th of May by a child, who was called the *Puceau*. This honour was a subject of severe contention among the families of the town, as it was reserved for a child remarkable for beauty. The *Puceau* was committed to the Tour de Ville, in commemoration of the captivity of Joan of Arc, and thence was conveyed through the streets on a horse richly caparisoned, and loaded with presents and honours. The child was even supposed to be exempt from future conscription; but, unfortunately, it sometimes happened that the *Puceau* turned out badly, and, perhaps, this has been the reason for suppressing the personation. The panegyric on Joan of Arc will, at the forthcoming festival, be delivered in the Cathedral of Holy Cross, by M. Deguerry, the curé of the Madeleine. A religious procession, upon which the Church of Rome will lavish all its magnificence, will precede the inauguration. The fêtes will last from the 6th of May to the 10th. There will be a grand choral congress on Sunday the 6th, and a musical festival. A horticultural exposition, an exhibition of paintings, a grand lottery, and a display of fireworks, are among the various attractions announced. We may add, that the journey to Orleans is a very easy, short, and pleasant trip by one of the best appointed railways in Europe. Visitors to Paris ought not to lose so delightful an opportunity of becoming acquainted with one of the most interesting of cities under the most interesting circumstances.

OUR CIVILISATION.

NO PUNISHMENT FOR STARVING DOGS TO DEATH.—At the Chelmsford Petty Sessions, Thomas Archer has been recently charged with having tortured three dogs by starving them to death. He had left his house, after locking up the dogs in an outbuilding, and had gone to Chelmsford, where he passed his time in great dissipation, pledging all his property to procure drink. In the meanwhile, the poor animals were left to their fate. Their miserable howlings annoyed the neighbours for several days; then grew weaker and weaker, and at length ceased. The fact that they had been starved having come to the knowledge of a neighbouring clergyman, he applied to a local magistrate for a summons against Archer; but was told that starving an animal to death is *extra legem*, not an offence within the act of Parliament. Mr. Owens, the clergyman, not being satisfied, applied to the London Society for the Suppression of Cruelty to Animals; at whose instance the brute, Archer, was arrested. The bench, however, were of opinion that, as there was no proof of a wilful intention to kill the dogs, the man must be discharged. If this be law, it is high time such a law was mended.

ASSAULT BY A POLICEMAN.—Barefoot Bignadike, the police constable whose brutal assault upon a woman, and subsequent counter-charge of assault against her husband, we detailed in the *Leader* of April 14th, has been fined 2*l*. 10*s*. The penalty was paid; but it ought not to have been regarded as sufficient.

THE CONVICT BURANELLI will, it is thought, be hung on the 1st of May. Great efforts, however, are being made to save his life on the plea of insanity; but it seems probable they will fail.

THE BOY FORGER.—The boy Lucas, who obtained 40*l*. from Messrs. Piusent and Co., on a banker's draft, through forging the signature of Mr. John Elliott, of Devonport, has been committed for trial.

POST-OFFICE ROBBERIES.—William Milrose, a young

man who is said to have had employment at Buckingham Palace previous to being in the Post-office, has been committed for trial for several robberies of letters containing money and other valuables.

REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—Mr. Lambelet, who was engaged by George the Fourth to paint the panels of the Brighton Pavilion, and who was at that time highly patronised by the nobility, was introduced to the notice of the Clerkenwell magistrate on Wednesday, as an object for relief. Paralysis had set in, deprived him of the power of working, and reduced him to a state of the most hopeless poverty. The magistrate ordered him a sum of money from the poor-box, and promised to do his best to succour him. It is to be hoped that the case will be taken up by others.

THE LATE ESCAPE OF PRISONERS FROM NEWGATE.—The inquiry in the Court of Aldermen into this affair has terminated in the dismissal of one of the gaolers, the acceptance of the resignation of another, and the reprimanding of a watchman.

ASSAULT UPON A MOTHER.—A dissolute young man was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on Thursday, at Bow-street, for a savage attack upon his mother, who had offended him by not producing as much money as he desired to support him in idleness and depravity. It appeared he was constantly in the habit of doing so, and that this was the fourth time he had been committed.

STARVATION IN THE STREETS.—At the same office, and on the same day, a wretched-looking man, named George Bennett, who had broken a pane of glass in one of the windows of the police court, in order, he said, to obtain food and shelter in the lock-up, was committed for seven days.

MANSLAUGHTER BY A MILITIAMAN.—The case of assault upon a potman by a militiaman, which we noticed last week, has terminated in the death of the former. On Wednesday, Harrington, the prisoner, was again brought before the magistrate, and exhibited great distress. On hearing it intimated that the dead man's wife was then in court, he covered his face with his hands, and exclaimed, "Oh, for God's sake, don't let me see her, after depriving her of her husband!" From the evidence of a militia sergeant, it appeared that the affair arose in this way:—Two of the militia men had been fighting outside the public-house, and one of them, an Irishman, who had received a cut over the brow, began to cry, which caused the deceased to observe, "Ah, that's just the way with you Irishmen; whenever you see your own blood, you are sure to begin to cry." At this, the prisoner, who is also an Irishman, was irritated, and exclaimed, "Did you never cry when you saw your own blood?" The potman then went out, followed by the prisoner, who shortly returned; upon which his sergeant remarked—"I am glad you did not strike the old man." Harrington replied—"No, sergeant, I won't strike him; for, by —, it's already done." It further appeared that when the police proceeded to arrest the accused, he was very violent, and it was necessary to strap his legs, and to handcuff him. The prisoner, who had been wavering about for some time, painfully observed, "I hope sincerely that I shall now be hanged out of the way, for I can never look a man in the face again;" and then became so faint that he was obliged to be supported out of court. Upon his return, other evidence was received, and he was again remanded for a week.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN PRISONER has escaped from the gaol at Lewes, and been recaptured. Like his adventurous predecessors, he climbed to the roof of the guardhouse, and thence to the wall, the top of which in that particular place is only about ten or twelve feet from the ground. Having got loose, he went to a public-house in the town, and regaled himself with half a pint of rum; and here he was recaptured. He will be punished by solitary confinement and a low diet.

ACCIDENT AT THE CRUMLIN VIADUCT.—Two men were recently killed by the fall of four large girders used in the construction of a viaduct on the branch line of the Newport and Hereford Railway. It appeared from the evidence at the inquest that the accident happened in consequence of the removal of temporary props from under one of the four girders, before it was secured to the others by cross ties and bracing in the usual way. This was done by direction of the sub-contractor, contrary to the orders of the resident engineer. The girders weighed twenty-five tons each, and, as they fell, carried away the scaffold and nine men who were at the time on the girders and platform, killing the sub-contractor and the man who struck away the prop from under the girder. The other men, who also fell, escaped with a few contusions. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

CORK ELECTION.—Mr. Deasy has been returned for Cork by a majority over Lord Eunsimore of 256.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE BAND.—We have received a long statement from Monsieur L. C. Mosca, of the Crystal Palace Band, relative to the split among the performers. It is of course impossible for us to go into all the details; but we may mention that, according to the document before us, the disagreements have arisen from "the arrogance, pride, unmannerliness, and inability" of Mr. Schallen, the German conductor; and that the said Schallen, over and above his arrogance, pride, un-

mannerliness, &c., appears to be possessed with very vague and widely-extended notions as to the functions and powers of the English police, since he would often direct them to take into custody members of the band with whom he happened to have a disagreement about principles of art. On one occasion, an English member of the band, imbued with more precise ideas on the subject, had the boldness to address the despotic Schallen after this wise:—"Schallen! The moment I see a policeman come towards me, as sure as you are a man, you shall go into that water!"—pointing to a fountain opposite. In short, these gentlemen, though able to discourse most excellent music, appear to have been at sad discord with their chief; and, as a consequence, forty-nine out of fifty-three have resigned.

HAVANNAH.—Estrampes, one of the late conspirators, has been executed by garotte, exclaiming, "Death to the tyrants! Long life to liberty!" The island is tranquil.

THE POLISH ASSOCIATION.—An address from this association, expressing a hope that at some future time the regeneration of Poland may be considered by the European powers, was presented to the Emperor of the French during his visit to this country. The document was signed, on behalf of the council, by Lord Breadalbane the Vice-President, and Mr. W. Lloyd Birkbeck, the Honorary Secretary.

POST-OFFICE STATISTICS.—The first annual report of the Postmaster-General has just been issued. We gather from it that the present Post-office staff consists of 21,574 persons. The number of post-offices in the United Kingdom is 9973. During last year, 515 new post-offices, free deliveries to 1242 places and a London day mail to 14 towns, were established. Mails are conveyed daily over 57,000 miles, at an average charge of 8½d. per mile by railway and 2½d. per mile by coach. The number of chargeable letters which passed through the post last year was 443,000,000. Of these, 103,000,000 were delivered in the London district, and 210,000,000 passed through the London office. The gross revenue from postage on letters and books and commission on money orders last year was 2,689,000l., and the gross expenditure, 1,413,000l. Of this expenditure, 364,000l. was paid for conveyance of mails on railways, and 162,000l. for conveying them by coaches and carts. The report states that a postmaster, three assistant postmasters, and seven letter-carriers, have been stationed in the Crimea; also eighteen horses and mules are specially employed for the conveyance of mails there. During eight months 282,000 letters have been forwarded from England to the seat of war through France, and 325,000 letters have reached England from the seat of war by the same route. About 10,000 letters are sent to the Crimea, and 2500 are received from thence monthly, by the long sea route. The correspondence of our forces in the East presents an average of 45,250 letters to, and 13,125 from the seat of war in each month—"a result," says the report, "as gratifying in respect of amount as those portions of it which meet the public eye generally prove to be in respect of spirit, intelligence, and feeling."

BARONETCY FOR THE LORD MAYOR.—It has been announced to the City authorities that her Majesty has conferred the dignity of a baronetcy upon the Lord Mayor of London.

"THE LOW-BACKED CAR."—Mr. Davidson, music-publisher, of Doctors' Commons, has been restrained, by an injunction in Chancery, from publishing the celebrated song by Mr. Samuel Lover, called "The Low-backed Car." It was admitted by Mr. Lover's counsel that the music is only an adaptation of an old Irish air; but the words, it was contended, being original, there was a sufficient claim to copyright. On the other hand, it was urged that the song was first of all published in America, and that therefore there was no copyright in it; but the Vice-Chancellor would not admit this plea.

SUNDAY CLOSING.—A numerous meeting of delegates of the United Towns Association of Licensed Victuallers was held on Monday, when resolutions condemnatory of the Sunday Beer Bill, and in favour of continually sending in petitions against it, were unanimously passed.

DISCOVERY OF A SUBTERRANEAN VAULT AT PITTENWEEM.—The park at the back of the ancient Priory of Pittenweem, which has been in grass for a considerable number of years, is at present being trenched for the purpose of converting it into a garden; and at one particular place the ground gave way, when a cave was discovered which leads from the Priory to the sea-shore.

MR. VILLIERS.—A contemporary says that the rate of interest at which Mr. Villiers was accustomed to raise the funds for keeping up his position on the turf, varied from sixty to eighty per cent. per annum. In the securities which he was accustomed to give to money-lenders of the great metropolis, he was joined by many friends, who, confident of his honour, did not hesitate to accommodate him with their names. But, "we regret to add, that we fear, in too many instances, those names were not genuine, and the parties who only imagined they were liable for certain sums, are now called upon for trouble the amount. Some of them, we understand, among whom are the Marquis of Bath, Lord Glasgow, and Lord Clifden, have disavowed their signatures, and legal measures will be immediately adopted to try the question." Mr. Villiers is at present supposed to be in

Sweden, where the extradition treaty for giving up delinquents does not exist.

AMERICA.—The mail steamship *Illinois* has arrived at New York, with advices from San Francisco to the 16th. Business of all kinds was very dull. The affairs of Adams and Co. were in the courts, and many thousands of labouring people would lose every dollar they possessed. Some nefarious transactions were being brought to light. None of the suspended banks had resumed payment, and, with the exception of Page, Bacon, and Co., who had issued time certificates, it was not probable they would do so. From Utah, the Great Salt Lake city, we have advices to the 6th of February. Colonel Steptoe had been appointed Governor of the territory, *vice* Brigham Young. A serious collision had taken place on New Year's-day between the United States soldiers and the citizens at a drinking shop. Firearms were used, and threats to destroy the whole battalion made. The further sale of ardent spirits in the city had been forbidden.

STATE OF TRADE, LABOUR, &c.—The accounts from the manufacturing towns for the week show no material alteration in the course of trade, although on the whole the tendency has been towards a slight increase of steadiness. At Manchester, the market presented a healthy tone at the commencement, but subsequently great caution was manifested, owing to the uncertainties at Vienna and the nature of the financial statements at home. The Birmingham report describes little change either in the iron-market or the general trades of the place; the termination of the strike among the colliers has, however, created a satisfactory feeling. At Nottingham, there has been a diminished business in hosiery, but more activity in lace. In the woollen districts, the transactions are limited, but the home demand is sufficient to uphold prices. In the Irish linen trade there has been no variation.—*Times*.

DRAMATIC READINGS AT THE POLYTECHNIC.—Dramatic readings almost appear to be superseding dramatic performances. Mrs. Fanny Kemble and Miss Glynn have recently delighted all England by their chamber readings of Shakspeare; and on Thursday evening at the Polytechnic, we had another lady aspirant in the same direction. Mrs. Chatterley, known to the play-going world as a charming actress at a time when theatres were more thought of than now—read a selection from *As You Like It*, prefaced and interlinked by some critical and explanatory remarks, which exhibited an intellectual perception of her author. Considerable dramatic talent was shown by Mrs. Chatterley in the quick changes of her voice and manner as she represented the different characters; and she was frequently greeted with applause. We believe she proposes to give a series of Shakspearean readings, accompanied, as in this instance, by brief criticisms.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, April 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

PRACTICAL JOKES IN THE ARMY.

The Earl of Shaftesbury asked Lord Hardinge whether he meant to put a stop to such conduct as had been recently exhibited in the 30th Regiment, and the Enniskillen Dragoons?

Lord Hardinge admitted that the facts of the cases in question were not exaggerated; and that if remonstrance and admonition failed in correcting such abuses, he should adopt the most summary mode of putting a stop to them.

CHURCH RATES.

The Bishop of Exeter presented a petition on the subject of Church-rates, and went into the question of the state of the law, urging that recent decisions had not put an end to the stringency of the law enforcing the payment of those rates. He was replied to by

The Lord Chancellor, who upheld the decision of the courts and the House of Lords as to the power of the majority in a parish to prevent the imposition of a church-rate, while

The Bishop of London expressed a hope that, however the law might be altered, the House would not accept Sir W. Clay's bill for the abolition of church-rates.

After a few words from Lord Campbell, the subject dropped.

RUSSIAN TRADE THROUGH PRUSSIA.

The Earl of Albemarle presented a petition from Bristol praying for the vigorous prosecution of the war. He argued at length the necessity not only of keeping up a strict blockade in the Baltic and Black Sea, but also of this country's putting an end to all trade with Russia, and putting a stop to the transit of Russian products through Prussia. He urged that the extinction of the trade of this country with

Russia was the only way to make the landed proprietors of that empire feel the pressure of the war and desire peace; whereas, at present, their productions being just as much in demand as ever, they not only felt no inconvenience from the war, but many circumstances caused it to be popular among them. He showed that this country need not depend on Russia for hemp or flax, there being an abundance of those products in India, and the British merchants of Russia were quite prepared to abandon their trade if it was declared unlawful.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY replied, urging the old topics—that the blockade would be strictly enforced, and the humane system on which war was now carried on.

The House adjourned at 9 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE STATE OF THE NATION.

MR. LAYARD gave notice that on an early day he should move a series of resolutions to the effect that the House viewed with deep and increasing concern the actual state of the nation. Whilst at all times the administration of public affairs should be entrusted to those best qualified, it was the more necessary that they should be so at a moment of great national emergency. That the manner in which the interests of party-favouring influence had been consulted in preference to merit in appointments to the highest offices of State diplomacy, the army, and other branches of the public service, was opposed to the best interests of the State, and had already given rise to many great misfortunes, and was calculated to bring discredit on the national character, and involve the country in much distress. That the House would give its support to any Ministry which in the present emergency should propose to place the different departments on a proper and efficient basis in those respects.

A number of questions were asked of the Government from the answers to which it appeared, that it was intended to associate civil practitioners with the directorship of the Army Medical Department; that with regard to the fuses used at Sebastopol, some were made in 1853 and 1854, but others sent from Malta were of much older date; and that the Government had no intention of resuming Luigi Buranelli, the murderer of Mr. Latham.

MR. LAYARD'S SPEECH AT LIVERPOOL.

MR. EWART, referring to a statement of Mr. Layard's at Liverpool, that only one officer on the staff in the Crimea had obtained honours at Sandhurst, and that he was probably promoted from parliamentary influence, said that the officer in question, Major Ewart, of the 93rd, was a relative of his, and asked Mr. F. Peel whether any such influence had been used to secure the appointment of that officer.

MR. H. BARRING asked if the published statements of Mr. Layard, with regard to the services of certain officers in the Coldstream Guards was correct.

General PEELE justified the promotion, without purchase, of Colonel Hardinge, the son of the Commander-in-Chief, declaring that the step was given in strict accordance with military precedent, and fell to the lot of the officer in question by the fortune of service.

MR. F. PEELE denied that any undue influence had been exercised with regard to promotions in the army; and, after recapitulating a variety of facts and instances, called on Mr. Layard to retract the statements he hazarded.

MR. LAYARD explained that he had designed to offer no disparagement either to Major Ewart or Colonel Hardinge; but, on the general question, reiterated and adhered to his condemnation of the system of favouritism on which promotion had been granted to officers in the army. The honourable gentleman spoke with great vehemence and amidst frequent interruptions, the feeling of the majority of the House against him being very loudly expressed by derisive cheers, groans, and cries of "Oh, oh!"

THE HON. C. HARDINGE, MR. BYNG, Colonel LINDSAY, Colonel NORTH, and Colonel KNOX, also impugned Mr. Layard's statements.

LORD PALMERSTON addressed some very strong observations to the House on the question, treating Mr. Layard's assertions as of so indefensible a nature as to demand a retraction, which he urged the hon. gentleman to give. The subject then dropped.

The Loan Bill and the Customs Duties went through committee.

The rest of the sitting was occupied by a rather animated discussion of the Education Bill for Scotland, the stage being the second reading. On a division the second reading was carried by a majority of 39.

A memorial to Sir George Grey, in favour of Buranelli, on the ground of his insanity, has just been issued. It is signed by John Conolly, M.D.; William Baly, M.D., F.R.S.; Forbes Winslow, M.D.; Alexander Shaw, F.R.C.S.; and Mitchell Hervey, F.R.C.S.

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest. 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. 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. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1855.

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

ARE WE TO HAVE AN ARISTOCRACY?

ONCE more let us put this question plainly and broadly to our readers. We would fain see the people solve it, not in a spirit of personal hatred towards the aristocracy, which is merely servility inverted, and which would soon turn to envy of plebeian merit, but in a spirit of calm political wisdom. Does our aristocracy, as an institution, do good or evil? The time is come to solve this problem and act on the solution. To rail at this or that aristocratic appointment is idle, if not mischievous. If you have a governing class, you must let them govern.

While there is a House of Lords, half the Cabinet, that is half the great officers of state, must be in that House. There is an answer at once to those who expect that offices shall be shared between the aristocracy and the commonalty in any proportion to their respective numbers. And if half the great offices of state must be filled by Peers, a great number of the subordinate offices must also be filled by Peers, as a school of training for the higher.

Particular offices are important, but general legislation is still more so. You cry out because an inferior man is made an under-secretary; you do not cry out because four hundred inferior men are set to make your laws. You think it a gross evil that a Minister should make a class appointment; you think it natural that all measures of social and political improvement should be submitted to the interested decision of a class. Of what use are these obscure inquiries into the genealogy of placemen, when we all see that a Reform Bill has to pass the Lords?

What effect of the departmental misgovernment of aristocrats was ever half so noxious as the 600 millions of debt which an aristocratic Parliament contracted under the erroneous impression that NAPOLEON I. was an enemy to their interests, when it seems all the time he was the tamer of the Revolution, and ought to have received the Garter from the hands of GEORGE III.?

The Honourable A. B., a third-rate man, is appointed to the Woods and Forests; not corruptly, for he has what may very well appear in the eyes of a relative sufficient qualifications. Patriot journalists immediately denounce the appointment as an

abominable job. But railway legislation is at least as important as anything that comes under the Woods and Forests. And who are the controllers of Railway legislation in the House of Lords? Are they, or can they be chosen for peculiar impartiality and fitness?

Take away the monopoly of office from the aristocracy, oblige the sons of Peers to compete on equal terms with commoners, and what will your Upper House become? What young nobleman, with all the pleasures of society at his feet, will undergo the labour of a political education when, from the number of the competitors, he has next to no chance of ever gratifying his political ambition? The aristocratic branch of the legislature would sink into a mere crowd of frivolous voluptuaries. Our latter end would be worse than the first. The monopoly of political office alone has made the English aristocracy what it has been in history, that is, of all aristocracies the best, and the greatest of all save that of Rome.

MR. LAYARD moves to abolish family and party influences in the appointment to offices. That is, he moves to abolish aristocracy and parties. In other words, he moves a revolution.

Let us, then, manfully turn our minds to the main question. We believe that England has physically, morally, intellectually, and socially outgrown her aristocracy, and that there remains no basis of any kind sufficient to support a political caste. If this be true, nothing but a gradual and honourable abdication can avert a violent and disgraceful fall. We throw back the charge of revolutionary tendencies on those who are exciting a blind and aimless disaffection by railing at the effect while they keep out of sight the cause. We throw back the charge of disloyalty on those who, with official loyalty on their lips, court popularity by sapping what they must know to be the foundations of the throne. Besides, we shall not be scared at bugbears when royalty and aristocracy fall at the feet of usurpation, and drag legitimacy through the mud in our streets. Let us all march together under the tricolor to the fulfilment of our "convictions."

Only let us remember, first, that we must proceed deliberately, knowing well what we intend to do; and secondly, that good government is our end, not the gratification of personal ambition. To hold out political employment as the highest object of life to all, and stimulate a universal craving for political places, would be to inaugurate misery and confusion. Governors, and good governors, chosen in the best way and by our best faculties, are essential to society like good lawyers and good physicians; but to take a direct part in Government ought no more to be essential to any individual than to be a lawyer or a physician. Morbid and misguided ambition has been the bane of political progress throughout Europe; and it is mainly responsible for our present disastrous situation. We confess we turn a very deaf ear to the complaints of ambitious men balked of places by the governing class, though our ear is very open to the cry of sufferers from the evils which the errors of a governing class inflict upon the people.

REVELATIONS OF THE WAR MINISTRY.

It was not long since that we noticed a masterly sketch of the administration of our public service, and of the principles for a practical reform. The author of this pamphlet insisted strongly upon the necessity for consolidating the public service to a great extent, so as to facilitate the transfer of the servants from one department to another according to the need. The evidence given by the Duke of NEWCASTLE

before the Sebastopol Committee furnishes the proof corroborative of that necessity by laying bare the actual state of things in the departments at the present time. The DUKE speaks of the war departments as they existed at the commencement of the war, and as, with some very slight change, they now exist. This country is engaged in a war with the most powerful state on the Continent. It was well known that our establishments had been rendered comparatively ineffective by reductions during the long peace, by disuse of the machinery, and by the fact that we had only superannuated men of experience, or younger men without experience. It became, therefore, tenfold more necessary to have a vigorous concentration of power in the department regulating the war. The necessity was recognised when a separate Secretary of War was formed, the part having been formerly "doubled" by the Colonial Secretary. The conduct of the war is of course a subject for the Cabinet, and for the War Minister individually, as the member of the Cabinet to whose undivided attention the labour is given. What, however, was the state of things when the DUKE undertook the office thus divided?

In the first place, let us remark, there was no increase of his powers whatever. He was relieved of the colonial duties—that was all. He was supposed to hold in his hand the general directions of the war. The discipline of the army, however, was reposed in the Commander-in-Chief, with the appointment of subordinate officers. Sometimes the Commander-in-Chief communicated with the Secretary for War; but, as we shall see, not always. The finances of the army were under the direction of the Secretary at War, and are now virtually carried on by the Under-Secretary of State for War. When the Secretary for War, however, had to perform his duties, of regulating the movements of troops in the Mediterranean, he had, for cavalry and infantry, to communicate with the Commander-in-Chief; for the artillery, engineers, and sappers and miners, with the Master-General of the Ordnance; for matériel of a military kind, with the Ordnance; for food and transport, with the Treasury; and, in the meanwhile, the Secretary at War communicated with the Inspector-General of the Medical Departments. It is not to be understood that this case presents the combination of a supreme authority and subordinate authorities. No; in many respects the authorities were independent. The Treasury had its own views about the commissariat, and endeavoured to retain that department when the Secretary for War began the work of concentration. The Commander-in-Chief so far exercised an independent authority, that he recommended to the Crown the appointment of General Lord LUCAN, Brigadier-General TORRENS, and Brigadier-General GOLDIE; even departing from the usual practice of consulting with the Secretary of State before making such high appointments. Lord RAGLAN, Master-General of the Ordnance, was in command in the Crimea, drawing the salary of his office at home, but not performing the duties.

Not even performing, it appears by this evidence, the duties as they were understood of the Commander-in-Chief in the Crimea. In April last year the Duke of NEWCASTLE addressed a despatch to Lord RAGLAN, pressing upon him the necessity of making careful and secret inquiries into the state of the Russian army in the Crimea, and the strength of the fortress of Sebastopol, the recent additions to the defence, and the amount of provision for the garrison and town. But Lord RAGLAN "was unable to obtain any of the information required by the despatch;" and,

in short, he seems to have acted, to a great extent, upon his own separate and independent views, except possibly so far as he was swayed by other officers nearer to him, English or French.

The medical department, to speak straightforward, equally deceived the DUKE as to the actual state of the stores and medical ministrations. The officials in the departments were, no doubt, writing the requisite memoranda and letters; but the work was not done. Wine was directed to be sent, and lemon-juice was ordered; yet the wine did not arrive; and the complaints that lemon-juice had not arrived were sent home from the very quarter of the world where lemon-juice is bought. Yet reports were also sent home that the men had all that they wanted.

How is this? Were men engaged in a conspiracy to tell lies? No, they reported what they saw, or what they wished to believe. There must have been myriads of letters, but emanating from so many sources, addressed to so many different authorities, and bearing such different reports, that the whole result is universal confusion—anarchy, non-government. Early last year, Dr. ANDREW SMITH wrote a letter on the subject of military clothing, distinguished by great zeal, perhaps by an over anxiety on such subjects as flannel, and addressed to the Military Secretary, in whose official pocket it seems to have remained; the subject, we suppose, not being military, or incapable of a strong military appreciation. Stores that were wanted first were put on board ship under stores that were wanted afterwards; medicines for Constantinople under artillery for Sebastopol; and when the Duke of NEWCASTLE remonstrated with the Board of Ordnance, it was then discovered that "there was not that proper understanding between the Admiralty and the Board of Ordnance which ought to exist," so it was then resolved to establish the Board of Transport—another department to divide the authority.

This is how the Duke of NEWCASTLE found things working under him: what is the change under Lord PANMURE? The Committee has not yet penetrated so far; and if it tries, probably "the requirements of the public service" will bar its way. But we know two things. Some of the improvements begun by the Duke of NEWCASTLE have been carried out; but the chief of the office is not the energetic and conscientious DUKE in the prime of life. Lord PANMURE is more experienced; but he is a martyr to enfeebling sickness. Do we wonder that the second year of the siege of Sebastopol has opened, and that the fire has lasted from the 9th to the 25th inst. without material change? The army, the officers, and Ministers, can hardly tell us why we got before Sebastopol at all; they cannot guess when or how we shall come away.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

MANY circumstances have recently concurred to invest the Indian army with a degree of interest and importance which the British public seldom accords to any institution or subject not immediately and constantly before its eyes. The alacrity displayed by the officers of that service in undertaking to organise and conduct the Turkish contingent, has inspired the nation with a feeling of respect and consideration that has hitherto been most unjustly withheld, notwithstanding the distinguished achievements of that army. As long as war is actually raging in our Eastern possessions, the brilliant exploits performed by our troops, both European and Native, fill every true British heart with the glow of triumph and martial pride. But when peace is again restored, the glory ac-

quired in a remote country is like that won by our forefathers in the ancient days of CRESSY and AGINCOURT. A few hard sounding names are added to the schoolboy's hated task, but society in general—which only moves and talks, and neither reads nor remembers—becomes serenely forgetful of the men who have contributed a new illustration to the glorious annals of the nation. Gentlemen by birth, position, and character, bearing the QUEEN'S commission, and entrusted with difficult and important public duties in, perhaps, the most valuable possession of the British crown, they are nevertheless unrecognised, alike by their sovereign and their fellow-countrymen, on their return to their fatherland. They have no military rank westward of the Cape, although they may have commanded entire brigades in the field, and turned the doubtful tide of battle. Nor are they known as public servants, although their whole life may have been consumed in maintaining the integrity of the British Empire, and in administering laws and justice to tens of thousands of British subjects. No matter how distinguished his own services, or how illustrious his descent, not even a general officer of the Indian army is eligible as a member of the "Army and Navy," or the "Senior United Service" Club. His youngest child, though only a midshipman or a cornet of horse, remarkable for nothing save ignorance and affectation, is entitled to a privilege denied to a veteran warrior who may have served, with honour to himself and advantage to his country, in every campaign that has deluged the plains of India with blood since the battle of Assaye. The distinction thus drawn between the two services is most invidious and unjust. It is equivalent to a declaration that the officers of the Indian army are to be regarded as mercenary soldiers in the pay of a mercantile community, and, therefore, quite unfit to be admitted into the society of their aristocratical comrades, who hold their commissions from the sovereign alone. It must be acknowledged, however, that this prejudice originally arose from the anomalous nature of the East India Company's power and dominion, and from the coarse manners and disreputable proceedings of the reckless adventurers who in former times flocked to their standard. In those days it was no rare occurrence for a military man to amass a large fortune in comparatively a few years, and to return to England rich in wealth but poor in personal consideration. A very inferior class of men then entered the Indian service, and the state of the European society in that country was disgraceful and demoralising. It is, therefore, no matter of special wonder that the officers of the royal army looked down upon men whose best attribute was a dashing courage, and who were totally deficient in those qualities which constitute the true English gentleman. But it is needless to remark that this order of things no longer exists. A more honourable, or more intelligent body of men may not be found in the British Empire than the Indian officers of the present day. They may possibly have more of Saxon than of Norman blood in their veins, and few of them are in a position to drive four-in-hand, or to bet a cool thousand on the speed of a horse and the honesty of his rider. But they belong to "the gentry" of England, and are, therefore, befitting associates for the highest and the noblest in the land.

The exclusion of the officers of the royal army from all share in the extensive patronage in the gift of the East India Company is, undoubtedly, another and very natural cause of the jealousy that unhappily exists between the two services. With the exception of regimental appointments and the Commander-

in-Chief's Staff, there is nothing to stimulate the ambition of a Queen's officer, while the Company's servants may aspire, not only to military, but to civil appointments of high honour and emoluments. An officer of the Native Army who has attained a competent knowledge of two oriental languages may hope to become the Chief Commissioner of a district as important as the Principality of Wales, or to represent the Supreme Government at the court of a native prince ruling over millions of subjects. And even if he fail to carry off the highest prizes for merit, or interest, he may look with some confidence to an enviable post in the Commissariat, to the command of a Contingent or Irregular Corps, or to the lucrative office of Acting Engineer. In the beginning, this exclusive system was thoroughly consistent with that adopted by the Company in the general management of their affairs. A body of merchants, having formed a notable scheme for enriching themselves by trading with "the gorgeous East," obtained from the sovereign of the day the privilege of debarring all others from the display of similar enterprise. It was in furtherance of this narrow-minded policy that the nucleus was formed of the present Bengal Army. When the first factory was established at Hooghly, in the year 1652, the armed force stationed therein was limited to "an Ensign and thirty men, to do honour to the principal Agents." But only thirty-one years afterwards the Company increased this number to 250 European soldiers, not as a defence against the native princes, but expressly to prevent all competition on the part of other adventurous Englishmen—contemptuously designated as "interlopers" in all the public documents of the times. With the same view, a man-of-war was sent out from England to cruise in the Bay of Bengal, with orders to "suppress a class of freebooters, acting equally against the exclusive privileges of the Company and the interests of the nation." Subsequently, through an egregious misconception of the simplest principles of commerce, and by a series of fortunate blunders, the East India Company, after being brought to the verge of ruin, stumbled upon an empire, and from being dealers in colonial produce became the rulers of many millions of copper-coloured men. Now, this marvellous result was not achieved without the aid of a large auxiliary force from the Crown, whose services demand a more adequate requital than they have yet received. For the spirit of monopoly that originated the Company's success has unhappily been perpetuated in their administration, until the British Parliament has been compelled to interfere and to suppress their most cherished and exclusive privileges. Not only has the eastern trade been thrown open, but the Civil Service of India has ceased to be the apauage of half a dozen Scotch families. It now only remains to complete the demolition of the absurd *imperium in imperio*, a mercantile community possessing a standing army well nigh independent of their own Government, and ruling over a people many times more numerous than the immediate subjects of their sovereign. And this desirable consummation may be easily and equitably effected by reorganising the Indian Army, and by its conversion into a COLONIAL ARMY, on the same footing as the various corps known as the Canadian, Ceylon, and West Indian regiments.

It is commonly supposed, or at least stated, that India is the best military school for the English army, a fallacy than which there can be none greater. For, in the first place, the discipline in that torrid climate is necessarily less strict than in Europe, and the men, having more money and leisure at command,

generally acquire habits not commendable in a British soldier. Besides, when a regiment is ordered home, by far the greater portion volunteers to remain, and few of those who originally left their native land ever set foot on it again. Of the officers, too, more than one-third are placed on half-pay, so that it cannot be truly said that the experience of warfare obtained in India is essential to the efficiency of our home army. And it must also be borne in mind that for every regiment to be relieved there is one to be sent out, and that it frequently happens that, while either corps is proceeding to its destination, the services of the two regiments are lost to the State for upwards of a year at the same time. Undoubtedly, the presence of a few European regiments is highly important, and perhaps indispensable, to the security of our Eastern Empire; but it is by no means necessary that they should be detached from the QUEEN'S service in Europe. The European corps already in the pay of the Honourable Company have, on more than one occasion, proved themselves equal to the regular line, and it would be far less expensive to augment this force by a given number of permanent regiments than to persist in the present system of reliefs. And their efficiency would be the greater, because their officers might be required to pass through the same tests as to lingual attainments to which the officers of the native army are now subjected. But it is well known that the QUEEN'S officers rarely make any progress in the Oriental tongues, so that in the field they are quite unable of themselves to obtain any information as to the country, or the movements of the enemy.

This COLONIAL ARMY, then, would consist of European and of Native regiments, to be distributed over the entire Indian Empire, including Ceylon, without reference to the artificial and troublesome distinctions of Presidencies, which only tend to foster a spirit of jealousy and illwill. Officers in any other branch of the British service might be permitted to exchange into this force, and to enjoy every privilege at present the exclusive property of the Company's troops, on proving themselves capable of discharging the peculiar duties of the post which they sought to obtain. In the hour of need this army would be available for any quarter of the globe. It might be poured through Egypt into Europe, and landed at any point on the shores of the Mediterranean or the Euxine; or it might be employed to occupy the coasts of Western Africa or of China, or the islands in the southern seas. There would thus exist but one British army, united by common interests and sympathies. At home we would have a well-organised militia, ever ready to repel all foreign aggression, and a standing army, in a high state of discipline, capable of being hurled at any moment on a given point. And abroad, a colonial army inured to diversity of climates and skilled in a diversity of tongues, and at all times prepared to maintain peace and tranquillity in our most distant possessions. These three services, though distinct, might differ from each other less than do the various arms of artillery, cavalry, and infantry. And having all a similar duty to perform, they should, in common justice, be encouraged by similar hopes, and recompensed by similar rewards.

THE MORAL OF THE RECEPTION LAST WEEK.

"It is easy to be wickedly virtuous," says a prosperous Whig, when you reprobate the extinction, by perjury and massacre, of the liberties of a great nation. An unsuccessful liberticide and a weak criminal is odious, but this

man is successful and strong; and therefore a nation of freemen follow "the right instinct" in giving him a popular ovation.

Is this all the hope we have for the liberties of mankind? Is this the end of Revolutions? Has a nation so full of intellect and generous aspirations struggled so terribly and so long, only that it may become a fit subject for a despotism which rises by the hand of a St. ARNAUD, which rules through MORNYS and PERSIGNYS, which stands by Jesuitism and bayonets? The base moral frivolity, the utter ingratitude towards all who have tried to advance humanity, the abject despair of political virtue and human progress which this prostration before a liberticide evinces, are sad omens for our race.

It is a folly or an hypocrisy to say that France wants rest. This is not rest; it is suppression, which will lead in the end to worse unrest. The only thing that can give rest to a nation worthy to be free is the manful effort which shall bring her storm-tost liberties to shore.

"A rebellion—a civil war—a restoration—a reaction—furious factions—scaffolds running with blood—another rebellion! This nation wants rest!" So might WILLIAM OF ORANGE have said in 1688. And then, having fusilladed London into peace, he might have gone to Amsterdam and talked of his "convictions" to "a land of liberty without danger."

If despotism be just in France, why do we make war against the despot of Russia? Is it because the despot of Russia is really a social necessity, and because he has not extinguished in blood the liberties of a free people?

You talk of this despotism as required by the interests of civilisation. Civilisation is not material prosperity, such as sheep may enjoy under a shepherd. Civilisation is something moral, and its source is freedom of thought. But the Jesuit, supported by the gendarme, stands triumphant over freedom of thought in France.

Is any one so weak and so ignorant of history as to be misled by the popular beginnings of despotism? Can any one be cheated of free institutions by seeing "Emperor by the will of the people" on a coin, or be bribed to relinquish them by a magnificence in architecture, easy to those who can take any man's money at their will? AUGUSTUS was elaborately affable. AUGUSTUS was tribune of the people. AUGUSTUS found Rome brick, and left it marble. AUGUSTUS banished, confiscated, proscribed. After AUGUSTUS came TIBERIUS, CALIGULA, CLAUDIUS, NERO.

We are told that God forgives, and that man ought to forgive, the past. The suppression of French liberty is not past. Now, while we are feasting LOUIS NAPOLEON, his noble victims, whom we once feasted, are living in exile, or bowing their heads in shame at home. Now, amidst the crapulous transports of civic adulation, hundreds are being tortured to death by the fevers of Cayenne—condemned as disturbers of society by the man who raised the standard of civil war in his own selfish interest at Boulogne and Strasburg. God and man may forgive the robber, but not while his knee is on the breast, and his hand on the throat, of his victim.

We are told that France has condoned the *coup d'état*. Who heard France pronounce this condonation? Let the French press be free for a day, and if the voice it utters is that of condonation, we shall regard the slavery of France for the future without horror, though not without sorrow.

Englishmen must not mistake what they have done in the eyes of France and Europe. To grasp cordially the hand of the actual ruler of France, and to join with him heartily in any enterprise for the benefit of the two nations would have been well. All Europe would have

understood it. It would even have been well to flatter to the utmost any tendencies that he might show to promote the prosperity, and still more, the future emancipation of his country. But we have invited to a personal triumph, and covered with personal adulation, the author of the *coup d'état*. LOUIS NAPOLEON sought consecration for his deed elsewhere in vain, even from the POPE. He has found it at the hands of the English court and aristocracy, in a country which boasts itself the guardian of freedom. Legitimacy in the person of despots has been more true to its own honour than liberty. Legitimacy has repelled the usurper; liberty has crowned the liberticide.

All the world imputes this to our cowardice. LOUIS NAPOLEON himself will impute it to our cowardice. We change the name of the Waterloo Gallery. He pays the legacy of his uncle to the man who attempted to assassinate WELLINGTON, and forbids a eulogy of WELLINGTON to circulate in France. Eight hundred years ago England felt a conqueror; now she feels a patron.

We can scarcely veil this cowardice under the mask of gratitude. LOUIS NAPOLEON proclaimed that the Empire was peace, and then sent out LAVALETTE to bring on a war. The conduct of that war was claimed in the name of a dreadful obligation by a moribund desperado, who wished to die a hero, and who hurried us to the Crimea in spite of "timid counsels." We blame our own Ministers, and justly, for nepotism; but what is nepotism to the motive which led LOUIS NAPOLEON to entrust our armies to ST. ARNAUD?

We have mortally offended all parties in France but that of the *coup d'état*, and staked the French alliance on the continuance of a detested power and a precarious life. It is difficult to induce French Liberals to make just allowance even for the mass of the people, who had no thoughts but those of hospitality, and of the French army fighting side by side with our own; who saw the tricolor, and looked no further; and to whom the passive acquiescence of France, staggering to all, is perfectly overwhelming.

We have done what is worse than endangering any foreign alliance. We have endangered the source of our own liberties by publicly degrading law and duty. We have taught some, who are ready to learn the lesson, that there is no crime but failure, and that there is nothing more interesting than a liberticide, unless, perhaps, it be a liberticide's wife. The Tory party, on the morrow of the *coup d'état*, rapturously proclaimed, even in the British Parliament, the triumph of LOUIS NAPOLEON over liberty and law. They at once accepted him as their patron, and began to threaten with the consequences of his anger any who denounced his crime. They have assiduously proclaimed that the late ovation was a tribute, not only to the French alliance, but to the personal career of the usurper. Let us compare the adroit flattery of "liberty without danger" with the allusions and insinuations of the *Moniteur*. Let us remember that in this country, too, we are not without bayonets and Jesuits, much less without conspirators, and that ten years ago France seemed eternally and securely free.

THE CRISIS OF DIPLOMACY.

THERE is at least one merit in the policy of Austria. It is based on serious calculations. This may not be evident to those who estimate all things by a British standard; but the statesmen of Vienna have their own interest in view, as we have ours; and though theirs may be the narrower, it may, for that vulgar reason, be the more definite. Nothing is easier than

to argue in platitudes in behalf of another nation; but for Austrian diplomatists there is an Austrian method of reckoning between Turkey and Russia, and this political parallax nullifies the conclusions of eager patriots, who, whether selfish or generous, are liable to the same errors. In both cases they forget that there are men at Vienna who are more than puppets round the throne, and that were the EMPEROR convinced, he would have to persuade his advisers.

Half the arguments of the warlike party in England are unintelligible in Vienna. What is it to FRANCIS-JOSEPH, for example, that a loyal union with the Western Powers might deepen the foundations of his empire, if it might also imperil the domestic quietude in which his throne reposes? What is it to his Cabinet that war would be glorious, if peace is safe? They seek to be wise for themselves, not for their posterity, and there can be no doubt that neutrality, if it were possible, would do more to avert the deluge than any policy which would rouse the forces of the State.

Its possibility is a question of fact, which must work out its own solution. Austrian statesmen, therefore, naturally and fairly take advantage of every chance in their favour, and adopt every suggestion of diplomatic casuistry, as a ground for further delay. Before the Vienna Conference sat they were armed with an obvious retort to all reproaches—war could not be commenced until negotiation had failed. Negotiation *did* fail, from the English and French point of view, but not so surely from the Austrian. For it must be remembered that the Plenipotentiaries at Vienna did not join issue between Great Britain, France, Austria, and Turkey on one side, and Russia on the other. They had to harmonise the Allies as well as the belligerents, and were probably successful in neither. Turkey itself is indisposed to be quite so docile as the two Western Cabinets would desire, while Austria always has remained in a state of partial isolation. Nor could it be otherwise. Her policy might be different from that of Russia without being identical with that of the Western Powers. If she entered on the war, therefore, it would be for herself, not for the British or Ottoman Cabinets; and those Powers had to prove, by their representatives, that an active league with them would be more profitable for Austria than an armed neutrality along the flank of Prussia.

The Vienna Government, never forgetting that in peace is its salvation, may have supported the two points in which Prince GORTSCHAKOFF acquiesced, and then held that enough had been conceded. Upon no other ground is her hesitation to be explained. Her aim was selfish and personal; she gained her objects on the Danube, and had no anxiety concerning fleets or forts on the Black Sea.

If the argument ended here it would be futile to expect the co-operation of Austria. She is not bound to fight for equity, and any further reasonings must be addressed to her interests alone. Consequently, if within the next month she takes the field, her statesmen will act under necessities not yet apparent to them. First, there will be the pressure of external influences, which will be resisted until they become irresistible. Next, the Austrian army, maintained in idleness on a war footing, threatens to devour the imperial revenue. The elements of disaffection lie ready to be quickened by an opportunity, and thus Austria may resort to the desperate remedy of war, with its concomitants of loans and guarantees, in preference to the alternative of financial collapse and intestine anarchy. Practically, moreover, the first and second of the Four Points remain to be contested in the field, no less than the third, since the war can have but one of two results. It

must force Russia to relinquish that which the Western Allies demand, or it must disable those Allies from insisting on the terms they proposed at Vienna.

It is clear to Austrian statesmen that war would bring incalculable forces into the field, and commit the destinies of Germany to a portentous issue. Neither of the German Powers is certain of the other, or of France, or of Great Britain. Neither can foretell how far Russia will resist, or Turkey forbear, or France and Great Britain act in concert. Here are considerations which excuse delay on the part of a government which provides only for the present hour. Complications and uncertainties add daily to the hazards of the future; the Western Alliance itself depends on a single will, determined in secret, enforced by decrees. A hostile army may appear on the Rhine, revolt may rush like flame through Lombardy. These are the elements of the calculation, and Austrian statesmen prove at least that they are careful of their own brief future, when they cling to peace, and shrink from the horrors and perils of war.

Are English statesmen as thoughtful? Is the English public as deliberate? We may now be approaching a general convulsion which will divide Europe against itself for years to come. If so, a tremendous waste of blood and treasure, the rupture of innumerable relations, the exhaustion of productive power, the paralyzing of industry, the demoralisation of civilised states, are sure to follow, and there are questions which must be put with irresistible force. Do we, however, pause to interrogate our Government? Is Great Britain as careful for herself as Austria? Is she contending for selfish, or for generous purposes—or for neither? Is there a plan or a principle in her action? Or have we "drifted" into this fearful war with no other prospect than that of getting out of it, at some future day, how we can?

These are questions which we do not leave to the Manchester party. They are worth examining, however, that we may know whether fifteen thousand Englishmen have rotted in the Crimea for the sake of a diplomatic quibble, or whether we are fighting in the hope that a good cause will turn up worth fighting for.

COPYRIGHT IN NEWS.

THE advocates of a Copyright of intelligence seem to suspect that it is an impossibility, which is fortunate, as it is also an absurdity and an injustice.

The only rational objects of copyright are those to which we apply the term of authorship, that is to say, ideas and language. These are the products of the author's own brain; and he has as good a right to a property in them as another man has to a property in the work of his hands. But a fact, or an event, belongs like light and air to all mankind. Directly it transpires, no matter by what means, it becomes a part of the general knowledge of the world; and you have as good a right to republish it as you have to repeat it—the latter right being one, we presume, which nobody denies.

Are we, writing within twenty-four hours after an important piece of intelligence has been published, to ignore that about which all the world is talking? If we do not ignore it we republish it, and fall within the prohibition. We cannot even allude to it or repeat it for the purpose of confuting it, without rendering ourselves liable to the penalty of indirect republication.

We presume, that as proof of an independent source of information, the action must fail. And how is it to be determined what are independent sources of information? IF

a man who has read the *Times* or *Herald* repeats its intelligence to a writer in an evening paper, is that an independent source?

The paper in which intelligence first appears will still be exclusively bought by all those to whom very early intelligence is a necessity, or a luxury. An hour's start is as good as a week with a stock-jobber. An hour's start is as good as a week with all of us when we are anxiously looking for intelligence from the Crimea. Remuneration will be obtained for the supply of intelligence in each according to the number of persons interested, because everybody interested would buy the paper in which it first appeared.

Are the foreign papers to have a copyright in their news against the *Times*?

"THE STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

[The responsibility of the Editor in regard to these contributions is limited to the act of giving them publicity. The opinions expressed are those of the writer: both the *Leader* and "The Stranger" benefit by the freedom which is left to his pen and discretion.]

("A LAUGH")—that is now the report of Parliamentary proceedings. From the general tone of affairs down in Palace-yard, one feels justified in suggesting that the horse-collar might with appropriateness be added to the British Arms—the Lion would then look more British. This comes from having a wag as a Premier, a noble lord who winks at his Queen, and pokes fun at his country, and whose general notion of his functions in the House is that he should treat the Opposition as Mr. Merryman, in the Ring, treats Mr. Widdicombe. Possessed as he is of the insane liveliness of the comic writer—a class who come to public tumbling when a subscription has to be raised for any individual member, induced into actual madness by his professional hilarity—I have no doubt that if Lord Palmerston were pressed, he would consent to sing "Hot Codlings" before the session is out. But, as the Britons are a practical people, why do they put up with this feeble imitation of the natural comic? As the old Lords are rather used up, why not avail ourselves of our colonial connexions to construct a cabinet of laughing jackasses? It wouldn't be much more expensive; for their keepers could get their 500*l.* per annum as private secretaries—at present, gentlemen of brains appointed to look after the old Lords—a Hammond being to a Russell as the background female is to the more prominent "dress-lodger" whom she lets out.

The now constant rising of Palmerston—which means the permanent friskiness of Palmerston—has rendered the club much more attractive; and when the telegraph between Balaklava and the Ministers, and the Smoking rooms, is actually at work, Coppock's business will have a great increase; it will then be something to be "in," particularly if the Government, as the last effort of the aristocracy to put down the *Times*, should turn penny-a-liner, and read out all the news of the day between four and six every afternoon. But in this matter it must be some other Minister than Palmerston who is to divulge the news on such occasions. He has such an inveterate habit, only equalled by a practised ticket-of-leave man, of not committing himself by any sort of intelligible answer to any description of question, that he couldn't, if he tried, state a plain fact. How he was ever brought to say, "Yes," in answer to the Church's inquiry whether he would take Lady Palmerston as his wedded wife, is a mystery his best friends have never been able to explain; and, of course, a man of that peculiar idiosyncrasy would not do as a Government sub-editor in arranging the news. And, after all, members may be too ingenuous in assuming that this new "triumph of science" will at all facilitate our actual knowledge of events. Considering that the newspapers, with news of fourteen days' age, are constantly reprimanded for giving information to the enemy, how can we expect that our secretive Governing Classes will be very rapturously eager to announce information of a few hours' youth? There is a telegraph at work to Vienna; but the interests of the public service seem to have required that we should know nothing of what has been done, or is to be done

there. The triumph of science, then, may not in the least promote our self government—the English notion of self government being news about ourselves.

"It is rumoured," however, that the absurd negotiations at Vienna are over: Russia has treated our old Lords and the Brummagem Napoleon with derision—Russia, a despotism of intellect, knows the men she has to contend against, and that such men cannot win. We know, then, at last—the affectations of our old Lords are now exhausted—that we have a war before us with some greater object than the limitation of Russian ships in the Black Sea to six sail of the line. The solemn old gentleman, deputed by the Cabinet of solemn old gentlemen, is on his way home from Vienna to confess that he has been going through a ludicrous process of Conference, and that the very blunders which he committed eighteen months ago, in considering that Russia only crossed the Pruth for strategic purposes, he has committed again this April, in imagining that Alexander the Second would back Russia beyond the point where she stood in the reign of his uncle. We are to have a debate on foreign policy, in the course of which our old Lords will successfully demonstrate that they never have had, and never can have, any statesmanlike conception of the position or duty of England in conflict with aggressive Russia. The men who drifted into the war will drift in the war. They will "trust" to the co-operation of Austria, who, nevertheless, is too sensible to stir, and they will "rely" on our cordial ally of France, and they will "hope" that Frederick William will keep a French army out of Berlin. And they will announce that they will carry on the war with "vigour," by pouring our Irish and English peasants into the Crimea, and leaving patrician imbeciles to lead them to resultless destruction. Also that, meanwhile, they will raise 100,000,000*l.* annual taxes; and that, if necessary, they will recur to duties on bread, and generally push back England as far as she can go towards 1800. And the House of Commons will give laughing cheers, vote the money, and leave these veteran idiots to ruin England, according to all the forms of constitutional incompetency.

England has already gone back, has ceased to be England. Where is the public spirit, the public knowledge, the public man, English? We last week cheered a crowned *coquin* through our streets; and this week, what does the apathy, the grin, the dilettantism, of Parliament—fumbling with Marriage questions and Wills questions—indicate and illustrate, but the decay of public liberty? Our public spirit is shown in a quidnuncy clamour for paragraphs from Lord Raglan as to the weather, while we abstain from forcing our facetious Premier to tell us what he and his sovereign (of Paris) are doing, or about to do, with the history of Europe. Our public liberty is manifested in the enjoyment of a Sebastopol Committee, which puts questions with the crapulous and objectless curiosity of an old Gossip, and which a Duke of Newcastle, or any other clever witness, can play with, as a Humphrey Parry could play with a Pantaloon bench of chattering Sergeants Adams. Our public man displays his heroic patriotism in travelling down to assist at a Mersey ship-launch, and to a besherryed company of gentlemen and ladies, recapitulating the stale innuendoes of a Pall-mall smoking-room—offering to the gushing patriots of a Liverpool 'Change that, by way of a cry against Russia, we should shout "Justice to Billson;"—who, it turns out, is thinking, not of his country, but of his 3000*l.* Our public press—palladium of our liberties—is almost exclusively occupied in assuring the nation that if the papers were sold cheap, the editors (meaning themselves) would be scamps; or when it is not engaged in that careful demonstration, it is employed in congratulating us that, though our taxes are enormous, they are very nicely distributed. The country is profoundly doubtful whether it is worth while to spend 100,000,000*l.* a year in order, at the end of ten years, to bring Russia to consent that she shall not show more than six ships in the Black Sea—or whether civilisation should be convulsed in order that the simious Turk should be tranquil on the Bosphorus, and that Louis Napoleon and Victoria should be on visiting terms. But these are the only objects for which our old Lords—our caste of ruling incapables—appeal to us to contend: and, in a war of that sort, a war as to six ships or twelve ships, a statesman's war in the sense of a red tape war, there can

be no public spirit, no grand thought, no national question. Let us, then, get out of such a war, or say to the old Lords—Go to your castles and your gout, and leave us the State:—with the money you are making us pay we could establish Freedom in Europe, and while we are about it we will.

But who is to set about the Revolution? There's to be a City Meeting of the Travers' Whigs, to recommend a consolidation of the War Departments. The Manchester Liberals are engrossed in protesting that they hope the Whigs will be punished by Lord Derby coming in. The statesmen among the Peers are occupied in putting up debating-society-men like Lord Albemarle, whose principal distinction in human affairs is, that he was once private secretary to Lord John Russell, to talk statistical speeches about the Russian transit trade—which speeches, after all, the Lords, with all their private practice in being bored with one another, cannot stand, for, when Lord Albemarle was finishing last night, his audience consisted of—three. You cannot look to the mass of the professedly-enlightened Members, for one set of them (who let the interest on their invested capital run on that day) are going to shut up the Sunday trade shops in the back streets, while another set of them, who are nevertheless not indisposed to throw out the cheap newspaper bill, and who fully believe that this country, and themselves in especial, are in the van of civilisation, are intent on the Education Bills—or what the Scotch Members, speaking of their own bill, due last night, call the "Education" bills. As to the great British public, it is glad to hear that Lord Panmure has resigned, and it hopes the next old Lord will be an improvement, and it shakes its head about Palmerston, and if it had a leader, to lead it by the nose, might perhaps do something, but not having a leader, will pay its increased taxes, and make fortunes, and get out of work, and go to the workhouse quietly, with that persevering and industrious stupidity which is the secret of our commercial prosperity, Sir. Well, then, where are we to look for our Revolutionists? Not in Mr. Layard. I don't adopt the cant that was so triumphantly pervading the House, its galleries, and lobbies last night, that the scrape he got himself into has smashed him for ever. In his too conceited obstinacy, he was weak and wrong not to say, "On this particular illustration of my general argument I see that I am wrong." That admission would not in the least have affected his general argument—which is all the world's general argument—that the system of the Horse Guards is an infamous system, degrading to the nation, disgraceful to individuals. He may have been gratified as a vain man, who is not a proud man, in causing an uproar in the House—in being belloved at, yah-ed at, given the lie to, called false and calumnious (amidst great cheering) by Lord Palmerston—the whole constituting a scene not paralleled since the memorable Duffy hubbub two years ago. He was not cool and quiet, as Mr. Duffy was; he argued, he got into new blunders, he expostulated with the uproar—catching at and replying to passing yells and phrases. The House was very full, and very excited, and very brutal, as the House always is at such times: and a man of veritable intellect would not have made such a shocking mistake as to fight with such an audience—more especially when in the wrong, as beyond all question Mr. Layard was, and so thoroughly in the wrong, that he could not get one solitary member to say a word for him. The bluff Tory officer-members—Colonel North and Colonel Knox sort—fine, dull fellows, whom it was wonderful and delightful to hear, talking in a high "swell," but very vigorous and effective manner, last night—these gentlemen went to their dinner when it was all over, very contemptuous of Mr. Layard—they said he wasn't a gentleman. And there was but one opinion on all hands that Mr. Layard had deserved the painful pulling down, his best friends confining themselves to the expression of a belief that, after all, it would do him good, and make his orations less swaggery and more useful. But Mr. Layard is only down for the moment. He will, certainly, never lead a party, nor impress himself as a chief, on an assembly so full of analytical intellect as the House of Commons; and if he doesn't study the manner, and tone, and tastes of the place, he will speedily take a disastrous place among the recognised bores. Yet, assuming that he will improve as an elocutionist, and otherwise subdue the presuming self, there is, the roars of last night notwithstanding, a fine and honourable Parliamentary career before him. He has the earnestness, the energy, and the honesty, which claim respect: and his vast special knowledge of the whole question of the war already constitutes him a power which the public is eager to recognise. It would be better if, in future, he would avoid starring it in the provinces, and if, in the House, he would not pretend to so prominent a part as impeaching a Ministry. For, observe, he takes to this line—without a company.

"A STRANGER."

Saturday Morning.

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*.

ON the 4th of March last year, in giving a biographical sketch of LAMENNAIS, who had just died, we mentioned his having been for some time engaged on a translation of DANTE. Indeed, it was near the close of his analytical account of the *Purgatorio* that his hand was arrested by death; enough remains, however, of his work to interest all students of Literature; enough remains to show what this final testament and confession of faith would have been. His literary executor, E. D. FORGUES, is about to publish the translation of the *Inferno*; and the proof sheets of the *Introduction* lie before us. This *Introduction* is a work by itself, and worthy of being separately translated for English readers as an eloquent and thoughtful study of *Dante, his Life, his Doctrines, and his Works*. In the *Considérations Générales*, which open the work, LAMENNAIS sketches in his fervent and brilliant style the state of Europe, intellectually and morally, at the time of DANTE's appearance, and concludes, saying: "This poem is at once a tomb and a cradle: the magnificent tomb of a departing world, and the cradle of a world about to be born; a portico of two temples, the Temple of the Past and the Temple of the Future. The Past has placed there its creeds, its traditions, its science, as the Egyptians placed their kings and symbolical gods in the sepulchres of Thebes and of Memphis. The Future brings to it the aspirations and the germs which it envelops in the garments of a newly-born language and a splendid poetry—a mysterious child nourished at two breasts, sacred tradition and profane fiction, MOSES and SAINT PAUL, HOMER and VIRGIL."

A biographical Memoir follows, which is succeeded by chapters on DANTE's works and doctrines. After these pages of eloquent criticism we have the analysis of the *Inferno*, and the greater part of the *Purgatorio*; where LAMENNAIS breaks off, his editor has borrowed from Mr. LEONARD SIMPSON's analysis the concluding paragraphs, thus completing the work. The present is not a fitting occasion to do justice to LAMENNAIS as a critic of DANTE; it would require a separate article, and a long one, which the English version may give us an opportunity of writing. Enough for to-day if we call attention to the forthcoming publication.

If DANTE leads us to Rome and the Middle Ages, we have only to take up the last number of *La Revue des Deux Mondes* to find ourselves en pleine *histoire de Rome*. First, there is a long and valuable paper by AMÉDÉE THIERRY, on "Héraclius," in which the story of the termination of the second empire of the Huns and the foundation of Croatia, Servia, and Bulgaria is handled in a masterly style. Then there is a paper by AMPÈRE, on the *First Centuries of the Republic*, in his curious series *L'Histoire Romaine à Rome*. From a posthumous work about to appear, by M. OZANAM, a long extract is published, which treats of the "Commencement des Nations Néolatines;" and, to complete this Italian colour, PAUL DE MUSSET gives a charming little story of Italian life—"Le Patito"—touched in his happiest spirit. From this enumeration it will be seen that the present number of the *Revue* commends itself strongly to the reader interested in Rome—and what reader can remain indifferent to that magical city? The *Revue*, however, provides even for this mythical reader. It entices him, for example, with a description of the Caravan to Mecca, forming the second paper of the series, "La Syrie et les Bédouins;" it entices him (not very powerfully) with a review of FRANZ PALACKY's works on the *History of Bohemia*; and it entices and enchains him with a delightful paper of Natural History, by M. QUATREFAGES, on the "Metamorphoses of Butterflies, Insects, Reptiles," &c. The writer possesses the art of making science agreeable and intelligible to the laity, and no one will read without interest his description of the series of metamorphoses which characterise the life of these insects and animals. Apart from the metamorphoses which are undergone by the creature in the egg, M. QUATREFAGES classifies the changes under three heads, or periods: the first period being one of external and internal activity, having the exclusive purpose of the *growth of the individual*; the second being one of internal activity, which *modifies the individual*; the third being one of external and internal activity, which has for its final purpose the *propagation of the race*.

One curious point we may remark. The female butterfly dies immediately after depositing her eggs, the male having already preceded her in what M. QUATREFAGES magnificently styles "the tomb." For them, as indeed for most insects, marriage is mortal; their existence ceases as soon as they have assured the existence of the race. Nor is this fact simply a fact of coincidence. There is causal connexion between the death of the individual and the propagation of the race. Let the marriage of these butterflies be retarded, and their lives, usually so brief, are prolonged in a remarkable manner. This is sometimes seen with butterflies born late in the autumn: the coldness of the season arrests their development, the metamorphoses which are necessary before the power of reproduction is attained are arrested, and winter comes on to find them still unwedded; they seek shelter from the cold, subsist through the winter, and reappear

as gay young bachelor and virgin in the earliest splendours of spring. Now, here is a case of vestal purity prolonging the normal life of a few weeks into that of several months. But, lest this should tempt any of those willing *propter vitam vivendi perdere causas*, we must add that the same thing is by no means true of mankind. All examples of longevity in our race are found among married people; celibacy is as fatal to us as it is favourable to the insect.

Is that phrase "favourable to the insect" correct after all? Are we not in error altogether in measuring life by Time? SHELLEY used to say that the ephemeron who hovered during one day over a pool lived perhaps as long as the tortoise, measuring time by sensation. Without taking up this ground, we may say that Life being a *cycle of definite changes*, which terminates only when those changes are accomplished, it matters little whether those changes are accelerated or retarded; the amount of change and the order of change being constant, the life is the same in each case.

Another remark is suggested by this article, another paradox worth a passing notice. That fecundity has some mysterious relation with starvation is seen not only in the terribly familiar facts of curates' families (when curates have seventy or eighty pounds a year), Irish families, and the general complaint that the mouths are found most numerous in houses where the food is scantiest; it is seen not only in the fact that gardeners impoverish trees to make them fruitful, and that grass in sandy or gravelly soil is always full of seed; but it is seen in so many cases that Mr. DOUBLEDAY, in his *True Law of Population*, actually propounds the theory of starvation being the measure of fecundity, as over-feeding is of sterility. We have on more than one occasion shown how untenable is this theory, and how contradicted by a wider survey of facts. But we allude to it to show that, at any rate, under-feeding does stand in some direct relation to fecundity, if not constituting the sole cause; and with that fact before us, it is curious to read M. QUATREFAGES on the formation of the Queen Bee. As he reminds us, it is only in virtue of an exorbitant share of food that the working Bee becomes developed into a Queen Bee; and if any of the food set aside for the royal larva happens to fall into the cells of the other larvæ, these plebeian parties incessantly develop into dynastic personages. While, therefore, on the one hand we see a mass of facts pointing to some direct relation between under-feeding and fecundity, and between over-feeding and sterility, in the Bees we see the reverse is true: *there over-feeding is the condition of fecundity*. May we not connect this with the fact formerly noticed in these columns of the large proportion of numerous offspring among aristocratic families?

The *North American Review* has two articles in the present number upon English writers. One on Mr. DOVE's "Science of Politics;" and one on "Miss YONGE's Novels"—*Heartease*, and *the Heir of Redclyffe*—two works which have certainly had greater success than any religious novels since the days of HANNAH MORE. The critic is very enthusiastic; but his acumen may be estimated by the following criticism of our incomparable Miss AUSTEN:—

Miss Austen's characters are perfectly, faultlessly delineated: but were they worth delineating at all? Some of them are clever. Some of them are good. Are they, any of them, interesting, elevated, or elevating? We shut them up in the books where they respectively belong, with no sigh of regret that they can never come out, but rather with one of relief, like that with which we close the door on a family of respectable bores, who have happily brought their parting call to a conclusion, and are off, with very flattering prospects, for California, while we rejoice that they are likely to do so well, and that we are likely to have no more to do with them.

The Imperial Government of France has replied to some recent elections of the Academy by the sudden creation of a Batch of Academicians, selected, of course, from among the most servile of its own creatures. This batch of ten is to form a new section of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, classified as *Politique, Administration, Finances*. The names of the non-elected are considered to be a sufficient counterpoise to future BERRIERS, PONSARDS, and LEGOUVÉS. The FORTY are naturally enraged at this monstrous intervention. For a moment it occurred, as it well might occur, to certain of the most distinguished of the Old Academicians, that a fitting opportunity had arrived for a moral demonstration. MM. THIERS, MIGNET, and DE TOCQUEVILLE talked of a collective resignation, peradventure fifteen "just men" could be found among the forty. But, alas for cheap magnanimity! the fifteen were not forthcoming. Indeed, writes a private correspondent, DIOGENES would scarcely have lit his lamp to look for them.

A series of Lectures that cannot fail to be interesting will be delivered on successive Wednesdays, commencing on the 16th of May, by Signor MONTE—on Ancient and Modern Sculpture. No attempt will be made to establish abstract principles or to enter into antiquarian and theoretical controversies. The object is practical—to give an intellectual history of the Art of Sculpture, its various origins, development, aim, and progress. The judgment will thus be aided to appreciate the sculptures of different periods and different countries, by a comparison of the works themselves. The Lectures will be illustrated by diagrams of the most noted works and examples, exhibiting different processes, which the lecturer will sometimes exemplify in the actual execution. No sculptor of our day has so perfect an apprehension of life in stone as MONTE; he has a large knowledge, a profound

sympathy, and great practical experience. They will be lectures from the workshop of all ages, delivered by a Master.

Not one of the least remarkable signs of the times on the northern horizon is the announcement by the esteemed and distinguished exile ALEXANDER HERZEN, whose whole life is devotion to the cause of social emancipation among his countrymen, of a Quarterly Russian Review to be published in London, as the organ of revolutionary Russia. It is to be called *L'Etoile Polaire*: the first number will appear on the 1st of August. It will depend on the support the editor may receive from Russia whether the Review will appear at intervals of three or of four months. In each number there will be a general article of revolutionary philosophy, addressed more particularly to social questions, an historical or statistical article on Russia, or on the Slavonic race; an analysis of some remarkable work of history, politics, or philosophy; and a paper on Russian literature; with the usual summary and correspondence. M. HERZEN offers this Review as an asylum to his countrymen "who have been shipwrecked by the censorship." He desires to "fix in type" the forbidden manuscript fragments of POUCHKINE, LERMONTOFF, RILIEFF. In the first number we are promised a curious correspondence between BELINSKY and GOGOL; a political paper, with this text, "Qu'est-ce que l'Etat?" and a review, by the editor, of M. MICHELET's *Renaissance*.

We hail the appearance of this Russian Review with real satisfaction, and we cordially wish its courageous editor success.

LES IDEES NAPOLEONIENNES.*

Ma voix est libre comme ma pensée . . . et j'aime la liberté.

(Preface to the "Idées Napoléoniennes.")

"ONE word more, Messieurs. I represent before you a principle, a cause, and a defeat. The principle is the Sovereignty of the People; the cause is that of the Empire; the defeat is that of Waterloo. The principle, you have recognised it; the cause, you have served in it; the defeat, you would avenge it." Thus perorated Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, when arraigned before a Court of Peers to answer for his invasion of a peaceful country that had transferred its worship from Moloch to Mammon. The "principle" is elsewhere defined to be that excellent form of government which provides for the correction of all grievances and abuse of power without civic commotions, for the revision of the laws and constitution when requisite, and for the summary dismissal of the Chief of the State whenever such shall be the pleasure of the sovereign people: "for no one generation has the power to impose its laws on those that succeed to it." But as it is manifestly impossible in a great nation that every citizen should take an active part in the administration of public affairs, it becomes necessary that at least the executive power should be delegated to some man, or family, who enjoys the confidence of the majority; "for it is the nature of a democracy to personify itself in an individual." This idea is more fully developed in the Prince's pamphlet on the affair at Strasburg, published in the name of M. Armand Laité, who expiated that honour by five years of imprisonment.

"France—we are told—is democratic, but not republican. By democracy, I mean the government of an individual by the will of all; by republic, I mean the government of a number in obedience to a certain system. France desires to have national institutions as representatives of her rights, and some man or some family to represent her interests. . . . My design is to come with a popular banner—the most popular, the most glorious of all—to offer a rallying point to whatever is generous and national in every party—to restore to France her dignity without a general war, her liberty without license, her stability without despotism. And to accomplish such a result, what must we do? We must derive from the masses all our strength and all our right—for the masses are on the side of reason and justice." The destruction of the aristocracy, "the faithful, though oftentimes oppressive, guardian of the general and permanent interests," induced the necessity for the creation of "an hereditary family to exercise a conservative influence in favour of those general interests, and whose power should have no other foundation than the democratic spirit of the nation." Unfortunately, this hereditary necessity accords somewhat inharmoniously with the "idea" of responsibility on the part of the chief of the State, and of the obligation of obtaining the sanction of the people on the accession of every new emperor. Nor does it altogether agree with the spirit of the letter addressed from Ham to the Editor of the *Journal du Loiret*: "Never have I thought, never will I believe, that France is the appanage of any one man or family. Never have I claimed other rights than those of a French citizen, and never shall I entertain any other wish than to behold the entire people, legally convoked, make free election of the form of government most suited to its requirements." Still less consistent is it with the proclamation of the 16th of January, 1852. "The present constitution proclaims that the chief whom you have elected is responsible to you; that he has the right of appeal to your sovereign judgment, in order that in grave circumstances you may always be able to continue your confidence in him, or to withdraw it. Being responsible, his actions must be free and without hindrance."

This last clause is sufficiently intelligible, for a responsible chief ought certainly to be unrestricted in his choice of Ministers; and that the people does consider the sovereign responsible may be seen in the history of every nation—for in which has there not been a revolution and a monarch deposed? But it is a very different thing to reconcile the "ideas" of responsibility, election, and hereditary descent, nor, indeed, do we undertake to explain all the difficult passages in this Comedy of Errors. The contradiction was apparent to the First Consul himself in the year X., when he said: "Hereditary power depends upon the civil law. It implies the idea of property, and is instituted to insure the transmission of that property. How is it possible to reconcile the hereditary descent of the first magistracy

with the principle of the sovereignty of the people? How are we to persuade the people that this magistracy is a property? When the crown was hereditary, there were many magistracies in the same condition. This fiction was almost a general law, but there is nothing of that kind now." Perhaps, however, the best explanation is to be found in the very proclamation cited above:—"I have thought it reasonable to prefer the precepts of genius to the specious doctrines of men of abstract ideas." When the eagle soars aloft to the sun, it is in vain that blinking owls strive to follow its course.

Happily we are not left equally in the dark as to the rights which France desires to have represented by national institutions, for they are thus enumerated in the Fifth Article of the Model Constitution proposed in the *Réveries Politiques*:—"The right of expressing one's thoughts and opinions cannot be withheld." Verily, Job did well to exclaim, "O, that mine enemy would write a book!" By way of postscript to this rare Bill of Rights, it is added:—"A Minister must neither be a banker, nor gamble at the Bourse," and "The caution-money for periodical papers is abolished." And the same liberal view, slightly modified, is enunciated in Louis Napoleon's address to the French nation when offering himself as a candidate for the Presidency, for he therein pledges himself "to protect the liberty of either through the medium of the Press or in any other manner, the right of assembling together peaceably, and the free exercise of religious worship, the Press from the two excesses which endanger it at present, that of arbitrary authority on the one hand, and of its own licentiousness on the other." In the time of Napoleon the Great, we are told, "the liberty of the Press would only have served to place in evidence the greatness of his conceptions, and to proclaim the benefits of his reign. . . . Nor could the liberty of discussion in the Chambers have had more dangerous consequences for the Imperial Government; for, as all were agreed on the fundamental questions, the Opposition could only have served to give birth to a noble emulation; and, instead of consuming its energies to effect its overthrow, it would have limited its efforts to the task of improvement." Is the converse of this statement, we would humbly ask, equally true? Is the Press now enslaved because of the littleness of the Third Napoleon's conceptions? And is the liberty of discussion withheld because there is no agreement on fundamental questions? But what matters a partial disagreement, so long as the sovereign people is contented? Surely, its irresponsibly-responsible, hereditarily-elective Chief is no other than the personification of the democracy, the representative of the national sovereignty, the exponent of the feelings, ideas, and desires of the majority? But let us return to our "nibbling flocks." Napoleon was no despot,* for in 1810 he expressed "his displeasure that no law had yet been framed for the Press, and it is especially worthy of remark that the Emperor frequently pronounced these memorable words:—"I do not wish this power to be left to my successors, for they might abuse it." "Oh, my prophetic soul, my uncle!" We might here again inquire, as to the converse of this new proposition, whether a prince who gags the Press is a despot? But we prefer quoting the Emperor's remonstrance to the Council of State. "The Press, assumed to be free, is in the most abject slavery. The Police curtails and suppresses what works it pleases; nor is it the Minister himself who judges, for he is obliged to refer the matter to those under him. Nothing can be more irregular and arbitrary than such a system."

But Prince Louis Napoleon represented a "cause" as well as a "principle," and this cause was the Empire. *L'Empire c'est la paix*. It is also defined as a system which "consists in promoting civilisation, without discord and without excess; in giving an impulse to ideas, at the same time developing mutual interests; in strengthening the hands of power, by making it respected; in disciplining the masses through the medium of their intellectual faculties; in short, in uniting around the altar of the country Frenchmen of all parties, by giving them for motives of action honour and glory." Again: "The Imperial system is not a bastard imitation of the constitutions of England and America, but the governmental formula of the principles of the Revolution; it is a hierarchy in a democracy; equal rights before the law; promotion by merit; in fine, it is a pyramidal colossus with broad base and towering head." The first Emperor's mission was to prepare the way for Liberty. His wars were forced upon him, and in defending France he well nigh subdued the world. He was not personally ambitious; he did not surround himself with the illustrious names of the *ancien régime* to satisfy his self-love; he did not waste the treasures of France, nor spill her noblest blood, to aggrandise his own power and to place his brothers upon thrones; nor did he espouse an archduchess of the House of Austria that a genuine princess might share his couch. *Allons donc!* We must be "pignies in intelligence" to misunderstand him so grievously. No. The policy of Napoleon was sublime and disinterested. He contemplated the enfranchisement of Europe from old traditions and worn-out usages; and if he did place a royal crown on the heads of his near kinsmen, it was because they would be more submissive and could be more easily deposed than other dependents. For the Imperial system, so far as its development had attained, was in a transition state. Had final success waited upon his arms, he would have restored the nationalities of Italy and Poland, have caused all monarchs to disband their armies and retain only a guard of honour, and have consolidated liberty at home. "The government of Napoleon, more than any other, was compatible with liberty, for the simple reason that liberty would have assured the stability of his throne, while it subverts those that rest on no solid basis. Liberty would have confirmed his power, because he had established in France all that should precede liberty; because his power reposed on the entire mass of the nation; because his interests were those of the people; because, in short, the most perfect confidence existed between the ruler and the ruled." Such was the cause which Louis Napoleon represented after the affair at Boulogne, and which he had repudiated at Strasburg. To Colonel Vaudrey he said: "The Emperor Napoleon held his power from the French people; four times did his authority receive the popular sanc-

* Or if he were a despot, he was one of those "who govern sabre in hand and have no other law than their own caprice, but who at least do not degrade the human species: they oppress without demoralising it!"

tion. In 1804, the hereditary title of the Emperor's family was recognised by four millions of votes (3,521,675), and since that time the people has not been consulted. . . . As the eldest of the nephews of Napoleon, then, I may consider myself the representative of the popular choice—I will not say of the Empire, because, in the lapse of twenty years, the ideas and the requirements of France have necessarily changed." And to his mother he wrote the following lines, expressive of his own entire disinterestedness:—"Strong in my conviction, which had long made me look upon the cause of Napoleonism as the cause of the nation in France, and as the only civilising cause in Europe—proud of the nobleness and the purity of my intentions—I had become firmly resolved to elevate again the Imperial Eagle, or fall a victim to my political belief."

Pass we on to "the defeat." In the *Considérations Politiques et Militaires sur la Suisse*, the illustrious exile pointedly alludes to the vengeance France will yet exact for Waterloo, and speaks with equal confidence of renewing Jena and Austerlitz in order to give liberty to Switzerland and to Europe. But the iron pierced most deeply into his soul when compelled to seek an asylum on the hospitable shores of perfidious Albion. The change even to the dungeon of Ham was delightful and invigorating. "Banished for twenty-five years, twice betrayed by fate, I have experienced all the vicissitudes and sorrows of this life; and having got the better of the illusions of youth, I find in the native air I breathe, in study, in the seclusion of a prison, a charm which I have not experienced when participating in the enjoyments of foreign countries, where, vanquished, I had to drink out of the same cup as the conqueror of Waterloo." We cannot say how far this terrible degradation was literally true, but certainly the Emperor appears to have submitted with cheerful resignation to a necessity that was so distressing to the Adventurer.

We have only time and space for two more of the *Idées Napoléoniennes*, though it would be no difficult task to write a volume upon such a prolific subject, and the more easily in that they have been so practically illustrated by the inheritor of that great man's throne. One favourite object with the Emperor was to recal to France all whom fear or disaffection had driven into banishment. And this amiable longing was shared by Louis Napoleon when candidate for the Presidency. "The Republic," he wrote, "ought to be generous and have faith in its future prospects; and for my part I, who have suffered exile and captivity, appeal with all my warmest aspirations to that day when the country may, without danger, put an end to all proscriptions, and efface the last traces of our civil discords." But not only did the Emperor propose to restore to their homes and their native land those who had so long endured the sorrows and hardships of expatriation, he also intended to place arms in the hands of every citizen, and to trust to patriotism for the defence of the fatherland. So strongly was he impressed with this "idea," that his nephew represents him in Elysium angrily demanding of his successors, "Have you organised the National Guard in such a manner as to form an invincible barrier against invasion?" After pausing for a reply, the mighty Shade answers himself, "No; you have preserved of my reign nothing but what was transitory, nothing but momentary obligations, and you have rejected all the advantages which palliated its defects."

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

The Exemplary Novels of Cervantes. Translated from the Spanish by Walter K. Kelly. Bohn.
A Journey through the United States and Part of Canada. By the Rev. Robert Everest, M.A. John Chapman.
America and the Americans. By W. E. Baxter, Esq., M.P. Routledge.
Recollections of the Mess-table and the Stage. By Henry Curling. T. Bosworth.
Inez: A Tale of the Alamo. New York: Harper and Brothers.
The Lost Heiress. By Mrs. Southworth. Ward and Lock.

We are not sufficiently well acquainted with the Spanish language to be able to offer an opinion on the merits of the present version of the *Exemplary Novels*. All that we can do is to note down our impressions as English readers of the new translation from Cervantes with which Mr. Kelly has provided us. The *Exemplary Novels*—or, Moral Tales, as we should have been tempted to call them—have more freshness and novelty, in the higher sense of those words, than nine-tenths of the professedly "new" fictions published in the present day. Giving us hardly more than a glimpse, now and then, of the exquisite humour of Cervantes, some of these stories exhibit little triumphs of character-painting—of nature represented in miniature—which are worthy even of the master-hand that drew Don Quixote and his matchless Squire. There is a mixture of ingenuity and simplicity, of carefully-disciplined Art and genially free Nature in the *Exemplary Novels*, which, in our opinion, renders them quite original as works of their class. We prefer, for example, the charming story of *The Little Gipsy Girl* (from which the libretto of Weber's *Preciosa* was taken) to all that Boccaccio has ever written. Let our readers begin with this tale, and we have no doubt that the present collection of the *Exemplary Novels* will share with Don Quixote that most honourable of all positions in the Library—the popularly-situated shelf which is within everybody's reach.

Our two last new books about America are not very remarkable. Mr. Everest is an ardent democrat. He is a little shocked at the Institution of Slavery, but in every other respect he cites the United States as offering a model to the world. In this country—although our traveller writes with vigour and clearness, and collects facts with patience and intelligence—we are afraid that the circulation of his book may be rather unfavourably affected by the uncompromising extremities to which his opinions carry him. Though differing from him ourselves in some of his principles and in many of his deductions, we can most willingly give him full credit for a manly frankness which tourists of all shades of opinion would do well to emulate; and we can form no better wish for the success of his book than that readers in general may be disposed to follow our example. Our second traveller in America, Mr. Baxter, being more conservative and conventional than Mr. Everest, is likely to get on better. He appeals to that large public which likes respectable platitudes. When Sir A. Alison, Mr. Warren, and Mr.

Tupper, are actually thought capable of writing history, fiction, and poetry by some thousands of persons who—excepting the hours they devote to reading—exhibit no extraordinary imbecility in the various transactions of their lives, there seems to be no reason why Mr. Baxter should not become very successful, in certain circles, as an amusing American traveller.

Mr. Curling's book of gossip about soldiers and actors is written in the penny-a-line style, with quotations in almost every other sentence, and some morsels of smart writing thrown in here and there to make the work attractive to the Gent public. We have found this "Mess-table Chat" and "Green-room Gossip" an extremely dismal little volume to read. The author informs us that his stage-stories are mostly derived from the conversation of "the celebrated comedian Samuel Russell." If Mr. Russell was not more amusing as an actor than he was (judging only by Mr. Curling's report) as a teller of anecdotes, it strikes us that the public of his day must have enjoyed a remarkably serious entertainment when they went to the theatre to see him perform. We have sat in the company of a considerable number of country clergymen in our time; but such singularly pointless and helplessly dreary stories about nothing at all, as Mr. Curling's stories from the mouth of Mr. Russell, were never before inflicted on us. The military part of the work is a trifle better—one article in it, called "My First Detachment," being almost amusing, by contrast with the Russell stories. But, upon the whole, we shall accurately convey to our readers what our own impression has been of *The Mess-table and the Stage*, if we venture on substituting a new title for the title chosen by the author, and mention the work in the strictest confidence as—The Bore's Own Book.

Inez: a Tale of the Alamo, is "respectfully" dedicated to "the Texan patriots, who triumphantly unfurled and waved aloft the banner of the Lone-Star! who wrenched asunder the iron bands of despotic Mexico! and wreathed the brow of the Queen State with the glorious chaplet of civil and religious liberty!" In spite of this martial preliminary flourish, the perusal of the first chapter of *Inez* was quite enough to convince us that the book was the production of a fair lady—a young and artless creature, as we love to think her. Let us report with all due gallantry on her book. The period of the story is the time of the Texan war. Though a novel in one volume, *Inez* contains three heroines:—No. 1, "slight and drooping." No. 2, tall, haughty, and intellectual, with a forehead "unusually prominent and white." No. 3, *Inez* herself—a passionate beauty, with "large Spanish eyes, restless and piercing, flashing out at times the thoughts of her inmost soul." While these three ladies, in various ways, interest and charm us, there is an entirely original character in the shape of a wily and unscrupulous Jesuit priest, who, from time to time, shocks and terrifies us. Further, we have to recommend the book to pious parents and guardians, as written under the influence of the strictest Protestant principles; and to introduce it to young ladies in general, as containing some very nice "love," seasoned pleasantly with just enough fighting to make the whole story agreeable.

In the case of *The Lost Heiress*, we have to plead guilty to following a highly improper course. We began this novel at the end—or, in other words, tried to get at the story by a species of nefarious short-cut. The first passage we opened on, under these circumstances, was the following description of a bride and bridegroom on the wedding morning:—

She had attired herself with that poetical beauty which—say as you will—only love can inspire and teach for the beloved one's eyes. Her morning dress was pure and delicate white cambric, slightly edged with the finest lace. Her luxuriant hair of golden auburn fell in resplendent ringlets down her beautiful and blooming face. Expectation had heightened the vivid flush of her cheeks, and kindled the brilliant light of her eyes.

Then there was the quick, light sound of horse's hoofs galloping up to the door—the elastic spring of the rider from the saddle—hurried footsteps up the portico—a word with the servant in waiting at the door—and in another instant Falconer was in the room, and Maud was in his arms, pressed to his bosom—warm heart to heart—flushed cheek to cheek—and the golden ringlets to raven locks. It was a close, silent, impassioned embrace of fervid, pure, young love—a love ineffable and full of joy—a joy too great for speech!

She was the first to recover self-possession—with her beautiful face dyed with blushes, she gently strove to release herself.

And he, with a love too tender to constrain, freed her, still lightly holding one white hand, and gazing with unutterable affection upon her charming downcast face.

And how handsome he looked, with his fine, athletic, yet graceful form, and dark resplendent countenance, full of strength and fire.

He spoke first—"Maud! my own Maud! fairest angel! look up! let me see your blessed eyes!"

Smiling a little at his enthusiasm, she lifted her white lids and shot one swift, shy glance into the dark splendour of his eyes, and then dropped them again, in a confusion so beautiful and bewitching that her lover nearly lost his reason, and snatched and strained her to his bosom in a delirium of passionate delight.

At this point, with moistened eyes, blushing cheeks, and palpitating heart, we closed the book. Voluptuous fine writing may be all very well for readers of a certain class. But the critic is bound by the nature of his arduous vocation to be an austere man. When he finds a lady with resplendent ringlets snatched to a gentleman's bosom in a delirium of passionate delight, he retires, shaking his head, and leaves all remaining raptures to the luxurious general public!

WANDERINGS IN CORSICA.

Wanderings in Corsica. Translated from the German of Gregorovius by Alexander Muir. Edinburgh: Constable and Co.

CORSICA, for its size, is the most interesting country in the world. Its history is full of action, distinct and dramatic; its people and their customs are to this day marked and peculiar; it boasts many men who may be called "heroes" of the heroic stamp—and the most notorious hero in the world was a Corsican in birth, blood, and breeding. A good book, telling us "all about Corsica," as a lady-reader would say, was, therefore, something devoutly to be wished, and it comes in these two volumes. We have curiosity satisfied on all points. The writer travels about Corsica, describes

the scenery with some effect, though less vividly than one would wish, is spirited and sympathetic in narrating local customs, is not without the idolatry of hero-worship as he stands in the room where one emperor, three kings, one queen, and two princesses played in obscure childhood as one family, and on that most popular institution, the *Vendetta*, is rich in lore and racy of the soil.

The history of Corsica is almost a biographical series: it leaps from man to man. Institutions make some trace, but the institutions are personal and individual, such as the *Vendetta* and the family feudalism closely connected with it. But adventurers are the staple of Corsica's noted men—from Lampiero, that iron hero, to that sous-lieutenant of artillery who left Corsica for the Tuileries *via* Lodi and Marengo. Moreover, the history of the island is a story of strife. You may trace Corsican destinies through the history of Europe by a track of blood. Genoa fought for it, Germany sent it adventurers, France was alternately the patron, the traitor, and the oppressor, while England from time to time gave it such aid as it gave to Sicily in 1848—the aid of an injurious sympathy; but all interference tended to the one result—fire and sword throughout the island. This does not, however, diminish the interest of the story. There is artistic “relief” in the fine actions and noble souls that show themselves from time to time—and none, not even the worst, are entirely removed from our sympathies.

One of the strange stories of Corsica—reading more like a romance of *La Mancha* than a portion of history—is the story of King Theodore of Corsica. Early in the eighteenth century the usual strife with Genoa was being waged when a new hero stepped upon the scene. He came “one fine morning” (12th March, 1736) into the harbour of Aleria, and landed amid the shouts of the populace. He was tall, stately, and commanding. “He wore a long caftan of scarlet silk, Moorish trousers, yellow shoes, and a Spanish hat and feather; in his girdle of yellow silk were a pair of richly-inlaid pistols, a sabre hung by his side, and in his right hand he held a long truncheon as sceptre.” The same ship brought ten pieces of cannon, four thousand muskets, and a supply of ammunition. This was the right divine of the mysterious stranger. The Corsicans were hard pressed by their perpetual persecutors the Genoese, and they received the Baron Theodore von Neuhoft (a German noble deeply indebted to his tailors in Amsterdam) as their lord and king. They might have done worse. The new king evinced energy. He organised an army, drove the Genoese from the open country into Bastia and other fortified towns, and routed them again and again whenever they ventured forth. His proclamations for encouraging commerce and industry were wise and vigorous, and he replied to the manifestoes of the Genoese magnates with considerable sarcasm and success. His coins are to this day preserved as great rarities in the cabinets of the curious. His most successful stroke was the Order of Liberation—a new order of knighthood—with the decorations of which he stimulated his people and his partisans. He also created counts, barons, and baronets with a lavish hand. But cares of state pressed upon the hardy adventurer. He wanted money; he wanted arms; he wanted ships. He took formal leave of “his subjects,” and visited the Continent, seeking aid. His Amsterdam tailors (“base mechanic slaves”) threw him into prison for debt, but King Theodore managed to get out. But meanwhile Genoa and France had arranged a treaty; and when the indefatigable and gallant King Theodore returned to Corsica, bringing three ships, twenty-seven pieces of cannon, and eight thousand muskets, he found his claims set aside. The people were negotiating with France, and with bitter heart he returned to England. He was thrown into gaol for debt, was released through a subscription opened by Sir Robert Walpole, and died in 1756. He is buried in Westminster churchyard.

Passing on to a more successful adventurer, our author visits the house in Ajaccio, where Napoleon Bonaparte was born. He describes it as roomy, handsome, and convenient. There is now no furniture in the rooms, the decayed tapestries hang from the walls, and the flagged floors are partly broken.

I entered a little room with blue tapestry, and two windows, one of which, with a balcony before it, looked into a court, the other into the street. You see here a wall-press, behind a tapestried door, and a fireplace with a mantelpiece of yellow marble ornamented with some mythological reliefs. In this room, on the 15th of August, 1769, Napoleon was born. . . . I saw other rooms, the ball-room of the family, Madame Letitia's room, Napoleon's little room where he slept, and that in which he studied. The two little wall-presses are still to be seen there in which his school-books stood. Books stand in them at present. With eager curiosity I took out some of them, as if they were Napoleon's; they were yellow with age—law-books, theological treatises, a *Livy*, a *Guicciardini*, and others, probably the property of the Pietra Santa family, who are related to the Bonapartes, and to whom their house in Ajaccio now belongs.

We find in these volumes many accounts and statistics of the *Vendetta*. Some seem exaggerated. The historian Filippini says that in thirty years of his own time 28,000 Corsicans had been murdered out of revenge. Another Corsican historian states that in the thirty-two years previous to 1715, 28,715 murders had been committed in Corsica. The same historian calculates that, according to this proportion, the number of the victims of the *Vendetta*, from 1359 to 1729, was 333,000. During the first seven months of 1852 the assassinations numbered 99. The population of the island is a quarter of a million. The author considers that the proposed general disarming of the population will not have any effect in suppressing the *Vendetta*. It will leave the peaceful villagers at the mercy of the bandits whom the gendarmes cannot reach. Colonisation and roads into the interior, and the general spread of peaceful industry are evidently the only safe means of altering the savage habits of the people. Corsica, both by position, soil, climate, and other natural advantages, should be a most prosperous country. It is now little better than Montenegro, and its people are in the rear of European civilisation. This is a just reproach to that French Government, which can repress thought throughout France, but cannot put down the Corsican banditti.

Portfolio.

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

EUGÉNIE.

Yes, Heaven hath made thee very fair!
Content in thine own sphere to move,
Amidst thy willing subjects there
An Empress thou hadst been—of love.

Of love, and e'en perchance of fame—
Perchance some poet of the free
Had link'd with Laura's deathless name,
The gentle name of Eugénie.

But thou art now a tyrant's bride,
Bride of a bed where love is not:
And freedom's blood thy pathway dyed
To that unblest, Imperial lot.

What shall be given to her who took
The paltry lure of tinselled state—
To her, whose shallow heart forsook
Love's freedom for a crown of hate?

A courtier's smile, a people's moan,
The homage of the lip and knee,
The crowd where still the heart is lone—
This be thy guerdon, Eugénie.

This, and perchance the deathless shame
Of some court poet's venal rhyme,
Who sells a tyrant present fame,
And damns him in the after time.

Imperial splendours round thee play,
Imperial honour crowns thy brow;
Thy flatterers (once thy friends) may say,
Happiest of womankind art thou.

But widows that thy tyrant's hand
Hath made, and banished men that pine
Upon Cayenne's infected strand,
Have yet a happier lot than thine.

One chance remains to clear thy name,
Spurned by the good, the true, the free—
When comes the tyrant's hour of shame,
Live, and be still his Eugénie.

The Arts.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

A VERY satisfactory performance of *Ernani*, at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, on Thursday evening, introduced the new baritone, Signor GRAZIANI, to the English public. Signor GRAZIANI is a young man, with an engaging countenance, and a presence prepossessing. Unfortunately, he has still to learn ease and gracefulness of gesture on the stage; at present, his attitudes are displeasing to a sculptor's eye, the movement of his arms is angular and embarrassed, and he has that peculiar way of standing which suggests a sensitive consciousness of weak knees. But all this may be corrected; and, on the other side of the account, we may place a voice fresh, clear, powerful, and sympathetic, at once manly and tender, which Signor GRAZIANI employs with judgment and feeling. He sings with marked intelligence: in the recitatives, with dignity and pure expression; in the airs, with elegance, correctness, and refinement. There is no hazard in pronouncing Signor GRAZIANI a dramatic artist of abundant promise, and a singer of rare powers. TAMBERLIK, TAGLIAFICO, and Mademoiselle BOSIO make up a brilliant *ensemble*. We confess to a weakness for the abused operas of VERDI, who, whatever may be the verdict of those severer critics whose purism denounces equally the “music of the future” and the music of the day, has at least this rare merit: his operas beat with the pulses of Italy. It is well enough for a public sunk in indifference, apathy, and lassitude, invoking despotism as a cure for the difficulties of freedom, to ask for more enervating strains. For the Italy of our day Art itself is an aspiration after independence, a menace to tyrants, a call to arms. And such is the music of VERDI.

DRURY LANE AND THE HAYMARKET.

THE performance of the *Barbiere* at DRURY LANE by the Italian company bids fair, under judicious management, to ensure the success of the enterprise. It would have been considered an excellent performance at COVENT GARDEN; at DRURY LANE, at playhouse prices, it deserves to be recorded as one of the very best and cheapest entertainments of the kind ever set before an English public. Madame GASSIER, who was so unlike *Amina*, is not easily rivalled in *Rosina* what with the Andalusian eloquence of her fan and her eyelashes, she transports us bodily into Seville; and her singing of the music is a marvel of daring and ingenious embellishment. Signor BETTINI, who was so tame and awkward as *Elvino*, is even too vivacious as *Almaviva*. Once or twice he forgets the aristocracy of the *Count*, and, what is worse, sacrifices the score to “business,” in the drunken scene, for instance; but from the first note to the last, he sings so sweetly, so correctly, so elegantly, that the audience is enchanted, as every audience is by a pure tenor voice with taste and feeling in the singer. The *Bartolo* and the *Basilio* (Signors SUSINI and FORTINI) are quite equal to their usual representatives; and Monsieur GASSIER, if we take exception to a certain exuberance of motion, which does not make up for spontaneous humour, was a very efficient and respectable *Figaro*—as a singer, more than respectable. The orchestra, too, accompanied with marked discretion, and the chorus positively seemed to enter into the spirit of the scene. A word of emphatic recognition is due to the fact that the music was given unutilised, as it is never given at the OPERA. How is it we so seldom hear *Io son Lindoro*, one of the most exquisite of serenades for a tenor, that sends half the audience humming to their beds? In the concerted pieces at DRURY LANE, the effect was most grati-

fyng. Let the directors go on as they have begun, and they will draw all London.

On Saturday last the company of the THEATRE DE LA GAITE appeared before a London audience at DRURY LANE. The play they brought with them was the now famous *Cosaques*, which has just reached its two hundredth night of representation at Paris. This dramatic prodigy did not present itself as an absolute novelty, however, to an English audience on Saturday. Visitors to ASTLEY'S saw it performed (and very well performed too), in a considerably abridged translation, last year. We have now the excellent original actors, and the whole original play, an entertainment long enough to fill up the evening by itself. The great effect of *Les Cosaques* is a riot between the French and the Russian invaders (the period of the play being the year 1814) at a *café chantant*. Fire-arms are prodigally used, chairs and tables are heaped up as barricades, a thorough battle in miniature takes place, and the Cossacks are defeated. This admirable and exciting scene was one great agent in the success of the play at Paris, and also at ASTLEY'S. Now we have it at DRURY LANE, with an astounding temporary addition. International feeling must be appealed to in London since the late visit, or there is no chance with a British audience. Accordingly, in the fight between the French and the Cossacks, English soldiers are actually introduced (in the year 1814) as helping the French! At DRURY LANE, the soldiers of Wellington and the soldiers of Napoleon—the Great join

cause, fight together with the wildest enthusiasm, and fraternise in the hour of victory to the tunes of "God Save the Queen" and—"Partant pour la Syrie!" This we conceive to be the boldest *coup d'état* ever inflicted on the drama, and it was brilliantly successful. The patriotic spectators had an excuse for getting on their legs and uttering loyal and patriotic howls, and, just now, that is exactly what audiences want when they go to the theatre. After this, of course, *Les Cosaques* succeeded; and we are glad to record the success for the sake of the company. One thing only we should like to know in reference to the performance at DRURY LANE—What do the authors of the play think of the alteration that has been made in their work to adapt it to London audiences?

Having lost the Spanish Dancers—we hope only for a time—Mr. BUCKSTONE now attracts the public to the HAYMARKET by AUBER'S *Fra Diavolo*, with Mr. SIMS REEVES for hero. This most charming of operas is carefully and completely performed; both band and chorus (generally the weak points at non-operatic theatres) being in excellent training under the conductorship of Signor SCHIRA. As to Mr. SIMS REEVES, we need not criticise him; we need only announce that he is to be seen and heard. Everybody knows by this time that *Fra Diavolo* is the best of his characters. He is to appear in the *The Bohemian Girl* on Tuesday, supported, as in *Fra Diavolo*, by Mrs. SIMS REEVES, and by Mr. and Mrs. WEISS.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BAGOT.—April 19, at Blithfield, the Hon. Mrs. Bagot: a daughter.
BOUWENS.—April 18, at Stoke Hamond, Bucks, the Lady Julia Bouwens: a daughter.
EGERTON.—April 19, at 13, Lowndes-square, the Lady Mary Egerton: a son.
NORTH.—April 25, at Weavering, Maidstone, the Lady North: a son.
STAFFORD.—April 18, at 2, Hamilton-place, the Marchioness of Stafford: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DAMER.—MONTAGU.—April 19, at St. Paul's Knightsbridge, Lionel Seymour William Dawson Damer, Captain, Scots Fusilier Guards, only son of the Hon. George Lionel Dawson Damer, to the Hon. Harriet Lydia Montagu, second daughter of Major-General the Lord Rokeby.
HAMES.—CUMBERLAND.—April 25, at Hackney, Joseph, eldest son of Joseph Hames, Esq., of Rotherby Hall, Leicestershire, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter, of John Cumberland, Esq., of Tufnell Park, Holloway.
SUTTON.—DAMER.—April 19, at St. Paul's Knightsbridge, Francis Sutton, Captain Royal Horse Guards, third son of Sir Richard Sutton, Bart., to Evelyn Mary Stuart, third daughter of the Hon. George Lionel D. Damer.
WEMYSS.—ERSKINE.—April 17, at All Saints' Church, Ennismore-place, Knightsbridge, by the Hon. and Rev. Charles Wodehouse, Hay Erskine Wemyss, Esq., of Wemyss Castle, Fifeshire, only son of the late Rear-Admiral and Lady Emma Erskine Wemyss, to Millicent Anne Mary Kennedy Erskine, youngest daughter of the Lady Augusta Gordon Hallyburton and the late Hon. John Kennedy Erskine.

DEATHS.

BUSHE.—April 18, at Bath, the Lady Louisa Bushe, daughter of the late Earl of Listowel.
HERBES.—April 24, at St. Julians, near Sevenoaks, the Right Hon. John Charles Herries, aged seventy-seven.
KEYS.—March 11, at sea, on his passage to England, the Venerable Archdeacon Keys, of Bombay, deeply lamented by his family and all who knew him.
LIFFORD.—April 22, at Brighton, the Viscount Lifford, aged seventy-two.
TURNER.—April 18, at Grange-road, Kingsland, Stuart Walter, eldest son of Mr. Godfrey Turner.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—STEPHEN COWPERTWAITE, Bradford, Yorkshire, bobbin turner—EZEKIEL MADE, Bristol, tavern keeper.
BANKRUPTS.—JOHN APPLETON, Sommerford-grove, Stoke Newington-road, dealer in flour—DANIEL HARRIS, Sutherland-place, Sutherland-square, bookseller—WILLIAM ALFRED PUTNAM, Strand, glass dealer—DANIEL CUTTER and THOMAS HUNTER, Regent-street, tailors—JAMES LAMB, EDWARD LEWIS, and WILLIAM THOMAS ALLUM, Wouldham, Kent, and Kingsland-road, cement manufacturers—EDWARD PRITCHARD, Monmouth, clothier—SAMUEL OLDFIELD, JOHN ALLAN, and EDWARD JOHN SINCLAIR COUZENS, Huddersfield, woollen cloth merchants—JOSEPH WEBB, Scarborough, hotel keeper—ANN GREGORY, Liverpool, licensed victualler—BETTY WORSLEY and JAMES HEYS, Holmshore, near Haslingden, Lancashire, cotton manufacturers—JOSIAH THOMAS, and WILLIAM SNIBSON, Manchester, wholesale grocers—MARTIN BROWN and ROBERT INGHAM, Rawtenstall, Lancashire, power-loom cloth manufacturers.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. SHIELDS, Dunfermline, grocer—J. CORMIE, Anderston, Glasgow, smith—J. and J. M'DONALD, Glasgow, bootmakers.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—ISIDORE BLOOMENTHAL, Rodney buildings, New Kent-road, engraver.
BANKRUPTS.—ABRAHAM PIERPOINT SHAW, Devonshire-street, Bishopsgate-street, printer—THOMAS BROWN, Great Guildford-street, Southwark, brass founder—WILLIAM PERFECT LOCKWOOD, Wakefield, chemist—STAIR WALKER, Boundary-road, St. John's-wood, builder—HENRY OSBORNE BOX, Dursley, Gloucester, woollendrapery and tailor—JOSEPH ALLEN, Birmingham, builder—DANIEL CUTTER and THOMAS JAMES HUNTER, Regent-street, tailors—WILLIAM LONGMAN, Glamorganshire, grocer—JOHN HAWKER, Weston-super-Mare, builder—JAMES GARTRELL FITZ, Exeter, bookseller and stationer, &c.—LEVI BOOTH, Lancaster Dyke, Bradford, stuff manufacturer—MARGARET BOLTON, Reddyford Mill, Marsden, Lancaster, power-loom cloth manufacturer.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. and J. M'Lellan, Port of Rosslu, Dumbartonshire, wood merchants—JOHN HART, Springburn, Lanarkshire, grocer.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, April 27, 1855.
We are very weak in our markets as regards the funds. The intelligence communicated by the Government Journal on Monday morning of the rejection of our propositions by

Russia, and the gloomy accounts from Sebastopol, counter-balance the abundance of money and the low rate of discount. People begin to speak openly now that the siege is to be raised; if so, we shall have to re-embark our forces in the face of an enemy, and perhaps have to fight a second Corunna with the rear-guard whilst the main body is embarking. This afternoon has depressed both funds and shares again. Quotations from Paris are lower up to two o'clock, and a rumour that increasing infirmity compels Lord Palmerston to give up the office and duties of Minister of War. The electric telegraph between Balaklava and London gives us information of matters in the Crimea up to a few hours back; but the silence of the telegraph is very ominous. People argue that bad news must have arrived, and that the Ministry keeps it back, and so on. Next week, unless Sebastopol has fallen, we shall hear of the siege being raised, re-embarkation of troops, and a fall of 2 per cent. more. Austria will show herself in her true colours, and whether that will be in favour of the Western Powers remains to be seen. The fate of Sebastopol will determine that wretched power as to the future. Without the Allies she must fall to pieces herself before another year passes.

Railway shares are very dull, the same with all kinds of investments. United Mexican maintain a fair price; Santiago's flutter, owing to some disturbances in Cuba; Crystal Palace heavy.

Consols leave off at four o'clock, 88½, 88½; Russian Fives, 98, 101.

Caledonians, 58½, 59½; Chester and Holyhead, 12, 13; Eastern Counties, 11, 11½; Great Northern, 89½, 89½; ditto, A stock, 72, 74; ditto, B stock, 123, 125; Great Western, 63½, 64½; London Brighton and South Coast, 97, 98; London and North Western, 97½, 97½; London and South Western, 81, 82; Midlands, 63½, 63½; North Eastern, 70, 71; South Eastern, 59½, 60½; Eastern of France, 34, 34½; Great Central of France, 14, 14½; Great Western of Canada, 17½, 18½; Great Northern of France, 34, 34½; Paris and Lyons, 62½, 63½; Paris and Orleans, 44, 46; Paris and Rouen, 39, 41; Sambre and Meuse, 74, 8; Agua Frias, 8, 8; Anglo-Californian, 4½; Imperial Brazil, 24, 3; Cocoes, 2, 2½; St. John del Rey, 31, 33; Carson's Creek, 4½; Colonial Gold, 8, 8; Linars, 7, 7½; Nouveau Monde, 1, 1; South-Australian, 3, 1; Australasian Bank, 80, 82; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 20, 21; Union of Australia, 66, 68; Australian Agricultural, 23, 30; Crystal Palace, 34, 34; North British Australasian, 4½; Peel River, 2½, 2½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 61, 63.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, April 27, 1855.

The supplies of Wheat this week, both Foreign and English, are moderate. The upward movement, which commenced on Monday, has continued since, and a fair extent of business has been done to-day at 4s. over the prices of that day. The holders of Wheat on the spot have, many of them, withdrawn samples in expectation of still higher prices. The offers on hand, f. o. b. from abroad have been readily placed, but holders there exhibit equal firmness with our own, and now there is very little offering, and that at prices beyond the ideas of the most sanguine buyers here.

Barley is in moderate supply—demand slow at 1s. advance. Oats, of which a fair quantity has arrived during the week, have made a ready sale at an advance of 1s.

Beans are in request at higher prices; some cargoes of Saïd on passage have been sold at 33s. cost, freight, and insurance, and this description is now held for higher prices.

Peas are held with more firmness, but the demand is slow.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	211½	211½	211½	210	211½	211½
3 per Cent. Red.	88½	88½	88½	88	88	87½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	89½	89½	89½	89	89	88½
Consols for Account	90	89½	89	89½	89½	88½
3½ per Cent. An.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New 2½ per Cents.	.....	.....	74	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860.	.....	.....	3½	4½	3½	3½
India Stock	.....	230	230	.....	230	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	.....	15	12	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	15	15	.....	15	15	13
Ex. Bills, £1000	8	4	4	6	8	7
Ditto, £500	.....	5	6	.....	7	4
Ditto, Small	7	10	6	10	7	5

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds	98½	Russian Bonds, 5 per	99½
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents.	52	Cents, 1822.....	80½
Chilian 3 per Cents.	52	Russian 4½ per Cents.	80½
Danish 5 per Cents.	52	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Cert.	18
Equador Bonds	32	Spanish Committee Cert.	.....
Mexican 3 per Cents.	20½	of Coup. not fun.	5½
Mexican 3 per Ct. for	.....	Venezuela 3½ per Cents.	25½
Acc. April 16	.....	Belgian 4½ per Cents.	93
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	.....	Dutch 2½ per Cents.	62½
Portuguese 3 p. Cents.	.....	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif	90½

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week, will commence with

THE WELSH GIRL.

Characters by Messrs. Emery, Leslie, Danvers, Miss Stephens, and Miss Ternan (her first appearance).

After which,

LAW FOR LADIES.

Characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, G. Vining, H. Cooper, Danvers, and Miss Castleton.

To conclude with the Fairy Extravaganza, called

THE YELLOW DWARF AND THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

Characters by Mr. F. Robson, Miss Julia St. George, Miss E. Ormonde, Miss Bromley, and Mrs. Fitzallan.

SIR HENRY R. BISHOP.—HANOVER

SQUARE ROOMS.—The Last but One AFTERNOON CONCERT OF VOCAL MUSIC, selected entirely from the Works and Compositions of Sir Henry Bishop, will take place at the above Rooms on SATURDAY NEXT, MAY 5, and positively the Last Concert on Saturday Afternoon, May 12. Reserved Numbered Stalls, 5s.; Unreserved Seats, 3s. Books of the Words may be had at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street; of Messrs. Keith, Prowse, and Co., Cheapside; and at the principal Libraries and Music-sellers. * * * The Concert will commence each day at half-past Three o'clock, and terminate before Five.

MONTI'S LECTURES ON ANCIENT AND MODERN SCULPTURE.

The first of these LECTURES will be delivered on WEDNESDAY, the 16th of MAY. Particulars can be obtained at Messrs. COLNAGHI, Pall-mall East.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

THE FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION WILL OPEN at their Gallery, 5, PALL MALL EAST, near Trafalgar-square, ON MONDAY NEXT, APRIL 30.

Admittance, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.—An Exhibition of the finest English, French, and Italian Photographs is now open at the Photographic Institution, 168, New Bond-street. Morning from 10 to 5. Admission, with catalogue, 1s. Evening from 7 to 9. Admission 6d.

ITALIAN AND FRENCH LANGUAGES.

MR. ARRIVABENE, D.L.L., from the University of Padua, who has been established in London for three years, gives private lessons in Italian and French at his own house, or at the house of his pupils. He also attends Schools both in town and country. Mr. ARRIVABENE teaches on a plan thoroughly practical, and the most mediocre mind cannot fail to thoroughly comprehend his lessons.

Apply by letter to Mr. ARRIVABENE, No. 4, St. Michael's-place, Brompton.

TRIESEMAR.—PROTECTED BY ROYAL

LETTERS PATENT OF ENGLAND, and secured by the SEALS of the ECOLE de PHARMACIE de PARIS, and the IMPERIAL COLLEGE of MEDICINE, VIENNA.

TRIESEMAR, No. 1, is a Remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhoea, and Exhaustion of the System.

TRIESEMAR, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of Three Days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which Capsules have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population.

TRIESEMAR, No. 3, is the Great Continental Remedy for that class of disorders which, unfortunately, the English physician treats with Mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the Patient's constitution, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove.

TRIESEMAR, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may lie on the toilet-table without their use being suspected.

Sold in tin cases, at 11s. each; free by post, 2s. extra, divided into separate doses, as administered by Welpen, Lallemand, Roux, &c., &c. To be had wholesale and retail, in London, of Robert Johnson, 68, Cornhill; Hanny and Co., 69, Oxford-street; Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; R. H. Co., 69, Oxford-street; Market-street, Manchester; Priestley, 11, High-street, Liverpool; Winnall, Bookseller, High-street, Birmingham; and Powell, Bookseller, 15, Westmoreland-street, Dublin.

FITCH & SON'S

CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON.

"We know of nothing more exquisitely delicious than a rash of Fitch's Breakfast Bacon."—*Weekly Paper*.

Extracts from Correspondents' Letters.

"I cannot get any Breakfast Bacon like in quality to yours."

"When in London, I purchased at your establishment some very mild Wiltshire Bacon, which has been so highly approved of, that I wish you to send me a side of the same quality."

"Mr. — requests Messrs. Fitch and Son to send him a side of Bacon similar in every respect to the last."

"A good rash of Breakfast Bacon, such as you supply, is not to be obtained in our district."

"I was so pleased with the Bacon you sent, that I recommended it to every person I knew to be in need of such an article."

"Sir J. L. — has the pleasure to enclose a post-office order.—The goods have arrived safely, and given perfect satisfaction."

This celebrated Bacon is sold by the side and half-side at 8d. per lb.; the middle piece, of 12 lbs., at 9d. per lb.; and other separate pieces.

HOUSEHOLD PROVISIONS.

	s. d.
Fine rich Cheshire Cheese, per single Cheese.....	0 7 1/2 lb.
Good do. do.	0 7
Fine Salt Butter by Half Firkins.....	1 0
Good do. do.	0 11
Fine Hams.....	0 8 1/2 & 9

Bacon, Hams, Tongues, German Sausages, Cheese, Butter, &c., securely packed for travelling, and delivered free of charge at all the London Terminals.

Prepayment is requested where a reference is not sent with the order for goods.

FITCH AND SON,

Provision Merchants and Importers,

No. 66, BISHOPSGATE WITHIN, LONDON.

ADNAM'S Improved Patent Groats and Barley.

THE ONLY EXISTING PATENT.

And Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.—The important object so desirable to be obtained has at length been secured to the Public by J. and J. C. ADNAM, PATENTERS, who, after much time and attention, have succeeded by their *Improved Process* in producing preparations of the purest and finest quality ever manufactured from the Oat and Barley.

To enumerate the many advantages derived by the Public from the use of the Improved Patent Groats is not the intention of the Patentees; suffice it to say that, by the process of manufacture, the acidity and unpleasant flavour so generally complained of in other preparations is totally obviated, and very superior Gruel speedily made therefrom. It is particularly recommended to those of consumptive constitutions, Ladies, and Children; and the healthy and strong will find it an excellent Luncheon or Supper.

The Barley being prepared by a similar process is as pure as can be manufactured, and will be found to produce a light and nourishing Food for Infants and the Aged; and to contain all the necessary properties for making a delicious pudding. It has also the distinguished character for making very superior Barley Water, and will be found a most excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c.

CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each Package bears the Signature of the PATENTERS, J. and J. C. ADNAM.

To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maiden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Canisters at 6d. and 1s. each, and in Canisters for Families at 2s., 5s., and 10s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

MESSRS. SHOOLBRED AND BRAD-

SHAW, 34, Jermyn-street, PATENTERS, Manufacturers of every description of ELASTICAL SURGICAL BANDAGES, as recommended by all the most eminent surgeons, in acknowledgment of the very extensive support they have received, beg to call attention to the various improvements they are making in patent Elastic Stockings, Knee Caps, Socks, and Ladies and Gentlemen's Spine Supporters. A new description of Belt, invaluable for prevention of Cholera and the cure of Rheumatism, Lumbago, &c. N.B. Every description of India-rubber Bandages vulcanised on the newest principle.

A CLEAR COMPLEXION.

GODFREY'S EXTRACT OF ELDER

FLOWERS is strongly recommended for softening, improving, beautifying, and preserving the skin, and giving it a blooming and charming appearance, being at once a most fragrant perfume and delightful cosmetic. It will completely remove tan, sunburn, redness, &c., and by its balsamic and healing qualities render the skin soft, pliable, and free from dryness, scurf, &c., clear it from every humour, pimple, or eruption; and, by continuing its use only a short time, the skin will become and continue soft and smooth, and the complexion perfectly clear and beautiful. In the process of shaving it is invaluable, as it annihilates every pimple, and all roughness, and will afford great comfort if applied to the face during the prevalence of cold easterly winds.

Sold in Bottles, price 2s. 9d., with Directions for using it, by all Medicine Vendors and Perfumers.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR, WHISKERS, and

MOUSTACHIOS are invariably produced in 2 or 3 weeks, by COUPELLE'S CELEBRATED ORINUTRIAR, the almost marvellous powers of which in the production and restoration of hair, strengthening weak hair, checking greyness, rendering the hair luxuriant, curly, and glossy, must be seen to be believed. Dr. Ure says: "It is the only preparation he can recommend for the nursery, as forming the basis of a good head of hair." 2s. per package, at 68, Cornhill; 14, Edgeware-road; 154, Sloane-street; Wimpoll, 78, High-street, Birmingham; Baines and Co., Leith Walk, Edinburgh; and Molegate, York; Whitaker, Sheffield; Haigh, 110, Briggate, Leeds; Jones, 5, Paradise-street, Liverpool; Ferris and Co., Bristol; Westmacott, Manchester; Hensleigh, Plymouth; Evans and Co., Exeter; Campbell, Glasgow; and through all Chemists; or sent post free for 24 penny stamps, by Rosalie Coupeille, 69, Castle-street, Newmarket-street, Oxford-street, London.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1, 2, & 3, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, Perry's-place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 2l. 14s. to 5l. 10s.; ditto with ornolu ornaments and two sets of bars, 5l. 10s. to 12l. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 34l.; Steel Fenders from 2l. 15s. to 6l.; ditto with rich ornolu ornaments, from 2l. 15s. to 7l. 7s.; Fire-irons from 1s. 9d. the set to 4l. 4s. Sylvester and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges—

Firstly—From the frequency and extent of his purchases; and

Secondly—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

BATHS and TOILETTE WARE.—WIL-

LIAM S. BURTON has ONE LARGE SHOW-ROOM devoted exclusively to the DISPLAY of BATHS and TOILETTE WARE. The Stock of each is at once the largest, newest, and most varied ever submitted to the public, and marked at prices proportionate with those that have tended to make his establishment the most distinguished in this country. Portable Showers, 7s. 6d.; Pillow Showers, 3l. to 5l.; Nursery 15s. to 32s.; Sponging, 15s. to 32s.; Hip, 14s. to 31s. 6d. A large assortment of Gas Furnace, Hot and Cold Plunge, Vapour, and Camp Shower Baths.—Toilette Ware in great variety from 15s. 6d. to 45s. the Set of Three.

THE BEST SHOW of IRON BED-

STEADS in the KINGDOM is WILLIAM S. BURTON'S. He has TWO VERY LARGE ROOMS, which are devoted to the EXCLUSIVE SHOW of Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Children's Cots, with appropriate Bedding and Mattresses. Common Iron Bedsteads, from 16s.; Portable Folding Bedsteads, from 12s. 6d.; Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with dovetail joints and patent sacking, from 17s. 6d.; and Cots, from 20s. each. Handsome ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads, in great variety, from 2l. 13s. 6d. to 15l. 15s.

PAPIER MACHE and IRON TEA-

TRAYS. An assortment of Tea Trays and Waiters wholly unprecedented, whether as to extent, variety, or novelty.

New Oval Papier Maché Trays, per set of three ... from 20s. 6d. to 10 guineas.
Ditto, Iron ditto ... from 13s. 6d. to 4 guineas.
Convex shape ditto ... from 7s. 6d.
Round and Gothic waiters, cake and bread baskets, equally low.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS devoted to the show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY (including cutlery, nickel silver, plated and japan wares, iron and brass bedsteads, and bedding), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and at once make their selections.

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

39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); 1, 2, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 and 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

Established A. D. 1820.

BUY OF THE MAKERS—BRUSHES,

COMBS, and BROOMS, of every description, whether for the dressing-table, household, or stable use, 30 per cent. lower than any other house in the trade, at the manufacturers, J. and J. WITHERS, 36, Tottenham-court-road (opposite Bedford-street, Bedford-square).—Warranted tooth brushes, 3d.; superior ditto, 4d.; the best that can be made, 6d. each.—N.B. The lowest price asked and no abatement.

DR. DE JONGH'S

LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL,

Prepared for MEDICINAL USE in the LOFFODEN ISLES, NORWAY, and put to the test of Chemical Analysis.

Extracts from Medical Testimonials:—

THE LATE JONATHAN PEREIRA, M.D., F.R.S.E., F.L.S., Professor at the University of London, Author of "The Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics," &c. &c.

"I know that no one can be better, and few so well, acquainted with the physical and chemical properties of this medicine as yourself, whom I regard as the highest authority on the subject. The oil which you gave me was of the very finest quality, whether considered with reference to its colour, flavour, or chemical properties; and I am satisfied that for medicinal purposes no finer oil can be procured."

ARTHUR H. HASSALL, M.D., F.L.S., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to the Royal Free Hospital, Chief Analyst of the Sanitary Commission of the *Lancet*, Author of "Food and its Adulterations," &c. &c.

"I have more than once, at different times, subjected your Light Brown Oil to chemical analysis—and this unknown to yourself—and I have always found it to be free from all impurity, and rich in the constituents of bile. So great is my confidence in the article, that I usually prescribe it in preference to any other, in order to make sure of obtaining the remedy in its purest and best condition."

Sold in bottles, labelled with Dr. de Jongh's stamp and signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by ANSAR, HARFORD, and CO., 77, STRAND, London, Dr. de Jongh's sole accredited Consignees and Agents for the United Kingdom and the British Possessions.

May be obtained, in the country, from respectable Chemists and Vendors of Medicine. Should any difficulty be experienced in procuring the Oil, Messrs. ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co. will forward four half-pint bottles to any part of England, CARriage PAID, on receipt of a remittance of ten shillings.

Half-pints (10 ounces), 2s. 6d.; Pints (20 ounces), 4s. 9d., Quarts (40 ounces), 9s. IMPERIAL MEASURE.

EPSOM GRAND STAND, THE DERBY

WEEK. The New Gallery containing Private Boxes, and Reserved and numbered single Seats. Persons wishing to secure places will please to apply immediately to Mr. Dorling, Epsom.

PRIVATE EDUCATION IN PARIS.—

Professor SAUVAGE, Rue des Postes, 44, near the Pantheon, receives a select number of young gentlemen as pupils. They are treated as members of the Family. The course of Instruction includes ancient and modern Literature, and the Sciences. Particular attention is given to the French language.

For particulars, apply (by letter) to Mr. E. P., 29, Arundel-street, Strand; and for personal reference, to Mr. W. Eaton, 16, Prince's-gate, Hyde Park, London, or to Mr. Holt, 55, Charing-cross.

NO. 112, REGENT-STREET, London.—Mr.

MECHI has OPENED a NEW ESTABLISHMENT, at 112, Regent-street, opposite Vigo-street, where the same prices will be charged as at 4, Leadenhall-street. Visitors from the country, and the London Public, are respectfully solicited to inspect the entirely New and Elegant Stock of Dressing Cases and Bags, Papier Maché, Cutlery, and a very extensive assortment of Elegancies, suitable for presentation.

HOBBS' PATENT AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LOCKS.

MESSRS. HOBBS, ASHLEY, and Co. are now manufacturing their celebrated AMERICAN and ENGLISH LOCKS on the Premises, 97, CHEAPSIDE, and 33, LAWRENCE-LANE, LONDON; where by the introduction of their Patent Steam Machinery, they are enabled to guarantee SUPERIOR WORKMANSHIP, combined with greater security, at a moderate price, than in any Locks produced, either in Town or Country.

EVERY LOCK being made and finished at the MANUFACTORY is WARRANTED, and bears THEIR OWN STAMP, without which none are genuine.

These Locks can be procured by order through any respectable Ironmonger in the United Kingdom, or at the WAREHOUSE, as above, WHOLESALE and RETAIL.

MILNER'S PATENT FIRE & BURGLAR-

PROOF SAFES, fitted with HOBBS' PATENT POWDER-PROOF LOCKS, form the Strongest Safeguards against Fire and Robbery; they are made of various dimensions, adapted for the security of Money, Plate, and important Documents, Parish Registers, &c. List of prices and dimensions can be had on application to HOBBS, ASHLEY, and CO.

Wholesale and Retail Warehouses, 97, Cheapside; and 33, Lawrence-lane, London.

BENNETT'S MODEL WATCH.

In gold cases from 10 guineas. In silver cases from 5 guineas.

Every watch is skillfully examined, timed, and its performance guaranteed.

BENNETT, WATCH MANUFACTURER, 65, CHEAPSIDE.

FURNISH YOUR HOUSE WITH THE BEST ARTICLES

AT DEANE'S Ironmongery and Furnishing

Warehouses. Established A.D. 1700. A Priced Furnishing List, free by post. DEANE, DRAY, and CO. (Opening to the Monument), London-bridge.

THE 16s. Trousers reduced to 14s.—Trousers

and Waistcoat, 22s.—Coat, Waistcoat, and Trousers, 47s., made to order from Scotch Tweeds, all wool, and thoroughly shrunk.

The TWO GUINEA DRESS or FROCK COAT, the Guinea Dress Trousers, and the Half-Guinea Waistcoat, made to order by B. BENJAMIN, Merchant Tailor, 74, Regent-street. For quality, style, and workmanship, cannot be equalled by any house in the kingdom.

N.B.—A perfect fit guaranteed.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS

is 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.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c., for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 18s. Postage, 6d.

AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA.

OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA. This is, of all known remedies, the most pure, safe, active, and efficacious in the purification of the blood of all morbid matter, of bile, urea, acids, serofulous substances, humours of all kinds, which produce rashes, eruptions, salt rheum, erysipelas, scald head, sore eyes and ears, sore throat and ulcers, and sores on any part of the body. It is unsurpassed in its action upon the liver, the lungs, and the stomach, removing any cause of disease from those organs, and expelling all humours from the system. By cleansing the blood, it for ever prevents pustules, eczema, pimples and every variety of sores on the face and breast. It is a great tonic, and imparts strength and vigour to the debilitated and weak, gives rest and refreshing sleep to the nervous and restless invalid. It is a great female medicine, and will cure more complaints peculiar to the sex than any other remedy in the world. Warehouse, 373, Strand, adjoining Exeter-Hall; POMEROY, ANDERSON and CO. Sole Proprietors. Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; pints, 4s.; small quarts 4s. 6d.; quarts, 7s. 6d.; mammoth, 11s.

(Established 1784.)
LAW LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE,
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