

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"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, FEBRUARY 16, 1856.

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Review of the Week.

THE Conservative Peers have made a very pretty quarrel out of the WENSLEYDALE case. Whatever may have been the intention of Ministers in creating Lord WENSLEYDALE a peer for the term of his natural life, the *avowed* reasons for the measure are quite sufficient to justify it. The House of Lords claims to be the highest judicial authority in the kingdom. At present there would be many reasons against superseding the authority of the Lords in that regard, but nothing is more notorious than the incapacity of the Lay-Lords to exercise the judicial function, or the small force of Lords learned in the law to adjudicate in the name of the House. "More Law Lords!" that is the grand want, if the House of Lords is to continue giving judgment which the public can respect. When the ancient Law Lords tell us that they want no more assistance, we perfectly understand the meaning of the assurance. All very old gentlemen resent the being helped; they wish the bystanders to assist in making them believe that they are as efficient as they have been when young. We not only require Law Lords to be appointed for the purpose of taking the places which will be vacated shortly, but also for the purpose of adding immediately and permanently to the number of the order in the House. It is advisable that the most experienced, able, and independent judges should be selected for that purpose. It has not proved to be the rule that the cleverest lawyers secure the largest amount of heritable property. If SCARLETT left a fortune, ERSKINE died poor, and if STOREY founded a property, JEFFERSON died a bankrupt; and the list of diverse fortune might be infinitely extended. We might illustrate the case well by the actual sons of Law Lords now holding seats in the Upper House, but it would be invidious to bring forward the individual names. A birth of Pauper Peers has happened when the Ministers had exercised some discretion in creating Peers who could manifestly be enabled to transmit fortune with hereditary title; but, if we require to pick out the best lawyers now living, we must necessarily cease to regard the question of money

and so, with our eyes open, create a larger number of Pauper Peers. Whether this would help to sustain the particular character of the House of Lords, it is for the Committee of Privileges to determine. They have easier questions before them, and yet they prove to be quite incompetent to settle those easy questions. For example, there are many precedents, which have already been debated in the House of Lords, establishing the fact that the royal prerogative has been exercised in the creation of life peerages—in ancient times for men, in modern times for women—quite sufficiently to prove that the Law Lords cannot establish the illegality of the act. When they begin business in Committee of Privileges, what must they do but recommence a laborious consideration of those same precedents, in a language which they could neither understand nor read. Just as the Hungarian Senate has left off debating in Latin, the British Senate begins law Latin as a variety for its debates! This proved really too dull a joke, and the committee adjourned for six days in order to have the impracticable precedents translated, perhaps also to gain time in the hopes of finding out how to back out of the difficulty of proving Ministers in the wrong. Lord CAMPBELL tried to get Ministers themselves to back out, by suggesting, on Friday last, that they should render the WENSLEYDALE peerage hereditary; that is, that they should tacitly confess themselves guilty, and adopt the dictum of Lord CAMPBELL and his coadjutors. Ministers were too cunning to be caught by that trap, and they stood out. The Conservative Peers have, therefore, placed themselves in the ludicrous predicament of resisting the royal prerogative in order to preserve the House of Peers from being rendered useful and perhaps from being popularised; so that they resist an ancient authority on the one hand, and modern improvement on the other. When popularity and precedent are leagued together it will be very difficult for any combination of Law Lords to defeat the combination. Lord WENSLEYDALE seems most likely to take his seat in the very midst of the lawyers who now declare that they will not admit him. Lord CAMPBELL distinctly warned the LORD

CHANCELLOR, and formally explained his warning to the House of Lords on Tuesday, that when he heard of the creation he determined "to make a row about it in the House of Lords." The discussion on Tuesday fully deserved the epithet which Lord CAMPBELL prospectively applied to it; and probably, when Lord WENSLEYDALE appears, Lord CAMPBELL will be prepared for an extension of the "row" into that more intense form called a "shindy."

If Ministers are promised a victory over the opugnant Law Lords, they are decidedly threatened with defeat in a more distant, but not less conspicuous ground—Central America. It is true that American feeling, as represented in the last accounts, does not lead us to expect any disposition on that side to make a war business out of the enlistment question. If there has been any subterfuge in the matter of the apology, probably the Americans will be satisfied with the retribution involved in the exposing the subterfuge. At all events, there is no practical operation going on, which calls for further interference on their part, and it will probably turn out that the balance of discredit will not lie on their side; although Mr. CUSHING has done his best to make a set-off against the bungling in England. Central America is the ground on which our Ministers can proceed to actual defeat. If they were to accept the American interpretation of the BULWER-CLAYTON treaty, it would enable them as a matter of good luck to withdraw from the territory. No doubt, as a simple matter of power, they can hold their ground in Honduras and the Bay Islands, at least for some time; but they will do so at the expense of maintaining themselves in a neighbourhood that would become excessively troublesome, if not dangerous. It is perfectly absurd to require the Government at Washington to hold back the adventurers who are crowding into Nicaragua. We have been able to drive back Russia from Turkey, because the Government was making the encroachments, and we can always hold a government answerable for its acts. Individual Russians had simply thronged into the Turkish dominions, as individuals had gradually acquired possession of the soil, had as gradually superseded the Turkish or Greek occupants, no remonstrance,

no coercion addressed to St. Petersburg, would have been effectual in stopping the process. Such a mode of encroachment, however, is impossible to Russia, because it is possible only to a State whose citizens are individually free. For similar reasons the encroachment of the Americans is not, as the encroachment of the Russians has been, dangerous to civilisation. On the contrary, it substitutes for a people who cannot maintain international relations, a people who can develop those relations into their best form. Any kind of intercourse with Texas was a theory or a joke, until the "Lone Star" was absorbed in the Union, and rendered capable at once of developing an Anglo-Saxon trade in produce, and acting with an Anglo-Saxon sense of obligations. The instruments for effecting this new conversion are not the best, but it is quite clear that they will do the work—that WALKER will be the HOUSTON of Nicaragua. Ultimately, too, we may foresee that, placed between the new "Lone Star" and the Union, the Spanish advocates of annexation in Mexico will be greatly strengthened as a party. Ministers hold the game in their hands, when it depends upon the WENSLEYDALE patent; but they are trying to control the whirlwind when they attempt to use the CLAYTON-BULWER treaty in stopping the march of events on the lands of Central America.

It is become doubtful, indeed, whether they can hold their own in the House of Commons. Already they show signs of giving way. Sir GEORGE GREY encounters a growing opposition to his County and Borough Police Bill, and he meets with combined interests against it. The boroughs resent the proposal that the Secretary of State should be charged with the more direct interference in the management of their police; and they are justly jealous of the intervention. The county representatives have a far weaker case, since they are unquestionably responsible for maintaining watch and ward efficiently; but they take their stand on the great modern principle of inertia, and with the assistance of the borough members they seem likely to impede ministers with a very stubborn obstruction.

Nor do Ministers take such a position as would give them complete moral strength. There never was a session in which they might, if they had pleased, make a more decided advance towards real dictation to Parliament. They have enjoyed a licence of negative legislation and of suspended initiative; and they might, under the circumstances of the session, have forbidden other members to record projects that were not to become law. When Mr. NAPIER, for example, proposes to establish a Ministry of justice, in order to revise the process of adding new laws to our statute-book, he makes a proposal, sanctioned by some of the best authorities; but it is perfectly clear that no such measure can be carried during the present session: and, if ministers had been resolved to show that they intended to keep the management of Parliament in their own hands, they would have forbidden him to record a blank resolution, solely on the ground of the insincerity of the record, and the inexpediency of encumbering the session with projects that are not to result in substantial measures. They leave bills that may be carried—for beginning the consolidation of our chaotically accumulated statutes—to Sir FITZROY KELLY, as if success itself in a really good work, were a thing for which they dared not be responsible. Thus, too, with Lord BLANDFORD'S bill. From the mere Church of England point of view, the young Marquis has a right to improve the division of parishes, the distribution of duties, the titles of the incumbents, and the mode of

administering the Church of England business throughout the country. Where so many young Peers waste their time in idle levities, the Marquis can be only applauded for endeavouring to render himself useful. It is some compensation which may go down to the credit of the house of MARLBOROUGH. But he is endeavouring to strengthen the tenure of a sect which is not at present doing much to identify itself with the whole body of the people of England. There is, therefore, actually, some dissenting jealousy at the new project for strengthening the supports of the Church of England, and the Marquis is met with many resistances from the Liberal party. Now, it should have been the part of Ministers to take their choice, and either to carry the Marquis's bill, as a proper thing upon established grounds, or to refuse the discussion of a measure not intended for completion. But they trim; they receive the bill to gain credit with the Conservatives and the Church; they will challenge it to preserve credit with the Dissenters and the Liberal party.

A large quarrel is forcing itself upon the Government and the country. The organised agitation to compel a dismal observance of the Sabbath is making virulent exertions to extend its organisation, to get up recruits in all classes, and to overcome Ministers. The Archbishop of CANTERBURY, with a large retinue, visits Lord PALMERSTON, and overwhelms him with exhibitions of archiepiscopal emotion; while Lord SHAFTESBURY threatens the Premier with a demonstration from "the mothers" of the United Kingdom. Lord SHAFTESBURY has been holding meetings in the suburbs, as a recruiting sergeant for the Lord's-day observance meeting; and the deputation to Lord PALMERSTON particularly begged the Premier not to think of opening Museums, National Galleries, and other places of amusement, on the seventh day. The public, they assert, desire to be prevented. Nine-tenths of the people would abstain from opening their shops if the remaining tenth would desist. According to this argument nine-tenths of the English people would most formally adhere to the path of salvation, and would, in fear of external perdition, observe the manifest ordinances of their faith, if they were not afraid of losing their business and the profits of trade on the seventh day. According to the argument, these earnest Christians, whom Lord SHAFTESBURY represents, deliberately prefer the money that they can take over the counter to their assurance of eternal bliss! This is what we call proving too much. If the people of England really desire the kind of observance dictated by Lord SHAFTESBURY, it would be their custom spontaneously, and the few who should persist in breaking the law would find the profits that they snatch insufficient to compensate the odium that they would incur. A very bitter contest is rising, but there seems every probability that the broad Church, with its moderate views, and the advocates of a decent liberality on the Sabbath, will combine and defeat the sectarians both within and without the Church.

The papers this week teem with evidences of the social conflict. Railway is again arrayed against railway, while each is exposing how its dividends are kept down by the competition. In this country of law, shareholders are complaining—and justly—that the capitalists who buy preferential shares over their heads keep them from the control of their own property. The South Western directors propose to consult the shareholders before entering into larger expenditure, and it appears the expenditure is already made; the North Western, which is honestly trying to avoid that style of management, is trying to beat down

the traffic of the Great Northern by a preposterously low rate of fares; and the Great Northern is evading the engagement of its own officers with the North Western, while the Great Western, overlaid with extension and competitive schemes, proclaims a dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. where it formerly divided 8.

A strange romance of real life is supplied by the Court of Arches. A husband brings an action of divorce against his young wife, and is met by incontrovertible evidence that the wife is still, in every sense of the word, a girl, while it is affirmed in court that he positively encouraged the intimacy that formed the subject of the accusation. The refutation of the charge against the young lady proves that, in point of fact, the marriage has from the beginning been null and void. In law, therefore, as well as in fact, the offence is proved to have been an impossibility. The case, however, is exceptional in its nature, though it does not stand alone in the recent annals of the law courts. We do not take it as a real illustration of "our civilisation"—it only shows what relations may be possible under cover of the law; for nothing but the grossest indiscretion could ever have brought this half ludicrous, half tragical romance before the eyes of the world.

That dignified and respectable corps of contemplative philosophers in plush, styled in the language of Imperial courtesy, "The French Senate," has received a solution of the enigmatic article in the *Moniteur*, to which we recently alluded. Their special function, says the Minister of the Interior, will be to examine and approve the measures of the Departmental Councils General. Imagine our House of Lords being requested to confine their initiative to the discussion of British roads and turnpikes!

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, February 11th.

THE CRIMEAN REPORT.

A DEBATE took place in the HOUSE OF LORDS on the subject of the imputations cast on some of the Crimean officers by the recent report of Sir John M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch. Lord LUCAN complained of the strictures that had been made on his conduct, and also that a letter he had addressed to Lord PANMURE, rebutting those strictures, had not been published.—Lord CARDIGAN intimated that he should on the following day transmit to the War Office a reply to the charges against him.—Lord PANMURE said it was not the intention of the Commissioners to attack the character of Lord Cardigan, but merely to offer an opinion on some points in the administration of the army. The charges against Lord Lucan were proved by returns received on the spot, and published with the report; but his Lordship's letter had been referred to one of the Commissioners. In answer to Lord DERBY, Lord PANMURE said that the self-defence of any officers who had no access to Parliament would be laid on the table of the House; and, replying to an observation of the Earl of HARDWICKE, he remarked that the decorations lately received by Lords Cardigan and Lucan were given for gallantry in action, and he therefore hoped those officers would continue to wear them, and not consider that they were bound to return them to the Queen.

A DIPLOMATIC DISCREPANCY.

Earl GREY called attention to a discrepancy between a despatch from Colonel Rose, of March 25th, 1853, and another from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe of the 27th of May in the same year; the one containing an assertion by M. Pisani, the interpreter of the English Embassy at Constantinople, that Rifaat Pacha had communicated to him the substance of a note *verbale* presented to the Turkish Government by Prince Menschikoff; the second stating, on the authority of M. Pisani, that Rifaat Pacha would never be brought to acknowledge the existence of any such note.—Lord CLARENDON replied that he had telegraphed Lord Grey's question to Constantinople, and that M. Pisani still asserted that Rifaat Pacha would not admit that the note existed at all. He had no doubt the Turkish Ministers were intimidated by the language of Prince Menschikoff, and were induced by him to conceal the existence of the note from the

English Ambassador, and that this had given rise to the two different statements. But he regretted that Lord Grey had brought forward the question at this moment.

NAVAL ESTIMATES.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the naval estimates, Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY complained that there had been a considerable expenditure in excess of the estimates voted last year—a most dangerous principle, since it places in the hands of Government a power of expenditure uncontrolled by the House.—Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, in criticising some of the items in the estimates (though with no view to crippling the resources of the country, should a vigorous prosecution of the war be necessary), said that in the number of men there was an increase of six thousand over the vote of last year, and suggested a deferring of this part of the vote, pending the negotiations.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, when Sir CHARLES WOOD (after a passing allusion to various improvements lately effected in the official arrangements of the Admiralty) stated that the estimates had been framed on the calculation of a continuation of the war; but only a part of each vote would then be asked for. For the active force of the navy it was intended to ask a vote of 66,000 seamen and marines, being 6,000 more than last year, and 10,000 boys. The estimate for the wages of this force was £3,237,893, showing an increase of £352,356 beyond the amount granted last year; but of this gross total he should require a present vote of only £2,000,000. The grand total for the naval service reaches £12,148,641, showing a net augmentation over the previous estimate of £291,135, besides a vote of £204,000 for the excess of expenditure incurred beyond the grants of the bygone session. The amount of work performed by the Transport Service has been immense. Not to speak of the vast quantities of matériel and provision, 294,000 men had been embarked and conveyed to and from the Crimea. Among other additions to the navy, 152 new gun and mortar boats were in course of preparation, augmenting to a total of 200 the number of that species of vessels, which would be ready for service in the Baltic should the campaign reopen. Altogether, should war continue, they would be fully prepared to despatch 350 pennants to the Baltic and 100 to the Black Sea. It would thus be seen that measures had been taken for carrying on the war with the enemy, whoever he might be, with every human means of success. Replying to the observations of Sir Henry Willoughby, Sir Charles explained, as the cause of the excess, that it is not easy to measure the amount so closely as to avoid any surplus.

After some remarks from Admiral WALCOTT, Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY, Captain SCOBELL, and Admiral BERKELEY, Sir CHARLES NAPIER congratulated the country on the statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty, and enlarged on the necessity for naval reform, the naval business of the country being conducted in a state of the greatest confusion, one part at Whitehall, and the other at Somerset House. The present board had introduced some very good changes in details; but, with a better system, three Lords of the Admiralty might be spared, and the whole business be more efficiently conducted by the First Lord and two others.—Sir FRANCIS BARING advised the House not to return to the former system of having a long list of Admirals, many of them, from old age and long staying on shore, unable to perform their duties afloat.—Lord HOTHAM expressed his satisfaction at the assurances given that employment and promotion in the dockyards would take place without reference to political considerations; and Mr. BENTINCK adverted to the anomaly of having a civilian at the head of the Admiralty.

The vote of £204,982 was agreed to. A vote of 76,000 men for a limited period, and votes on account of £2,000,000 for their wages, and £1,000,000 for their food, were likewise agreed to. The remaining votes underwent some discussion, but passed without amendment; and the resolutions were ordered to be reported.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OFFICES BILL was read a third time and passed.

Tuesday, February 12th.

The HOUSE OF LORDS, on the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, resolved itself into a Committee of Privilege on the patent of

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

After a little preliminary discussion, Mr. H. G. Sharpe, Assistant Keeper of the Rolls, produced the original patents of creation of two peerages in the reign of Richard II.—Guiscard D'Angle, created Earl of Huntingdon; and De Vere, Earl of Oxford, created Marquis, and then Duke, of Dublin. He gave in a list of several others, which have been printed in the series of national records containing the patents of peerage. The patent of the Earl of Huntingdon was almost illegible from age and discoloration, and the witness read the contents of the parchment roll from the printed volume of the records. The creation of this Peer was for life. The patent of the Earl of Oxford

was also a creation for life only. Mr. Sharpe was reading the latter patent when he was interrupted by Lord ELLENBOROUGH, who requested him to read clearly and slowly, as the House could not follow the old law Latin when read rapidly. An irregular conversation then ensued, the LORD CHANCELLOR contending that it was not usual to read such documents at length; all that was necessary was to give them in. Some discussion also took place on the right of Lord Wensleydale to present himself and demand admission to his seat in the House; Lord CAMPBELL giving notice that, if he did so before the Committee of Privileges came to its decision, he would move that the new Lord be refused admission; and the LORD CHANCELLOR arguing that the royal writ of summons is the legal authority, and that Lord Wensleydale is bound to obey. Finally, it was agreed that the reading of the old law documents should not be gone on with; and Lord BROUGHAM and Lord CAMPBELL undertook to assist Lord LYNDEHURST in the selection of documentary evidence. A list of patents in several reigns and of rolls of Parliament to be so examined was then put in and read, and Lord LYNDEHURST proposed that the committee should adjourn till Monday. This was assented to, after some further discussion with reference to matters of form.

On the House resuming, Lord CAMPBELL moved that notice be given to Sir James Parke that he might attend and be heard before the Committee, either by himself or his counsel, if he thought proper to do so. It being objected, however, that such an order must be addressed, not to Sir James Parke, but to Lord Wensleydale, and that he could not, according to precedent, be called on to appear in person, Lord CAMPBELL withdrew his motion, but gave notice that he should renew it on another day in a modified form.

The House then adjourned during pleasure, but met again at five o'clock. No business of importance, however, was transacted.

SARDINIA AND THE CONSTANTINOPLE CONFERENCES.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS Mr. LAYARD inquired whether it was true that the representative of the Sardinian Government had been excluded from the conferences at Constantinople, and, if so, on what account.—Lord PALMERSTON replied that the conferences related, not to matters connected with the treaty of peace, but to arrangements for the settlement of the question as to the rights and privileges of the non-Mussulman subjects of the Porte.

SCOTTISH MUNICIPAL REFORM.

Mr. EWART obtained leave to bring in a bill to extend the provisions of the Scottish Municipal Reform Act to nine royal burghs in Scotland, now excluded from the benefits of that act.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM AND PUBLIC JUSTICE.

Mr. NAPIER moved "That in the opinion of this House, as a measure of Administrative Reform, provision should be made for an efficient and responsible department of public justice, with a view to secure the skilful preparation and proper structure of parliamentary bills, and promote the progressive amendment of the laws of the United Kingdom." The laws of the British Empire are in a condition perfectly disgraceful to a civilised country; there being, besides a vast mass of common law and customs scattered over a great number of volumes, three different systems of laws, one for England, one for Scotland, and one for Ireland. The number of public statutes applying to England and Ireland, exclusive of local and private acts, is 18,284. This is in addition to the common law, which is common to both countries. There are thirty-four volumes of English and nineteen volumes of Irish acts. Before the Union, there were 2,263 public statutes peculiar to Ireland, and 1,300 have been added since. The system of double legislation which prevails creates the greatest inconvenience, and inflates great evils upon society. Lord BACON remarked on the accumulation of the statutes in his own time, though the number was then only 2,172. Mr. Napier produced a book which showed that in the reign of her present Majesty more public statutes had been passed than existed down to the reign of Elizabeth. Some of the statutes which remained unrepealed were absurd and ludicrous in the extreme. For example, one statute imposed a penalty on Irish prelates for bringing any Irishman to Parliament; another imposed a penalty for carrying coals to Newcastle. (Laughter.) Another prohibited any Irishman from coming to England without a testimonial from the Lord-Lieutenant; another forbade any person keeping more than 2,000 sheep; another had reference to abstinence from flesh in Lent. These were mere samples of the mass of obsolete statutes. The statute law commission gave a list of 10,047 statutes which were either repealed or obsolete. The laws of the United States had been digested into three octavo volumes; and, as long ago as the reign of James I., Lord BACON proposed to codify the laws of England. But the work had yet to be done, though in 1843 Lord Brougham, and in 1853 the present Lord Chancellor, made proposals for the effecting of so desirable a reform. With respect to the other branch of his subject, Mr. Napier alluded to the too great readiness with which bills are introduced, the results

being blunders, amendments upon amendments, delay, confusion, and inconsistency. A minister charged especially with the care of such matters would prevent all these mistakes and shortcomings. There are Boards of Trade, of Health, of Works, of War: why should not Justice have a Department and a Minister?—The motion was seconded by Mr. COLLIER, and supported by Mr. LOCKE KING, and Mr. WIGRAM, Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. EWART, and Mr. WILKINSON.

Mr. BAINES, while admitting the importance of the subject, said that the Statute Law Commissioners had prepared a plan for appointing an officer to watch over the current legislation of both Houses; and he therefore submitted to the House whether it would not be better to wait and see this plan, instead of pledging itself to an indefinite motion. Recommendations to the same effect were made by Lord JOHN RUSSELL (who spoke in high terms of the proposal for a Minister of Justice made by Mr. Napier), by Sir GEORGE GREY, Mr. CRAUFURD, Mr. MALINS, Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER, and Lord PALMERSTON, the last of whom observed that the difficulties in the way of a Minister of Justice would be almost insuperable. No doubt, he said, errors do creep into Acts of Parliament; but he doubted if the presence of a Minister of Justice would prevent them, for, in the case of independent members, it would be stoutly insisted on that any phraseology objected to by the Minister must be retained; and to give the Minister despotism, would be inconsistent with a free, deliberative assembly. The errors complained of often arose from the resistance to measures—a resistance arising from a great variety of opinions.

On the suggestion of Sir GEORGE GREY, Mr. NAPIER consented to strike out that part of his motion which pledged the House to the establishment of a new department in the State. The motion thus amended was agreed to.

CARDIGAN BAY.

Mr. LLOYD DAVIS moved for a "select committee to inquire into the advisability of constructing a harbour of refuge and defence in Cardigan Bay; and whether it may not be advantageous also to employ convict labour in the said works." A great loss of life and property occurred annually from the want of a harbour of refuge in Cardigan Bay. As a means of defence against an invading foe, Cardigan Bay was peculiarly adapted; and convict labour could be profitably employed in the construction of the works.—Sir CHARLES WOOD did not think that a sufficient case had been made out in support of the motion. It was true that a descent was made on the Welsh coast, some fifty or sixty years ago; but he believed, such was the bravery of the inhabitants, that the invaders were put to flight by a heavy Welsh women in red petticoats. (Cheers and laughter.) Nautical opinion was unfavourable to the eligibility of the bay for the purpose of a harbour of refuge.—After a short discussion, the motion was negatived by 118 to 44.

CONTRACTORS' DISQUALIFICATION REMOVAL.

Mr. THOMAS MITCHELL asked leave to bring in a bill to repeal the Act 22 George III., disqualifying contractors from being elected to, or sitting and voting as members in, the House of Commons.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in assenting to the motion, reserved his own office, as having to do with contracts over which the Government has complete control.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL characterised the bill as of dangerous tendency. A division was called for, and leave was given by 46 against 43.

Wednesday, February 13th.

The HOUSE OF LORDS did not sit. In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, the Marquis of BLANDFORD moved for leave to introduce his bill of last session for

THE FORMATION AND ENDOWMENT OF DISTINCT PARISHES.

He observed that the original intention in forming parishes was to create a bond of brotherhood. It must be admitted that great benefit to the country had accrued from the parochial system; but defects had arisen which required a remedy. Under the present system there exist the parish churches, district chapelries, consolidated chapelries, and particular district churches, which create the greatest confusion. The incumbent of a district church is not allowed to perform some of the church services in the district church. The parishioners are obliged to repair to the parish church to have the ceremony of baptism, for instance, performed, and on some occasions the means of the parish church are inadequate to meet the demands made upon them. This is particularly the case in Manchester and St. Pancras. So anomalous a distinction leads also to the payment of double fees, which is another source of confusion. The House was well aware of the difficulties of the church-rate question. His bill contained a provision on that subject. The minister of the district church is now called the perpetual curate. He proposed that he should be henceforth called the vicar. The bill provided that, on the application of the incumbent, the churchwardens, and two-thirds of the inhabitants, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners should be empowered by order in Council to convert these chapelries into separate and independent parishes. It further pro-

vided for the abolition of church rates except for the repair of the parish church as a national institution. The present bill proposed, with regard to the formation of parishes, to enlarge the powers of Sir Robert Peel's Act, by enabling the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to form separate districts, whether there were churches or not in the district, so that they could assign districts to existing churches. The bill also proposed to extend the principle of vesting the patronage of endowments in the hands of parties contributing towards the endowment. As the bill then stood, he intended that the patronage should be vested in any person who built a church and endowed it with not less than £40 a year, or who, not having contributed to the erection, gave an endowment of £150, or who built a parsonage-house and gave an endowment of £100 a year. He further proposed that when the patronage of extensive parishes having large incomes from tithes was vested in ecclesiastical corporations, sole or aggregate, this court should have power to divide them into districts and apportion the revenues.

The further progress of the bill was opposed by Mr. HADFIELD, who, speaking from a Nonconformist point of view, objected to the enormous powers conferred on the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to the measure taking power to apply crown lands, and to the extension of the system of pew-rents, which it was proposed to vest absolutely in the hands of the incumbents. He therefore moved to defer the second reading for six months.—The bill was supported by Sir GEORGE GREY (who thought that as Lord Blandford had consented to refer the details to a select committee, the measure should not be opposed), by Mr. LIDDELL, Sir JAMES FERGUSON, Mr. APSLEY FELLATE, and Mr. GLADSTONE, with a few objections; and, Mr. HADFIELD having withdrawn his amendment, the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be referred to a select committee.

POLICE (COUNTIES AND BOROUGH) BILL.

On the motion of Mr. HADFIELD, backed by the recommendation of Mr. HENLEY, Sir FRANCIS BARRING, Mr. ROBERT PALMER, and Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, the second reading of this bill was deferred for a fortnight.

Thursday, February 14th.

THE FERMOY PEERAGE.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, a discussion arose with respect to a point of law involved in the recent creation of an Irish peerage, the Barony of Fermoy; the Earl of DERBY contending that the Government, in creating that peerage, had given a new interpretation to the Act of Union, which provides that no Irish peer shall be created till three of those existing shall have become extinct.—Earl GRANVILLE explained that the peerage had been created under the advice of the law officers of the Crown, and sarcastically remarked that there was something peculiar in the state of the elections of Irish peers, for, however well qualified a peer might be to sit in that House, he had no chance of obtaining his seat unless he had the support of the Earl of Derby.—A hint having been thrown out, that an advocate should be appointed to watch the case on behalf of the House, the subject dropped.

UNSEAWORTHY VESSELS.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH presented a petition from seamen, complaining of being compelled by law to serve in unseaworthy vessels. The Earl gave several instances of seamen being sent to prison as deserters, because they refused to sail, according to articles, in ships known to be unseaworthy. The petition also complained of the employment of a great number of foreigners, who are but imperfectly acquainted with the English language, and who are therefore liable to misunderstand orders.—Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said that the case had been laid before the law officers of the Crown, the answer of whom was that the law already provides sufficient protection. Great difficulties would arise if seamen could at any time leave a ship upon merely saying that they consider it unseaworthy.

LAW REFORM.

Mr. LOOKE KING gave notice that on that day fortnight he should move for leave to bring in a bill to repeal certain statutes which, to use the language of Lord Bacon, are "sleeping and not in use, but snares for the unwary."

CRIMEAN PROMOTIONS.

Mr. LAYARD gave notice that he would propose his motion on this subject that day fortnight, and make the following addition thereto:—"That this House has observed with regret those officers whose conduct in their respective departments has been shown by the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the supplies of the British army in the Crimea to have occasioned great and unnecessary sufferings and losses in that army, have received honours and rewards, and have been appointed to, and are still holding, responsible offices in the public service."

THE AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

In answer to a question by Mr. BAXTER, Mr. LABOUCHERE stated that the general outline of the government plan with respect to the Australian Mails is to effect a monthly communication between

Australia and England; half of the expense to be borne by the Australian colonies and half by this country. The vessels are to call at King George's Sound, Melbourne, and Sydney, with a branch service to Adelaide, Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand.

BRITISH SHIPS IN RUSSIAN PORTS.

Mr. JOSEPH EWART inquired "whether it will be lawful to despatch British ships with cargoes to Russian ports during the armistice which is about to be concluded; and, in that case, would articles contraband of war, &c., be exempt from such permission?"—Lord PALMERSTON stated that he would strongly recommend persons engaged in such business to wait until the terms of the armistice are seen.

THE BRITISH FLEET IN THE CHINA SEAS.

Sir CHARLES WOOD, in answer to Mr. HENRY BAILLIE, stated that he did not think it desirable to lay upon the table the despatches of Admiral Stirling relative to the proceedings of the British fleet in the China seas.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTE LAW.

Sir FITZROY KELLY asked leave to bring in two bills—one to consolidate the statute law relating to offences against the person; and the other to consolidate the statute law relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes. These bills, it was proposed, should belong to a series, having for its object the consolidation of the entire statute law of England. He proposed, not to codify (which he thought impracticable), but simply to consolidate, the statute-book. The law is now comprised in about thirty-five or forty large folio volumes; and judges and attorneys, who may wish to ascertain the written law on a given subject, must either rely on a text-book, or go through the whole forty volumes, containing one thousand pages each, and, in all, about twenty thousand acts. Later enactments over-ride earlier enactments; and, the earlier acts being sometimes better known than the later, offenders have been condemned to punishments positively against the existing law. This monstrous condition of things had occupied the attention of lawyers from the time of Lord Bacon down to the existing Statute Law Commission, of which he had recently become a member, and which, acting on the suggestion of the Lord Chancellor, proposed to consolidate the statute law. That was the plan he had embodied in the two bills before the House. His intention was, with the aid of the Commissioners and of the House, to go through the whole statutes, beginning at Magna Charta or thereabouts; and to ask the House to repeal every law and section of a law relating to a particular subject, and to enact all the necessary provisions in a single act of Parliament—a process which would reduce the forty volumes of statute law to about a seventh or an eighth of their present bulk, and cut down the twenty thousand acts to some two or three hundred. His present intention was confined to England; but, when the English law should be settled, he should be ready to assist in effecting a similar reform of the laws of Scotland and Ireland. By the close of next session, the English statute law might be consolidated; and the cost would probably be from £50 to £100 for each consolidated bill. With respect to new laws and amendments of laws, Sir Fitzroy thought some officer should be authorised by both Houses of Parliament to watch over and superintend such matters.—The motion was seconded by Lord STANLEY, who agreed with Sir Fitzroy Kelly in thinking consolidation far better at the outset than codification, and who attributed the imperfect success of law reform to a want of popular interest in the subject.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave Sir Fitzroy Kelly credit for his good intention (though he did not know whether he was acting independently, or only as the organ of the Statute Law Commission); but, while entirely agreeing that the condition of our statute book is a scandal to the Legislature, he did not approve of the plan proposed, and believed that, instead of taking two years for completion, it would take two centuries. Nevertheless, a more comprehensive plan was needed. A complete outline of the law of England should be mapped out and subdivided under different heads, and the whole should be simultaneously dealt with. He would not, however, oppose the motion.—Sir FITZROY KELLY, in answer to the Attorney-General's observation, explained that he was not the organ of the Statute Law Commission.—Mr. STUART WORTLEY, Mr. BAINES, and Mr. M'MAHON supported the motion.—Mr. JOHN PHILLIMORE approved of codification in preference to consolidation.—Mr. LOOKE KING thought the plan proposed inefficient for the end in view.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said the suggestions of the Statute Law Commission had too great a reference to laying down the law in fragments, instead of founding it upon a philosophical analysis of subjects. He saw no insuperable difficulty in codifying the law.

Sir FITZROY KELLY having made a short reply, leave was given to bring in the bills, as well as a bill to consolidate the statute laws relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes.

THE IRISH JUDGES.

Sir JOHN SHELLEY moved for returns calculated to show the manner in which the Irish Judges had per-

formed their duties. The object of his motion and of the speech with which he accompanied it was to show that three of those judges are incapacitated by the infirmities of age from performing their duties; their ages being respectively eighty-two, eighty-four, and eighty-five. The oldest of the three (Baron Pennefather) is labouring under partial blindness.—Mr. KENNEDY having moved the omission of words, the effect of which was to make the return apply to all judges, Mr. NAPIER, with great warmth, defended the judges, and denounced the motion, to which he said the Government was accessory. Judge Torrens was as fresh in the face as Lord Palmerston. Was age a crime? Was the House prepared to follow up its motion by an address to the Crown? If so, let Lord Lyndhurst be asked to make the motion in the House of Lords. It could not be shown that in any case justice had failed on account of the alleged infirmities of the judges: the present attack, therefore, was most cruel.—Sir GEORGE GREY repudiated the insinuation of Mr. Napier, that the government had entered into a compact with Sir John Shelley. The infirmities of the judges, it appeared, had been exaggerated, and they generally attended to their duties satisfactorily; but he thought the motion should be agreed to.—Mr. DISRAELI spoke in favour of the judges; attacked the Government for its "spiritless and unworthy course;" and reminded the House that neither age nor blindness necessarily incapacitate a judge for discharging his duties, and that a blind man wrote the greatest poem of modern times, and a blind general captured Constantinople, an achievement which the Czar failed to accomplish.—Sir FREDERICK THESIGER expressed similar views with regard to the blindness of judges, in opposition to the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, who held a different opinion.—The motion was opposed by Mr. STUART WORTLEY (who held, nevertheless, that blindness is a disqualification), by Mr. GEORGE, Sir ROBERT FERGUSON, and Mr. JOHN PHILLIMORE.—Mr. HENRY BRUCE spoke in favour of the motion; and Lord PALMERSTON indignantly repelled the imputation made by Mr. Napier against the Government. While agreeing with the Attorney-General that blindness incapacitates a judge, and while recommending the withdrawal of the motion, as more respectful towards the venerable persons in question, the Premier said that, if pressed to a division, he must support it.—Sir JOHN SHELLEY briefly replied, and the House divided on Mr. Kennedy's amendment, which was negatived by 134 to 120. The division on the motion itself showed:—For, 132; against, 121. Majority in favour, 11.

THE LAWS OF PROPERTY AS THEY AFFECT WOMEN.

A Petition for which the Signatures of Women are requested.

Sheets of this Petition are lying for Signature at Messrs. Chapman and Hall, 193, Piccadilly; Messrs. Smith and Elder, 65, Cornhill; Mudie's Library, New Oxford-street; Messrs. W. and E. Cash, Publishers, Bishopsgate-street, and Mr. C. Fox's, Paternoster-row.

To the Honourable the House of Commons, in Parliament assembled, The Petition of the Undersigned Women of Great Britain, Married and Single,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That the manifold evils occasioned by the present law, by which the property and earnings of the wife are thrown into the absolute power of the husband, become daily more apparent. That the sufferings thereupon ensuing, extend over all classes of society. That it might once have been deemed for the middle and upper ranks a comparatively theoretical question, but is so no longer, since married women of education are entering on every side the fields of literature and art, in order to increase the family income by such exertions.

That it is usual when a daughter marries in these ranks, to make, if possible some distinct pecuniary provision for her and her children, and to secure the money thus set aside by a cumbrous machinery of Trusteeship, proving that few parents are willing entirely to entrust the welfare of their offspring to the irresponsible power of the husband, to the chances of his character, his wisdom, and his success in a profession.

That another device for the protection of women, who can afford to appeal, exists in the action of the Courts of Equity, which attempt within certain limits to redress the deficiencies of the Law; but that trustees may prove dishonest or unwise in the management of the funds entrusted to their care, and Courts of Equity may fail in adjusting differences which concern the most intimate and delicate relation of life;—that legal devices, patched upon a law which is radically unjust, can only work clumsily, and that here, as in many other departments of justice, a clearance of the ground in the chief thing necessary. That, since this is a truth, which has gradually come to be recognised in regard to protective restrictions upon trade, to titles of property in land, and to the legal machinery for conveying such property from one owner to another, &c., we

would hope that before long it will also come to be recognised in matrimonial legislation.

That it is proved by well-known cases of hardship suffered by women of station, and also by professional women earning large incomes by pursuit of the arts, how real is the injury inflicted.

That if these laws often bear heavily upon women protected by the forethought of their relatives, the social training of their husbands, and the refined customs of the rank to which they belong, how much more unequivocal is the injury sustained by women in the lower classes, for whom no such provision can be made by their parents, who possess no means of appeal to expensive legal protection, and in regard to whom the education of the husband and the habits of his associates offer no moral guarantee for tender consideration of a wife.

That whereas it is customary in manufacturing districts to employ women largely in the processes of trade, and as women are also engaged as sempstresses, laundresses, charwomen and in other multifarious occupations which cannot here be enumerated, the question must be recognised by all as of practical importance.

That newspapers constantly detail instances of marital oppression, "wife-beating," being a new compound noun lately introduced into the English language, and a crime against which English gentlemen have lately enacted stringent regulations.

But that for the robbery by a man of his wife's hard earnings there is no redress—against the selfishness of a drunken father, who wrings from a mother her children's daily bread there is no appeal. She may work from morning till night, to see the produce of her labour wrested from her and wasted in a Gin Palace, and such cases are within the knowledge of every one.

That the law, in depriving the mother of all pecuniary resources, deprives her of the power of giving schooling to her children, and in other ways providing for their moral and physical welfare; it obliges her, in short, to leave them to the temptations of the street, so fruitful in juvenile crime.

That there are certain portions of the law of husband and wife which bear unjustly on the husband, as, for instance, that of making him responsible for his wife's debts contracted before marriage, even although he may have had no fortune with her. Her power also after marriage, of contracting debts in the name of her husband, for which he is responsible, is too unlimited, and often produces much injustice.

That in rendering the husband responsible for the entire maintenance of his family, the law expresses the necessities of an age, when the man was the only money-getting agent; but that since the custom of the country has greatly changed in this respect the position of the female sex, the law of maintenance no longer meets the whole case. That since modern civilisation, in indefinitely extending the sphere of occupation for women, has in some measure broken down their pecuniary dependence upon men, it is time that legal protection be thrown over the produce of their labour, and that in entering the state of marriage, they no longer pass from freedom into the condition of a slave, all whose earnings belong to his master and not to himself.

That the laws of various foreign countries are in this respect much more just than our own, and afford precedent for a more liberal legislation than prevails in England—and your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will take the foregoing allegations into consideration, and apply such remedy as to its wisdom shall seem fit—

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

LADIES SANCTIONING THE ABOVE.

Anna Blackwell; Isa Blagden; Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Sarianna Browning; Mrs. Cowden Clarke; Charlotte Cushman; Amelia B. Edwards; Eliza F. Fox; Mrs. Gaskell; Matilda M. Hays; Mary Howitt; Anna Mary Howitt; Mrs. Jameson; Harriet Martineau; Honble. Julia Maynard; Mary Mohl; Bessie Rayner Parkes; Mrs. Reid; Miss Sturch; Mrs. Carlyle; Miss Jewsbury; Mrs. Lovell; Mrs. Loudon; Miss Leigh Smith.

THE WAR.

WHEN the news of the proposed armistice reached the northern forts of Sebastopol it produced a great sensation among the Russian troops, as preparations were being made for alarming the advanced posts of General d'Autemarre's division, by means of an attack to be made by way of Janisale and Koluluz. This design, of course, was countermanded; and so was an order which had been given to reinforce Lieutenant-General Wagner near Kertch. The fire from the northern forts has now entirely ceased, and the troops before Eupatoria have fallen back on Tulatt.

Fort St. Nicholas has been mined. Five English regiments, according to a despatch from Mar-sailles, are preparing to return to England; but, on the other hand, 494 of the Scots Fusiliers and

Coldstreams left London for the Crimea on Wednesday. Three thousand infantry, and two batteries of artillery have been sent to Kertch. The thaw has begun at Kinburn. Reinforcements have arrived, and all is quiet. On the Danube, also, the thaw has set in. There are very few foreign troops now in Constantinople. One thousand French are in camp at Maslak, and two English battalions, with a small cavalry detachment, still occupy Pera and Scutari.

The Russians have evacuated part of Turkish Armenia, and have retired to Erivan.

The *Moniteur* contains a decree, fixing the number of men to be called on to recruit the army in 1856. It is precisely that of last year. This looks like a determination to push on the war should necessity require it.

General Zomoski has had an audience with the French Emperor, and has left for Constantinople to assume the command of the Polish regiment formed in that city.

THE EXPLOSION OF THE DOCKS.

THE French have done their share of the work very effectually, and I see nothing that remains for them to destroy. For various reasons, the English works were more gradual in their progress, but have not been less thoroughly carried out. I believe the first idea was to blow up the whole at once, which would probably have given a more picturesque and, to appearance, more thorough ruin. But this plan was abandoned by reason of the dampness of the ground. Water flowed in from the ravine in rear of the docks, and rose in the shafts of the mines. It is probable that, had the engineers waited to explode the numerous mines until all of them were complete, the powder would have become damp in many of them and would not have ignited; so it was resolved to blow up a little at a time. Our respect for the power of powder is vastly increased by a view of the havoc it has played in such stupendous works as the docks—structures formed to last for ages, and to the duration of which no limit could be assigned. The difficulty of destruction was enhanced in the case of the docks allotted to the English by the fact that these were in part hewn out of solid rock. The basin thus formed was lined with huge masses of stone, and, between rock and stone earth was filled in. The engineers availed themselves of the soft interval for their mines, and blew the walls and counterforts inwards, but the rock remains, marking in places the outline of the docks. Everything is removed and riven without being scattered; and this is the object at which our engineers have constantly aimed. They have sought all along, and generally with much success, so to proportion the charges of their mines that, while everything should be overturned, rooted out, and thrown into the utmost confusion (literally topsyturvy), as little as possible should be thrown out of the crater. And accordingly most of their explosions have not had the appearance which would popularly be anticipated from the letting off of two, three, or more thousand pounds of powder. There was no diverging gush of stones, but a sort of rumbling convulsion of the ground; a few blocks and fragments were cast up to a moderate height, but the effect upon the spectator was that of some gigantic subterranean hand just pushing the masses a short distance out of their places, turning them upside down, and rolling them over each other in a cloud of smoke and dust.

Of accidents occurring from the explosions I have heard of none, excepting the one on Saturday last (Jan. 26th), which was of a peculiar nature. The explosion by the dock-gate had taken place, and some Sappers were busy at the bottom of a shaft forty or fifty feet off, when a noxious gas generated by the explosion entered the gallery, filtering through the intervening earth. The effect was gradual—one after another the men became giddy, and some of them insensible. With infinite alacrity and courage non-commissioned officers and soldiers descended the shaft, braving a danger which seemed the greater because its extent and nature were unknown, to succour their comrades, and as they got down they in turn were overpowered by the offensive gas. Major Nicholson and Lieutenant Graham also went down, and suffered in consequence. The former was insensible, when, supported by his men, he reached the top of the shaft, and it was some time before he recovered. To sum up the accident; one man perished, and seven or eight were seriously affected, but have since recovered. A man went down into the mine, after the accident, holding in his mouth the extremity of a tube down which air was pumped to him, and he walked about with perfect impunity and collected the men's caps and things they had left behind.—*Times correspondent.*

THE HOSPITAL AT RENKIOI.

The Andes steam transport arrived off the North Pier on the 21st of January from Balaklava, during a heavy gale from the south, with ninety patients, a large proportion being severe cases of fever; there were also many cases of frostbite, many of extreme

emaciation and exhaustion from repeated attacks of fever, from dysentery, from diarrhoea, or from continued exposure to the severity of a Crimean winter. Altogether, there were many more requiring the assistance of stretchers to be lifted from the caïques than upon any previous occasion. In most instances, the patients were quiet and passive when they reached the shore, but among the fever cases I heard the mutterings of delirium. One poor fellow fancied that he had landed in England, and was begging to have his children brought to him. His haggard face and sunken features looked particularly ghastly, obscurely seen by the flickering light of the corridor lanterns, as the fatigue party bore him to his bed; but it is needless to pain your readers by again attempting to portray these scenes of suffering with which they are already familiar. They will hear with pleasure that the transport service for the sick on this station is in a most efficient state. The Andes, formerly one of Cunard's fine mail steamers, is a model of cleanliness and comfort, quite equal to the Alps or the Imperator, or any of the vessels which have touched here... One point of pre-eminent advantage respecting this hospital is now established; fevers and other contagious diseases do not spread from bed to bed. It is doubtful if a single instance of the kind has occurred since the opening of the first ward; nor have any of the attendants, men or women, suffered in health. When this is contrasted with what is known to have happened in other places, we must in common justice acknowledge that in the appointment of the present chief of the establishment, Dr. Parkes (by whom all these matters are directed), the Government has exercised a very sound judgment.—*Times Correspondent (Renkioi).*

WAR MISCELLANEA.

SIR GEORGE MACLEAN, Commissary-General, has received a severe reprimand from Lord Panmure for officiously suggesting the immediate suspension of all shipments from Constantinople, and the cancelling of home contracts under the present probability of peace.

NEW RUSSIAN MODES OF DEFENCE.—The *Invalides* has published in detail the report drawn up by Admiral Glasenapp as to the construction of the row gunboats now building in Russia. In the course of this description, we are made acquainted with the new weapons which the Russians have had made for the purpose of repelling boarding attacks. They are represented as consisting of an iron lance, about seven feet long, and a mace of cast iron, the massive head of which resembles a pineapple, and like it is beset with a number of obtuse projections. Each boat is provided with from thirty to forty lances and from fifteen to twenty maces, in the management of which the Fins are said to possess great skill. From this description, these maces would appear to resemble the *morgenstern*, still in use with the watchmen in Sweden, and with one of which the Marquis of Waterford some years back came inconveniently into close contact.—*Times Berlin Correspondent.*

STRANGE, IF TRUE.—A soldier's letter published in the *Durham Chronicle* contains the assertion that many men have got the Inkermann and Balaklava clasp who were not in the least degree concerned in those actions.

THE PEACE.

BARON BRUNOW arrived in Paris at half-past ten o'clock on the night of Tuesday, and took up his quarters in the Hotel of the Russian Embassy, now vacant for two years. Aali Pacha, it is thought, will not arrive before the 22nd; Counts Buol and Cavour were expected yesterday (Friday); and the Earl of Clarendon will start to-day. Count Orloff left St. Petersburg on Monday, and arrived at Berlin on Thursday. The Conferences, it is believed, will open on the 23rd of the present month.

The Marquis de Moustier, the French Ambassador at Berlin, arrived in Paris on Saturday last, on a visit of some days, connected, as some suppose, with the intrigues which are still going forward to obtain the admission of Prussia to the Congress.

Austria, in the person of her representative, Count Rechberg, invited the Bund, on the 7th inst., to give its adhesion to the conditions which form the basis of the Paris negotiations. The Diet declined to enter at once into the consideration of the proposal, but referred it to the political and military committees of the Bund.

It is apparent that Austria contemplates the conclusion of peace as almost certain, as she continues to disarm her frontiers nearest Russia, and to reduce her army. Her interposition has probably saved Russia from an exhibition of exhaustion which might have led to grave results; for it is now whispered on the continent that, if Russia had risked a third campaign, her internal weakness would have become so evident that the Allies would have made very different conditions of peace. If this be true, Austria still remains the friend of Russia.

AMERICA.

The Speaker was still unelected at the latest dates; Banks, however, remaining ahead of the others, and within a few of the required number. From Nicaragua we learn that everything is prosperous and orderly. General Walker is receiving accessions by every steamer, and it is said that his effective force of Americans numbers between 800 and 900. Nothing has been heard of Colonel Kinney's party which left to attack Fort Walla Walla, in possession of the Indians.

The President has communicated to the Senate a letter (dated January 19, 1853) from Lord John Russell to Mr. Crampton, respecting the Central American question, in which the writer pledges the Government "not to assume any sovereignty, either direct or indirect, in Central America," and states that "what her Majesty's Government would consider a good and final arrangement would be—first, that Greytown should be a free and independent port, connected with Mosquito by such relations of friendship and alliance as may be agreed upon. Second, that indemnification, or advantages equivalent to those laid down in the project of convention of the 13th of April, 1852, shall be assured to Mosquito in return for its withdrawal from its present position with regard to Greytown. Third, that Great Britain and the United States, without guaranteeing Greytown, should be ready to act in concert to defend the independence of the free city or port of Greytown from whatever quarter it might be attacked." The subject of this letter was to be discussed in the Senate on the 27th of January. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says:—"Mr. Buchanan writes that he will relinquish his mission on the 12th of February, whether a successor be nominated or not. He will appoint Mr. Campbell, the consul at London, to the post of Chargé d'Affaires. There being no Secretary of Legation at the present juncture, this proceeding may temporarily embarrass our relations, as the intelligence of Mr. Crampton's recall will occupy Lord Palmerston at the same time." The *New York Herald* speaks of the Hon. George Mappin Dallas, LL.D., as the new minister to London.

A special message has been presented to Congress by the President on the Kansas controversy. In this document the President distinctly acknowledges the validity of the acts of the Kansas Legislature, and he declares that it will be his "imperative duty to exert the whole power of the Federal Executive to support public order in the territory; to vindicate its laws, whether federal or local, against all attempts of organised resistance; and to protect the people in the establishment of their own institutions, undisturbed by encroachments from without." Two English agents, named Galbraith and Gillespie, have been liberated on providing securities for their future appearance. There has been a dreadful contest with slaves in Kentucky: several have been killed and wounded in trying to escape.

In Northern California, Indian depredations still continue. A severe shock of earthquake was experienced at San Francisco on the 2nd ult. Great dulness of trade prevailed towards the end of December in Honduras. The prices of mahogany were low, wages were depreciated, and a large amount of mortality had existed among the Whites.

"England" (says the Belize correspondent of the *New York Herald*) "is riveting her rule more firmly on the colony. It has now been ordered that all vessels shall be registered, and that no foreigner shall own a ship hoisting the British flag, unless he take the oath of allegiance to that Government and become naturalised. Many persons have already done so."

Haro y Tamirez, having been arrested in Vera Cruz on suspicion of treason, has escaped, collected a numerous body of troops, and is besieging Puebla, which he is likely to take. It is stated that Comonfort's Government is very weak.

In the New York Money-market, money was in good demand, and the turn of the market was in favour of the lender. Foreign exchange was irregular, but the tendency of the market was towards firmer rates. Trade, for the most part, was dull.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

The Santal insurrection is completely suppressed, and the force employed against the rebels has been broken up, though the troops at Berhampore will be increased. Raneegunge, the railway terminus, will become a military terminus, and a military police, 1,200 strong, will be placed in the centre of the disturbed districts. With respect to Oude, doubt still remains as to the ultimate intentions of the British Government with respect to it. It is thought certain, however, that, whether it be annexed or not, the reigning house will be deposed, and the entire administration entrusted to General Outram. A letter, it is asserted, has been sent to the King, announcing that determination; an intimation which the monarch received with tears, and with exclamations expressive of the Oriental spirit of fatalism.

English troops have been despatched in the direction of Oude. From Cabul, it is announced that the Dost has repudiated any intention of taking possession of Candahar, and has requested his sovereign relatives to aid him in resisting the designs of Persia with respect to Herat. Intelligence has been received in India of a serious insurrection among the Arabs at the Red Sea ports, Jiddah and Mocha. The Turkish soldiery have been compelled to take refuge in the towns, and, at the request of the English consul at Jiddah, the war steamer Queen has sailed from Bombay to the Red Sea.

The introduction of Mr. Grant's new Sale Law into the Calcutta Legislative Council is an important step towards the reform of a most hideous state of corruption. The whole of Bengal has been divided into estates held by landlords on the tenure of a fixed quit-rent to the Company. The landlords sub-let these estates, some of which are enormous: the Burdwan estate alone contains 2,000,000 cottiers. "Unfortunately" (says the *Times* Calcutta correspondent), "Lord Cornwallis, when he established the perpetual settlement, in order to secure the Government rental, arranged that, in the event of failure to pay the quit-rent, the sale should vitiate all encumbrances whatsoever. Whenever, therefore, an estate goes to the hammer, every lease upon it is *ipso facto* void. The landlords, thoroughly aware of the law, use it in this fashion:—They lease the lands to wealthy tenants, suffer them to raise the value of the property, fail to pay the quit-rent, and, at the consequent sale, buy in their own estates, under a false name, clear of all encumbrances. The threat of such a proceeding has actually been employed in one instance within my knowledge to extort money from the manager of a great indigo concern. Of course with such a tenure improvement became impossible." The object of Mr. Grant's bill is to sweep away this iniquitous system.

Great mineral wealth—particularly of iron and copper—has recently been discovered in Bengal. A vast fire, destroying £200,000 worth of property, occurred on the 10th of December, at Rangoon: the people exhibited the utmost apathy. The Bank of Bengal has declared a dividend of twenty per cent.

EGYPT.

Said Pacha is at war with the Bedouins of the Desert, who are incensed against him for having induced them to trust in him, and then thrown 1,500 of them into fetid prisons, where they speedily died. The Viceroy has very considerably curtailed the grant made to the great mosque of Cairo, El Azhar, where the poorer classes of the natives are educated. This and other curtailments, combined with very onerous taxes, have raised the Pacha's revenue to considerably above £4,000,000 sterling per annum. He has been feeding and paying his soldiers at an unusually high rate, and seems bent on the execution of the canal across the Isthmus of Suez, and of other public works.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The alleged desire on the part of the French people for peace at any sacrifice, is denied by the writer of a letter from France (a military man), who, while admitting that the men in office (for the most part, the same as those who held similar positions under Louis Philippe) conceive that France has gained sufficient glory, observes:—"They forget that this glory, which belongs to the nation, is somewhat counterbalanced by the blame which falls on the Government, which has not succeeded in finding a great general, or in imparting a better direction to the operations of the army. There is but one voice in France to blame the small fruit which has been obtained from all our efforts, sacrifices, and bravery. In fact, the real public opinion in France, in so far as it can be known, is the same as that in Piedmont and in Sweden, namely, that it is unfortunate that our arms should be laid down before the equilibrium of Europe by means of the re-establishment of Poland is secured. One fact in particular gives great weight to that opinion; it is that, in spite of the denials of the Austrian Cabinet, it has sufficed to evoke the shade of Poland to compel Russia to lay down her arms, and to accept the propositions which are imposed on her. Intelligent men in this country think that the Emperor has committed a mistake in allowing this opportunity for acquiring glory to pass away. He has had it in his power to change the map of Europe, so ill arranged in 1815 from hatred to France, as if he were frightened by the grandeur of the project, which would be so glorious for him. He has ever, even during the war, allowed his desires to be limited by the treaties of 1815, so odious to this country, and he will not demand the execution of them in what concerns Poland. One thing is clear,—that the army will return from the East dissatisfied with the manner in which the war has been conducted, and also with the creation of the Imperial Guard."

M. Billault, Minister of the Interior, has addressed a report to the Emperor, in which he states that he has ordered the re-publication of the suggestions for local reform put forth by the Councils General, the issue of which has been stopped for some years past.

The attention of the Senate is directed to these documents; and the members of that body are reminded, by means of some quotations from the recent article on their duties published in the *Moniteur*, that "the initiative" conferred on them by the constitution "is by no means a mere nominal prerogative, yielding nothing for the welfare of the country."

M. Nisard, the Professor who recently experienced so stormy a reception from the students, was desirous of suspending his lectures, as his colleague, M. Sainte Beuve, had felt himself compelled to do. But the government, having found mild measures unavailing in the former instance, summoned M. Nisard to resume his lectures or to resign. Fourteen young men have been condemned to fines or imprisonment for their share in the demonstration against the Government. Among them is young Roland, son of the unhappy Pauline Roland, who was transported to Algeria after the 2nd of December, and after a year's exile was brought back to France in a dying state, to expire on arriving at Lyons. It would seem that if political opposition is ever justifiable, it is in the case of the son of this murdered woman. But the judges treated this circumstance as an aggravation of the offence. They doubled the period of imprisonment for young Roland, and enlarged the fine. A student was sentenced to a fine of 200 francs for having exclaimed "Shame!" when he saw one of his friends maltreated by the police.

The project of dispersing the schools is again under consideration. The Ecole de Droit is to be consigned to Poitiers, the Ecole de Médecine to Montpellier; the Ecole Polytechnique is to be dissolved.

Madame George Sand has no less than three plays accepted at different theatres in Paris. Among these is an adaptation from her pen of Shakspeare's *As You Like It*, under the title of "*Comme il vous plaira*." We shall be curious to see what the genius of George Sand has made of *Touchstone* and *Audrey*.

The Protestants of the Haute Vienne—a sect of independents who will receive no salary from the State, and whose particular form of worship is not one of those recognised by the law—have been again condemned by a court of justice for an infringement of the decree of March 25, 1852, against unlicensed assemblages of more than twenty persons. The sentences are this time heavier than before, on the ground, as the court states in its judgment, that the parties knew they were contravening the law as interpreted by previous judgments. Fines, amounting to 9,000f., are inflicted upon the seven individuals found guilty.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent*.

The Bank of France has rescinded the measure reducing to seventy-five days the maximum of bills handed for discount, and has resolved to recommence taking commercial paper of ninety days' date.

AUSTRIA.

The pregnancy of the Empress of Austria is officially announced by the *Vienna Gazette*.

The incubus which now weighs on the minds of Austrian politicians (says the *Times* Vienna correspondent) is the Russo-French alliance, which they see looming in the distance; but the Emperor Napoleon, who must be well informed of what is passing in the world, cannot think of making Russia his mainstay, or the prop of his dynasty. The Russian Court looks on the present ruler of the French as neither more nor less than a fortunate adventurer; and Louis Napoleon cannot be ignorant that the Russian Grand Dukes received positive orders from their late father, on all occasions to treat the Count de Chambord as the King of the French, and that they never failed to give him the title of "Majesty," and to insist on his taking the place of honour.

Measures are under consideration for re-establishing the Civic Guard. It will consist of infantry, artillery, and cavalry corps.

The conduct of the Italian bishops in taking undue advantage of the Concordat has given rise to new negotiations with Rome.

RUSSIA.

General Prince Gortschakoff is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the West and Centre, and Imperial Lieutenant of the Kingdom of Poland, with all the rights and prerogatives of that office.

It is understood at Berlin that a person versed in mechanical arts is shortly to be attached to the personnel of the Russian embassy at that city, in order that he may make himself acquainted with every improvement in mechanism and the useful arts, which may arise in Prussia, and that he may report the result of his observations to his own Government.

Important personal changes in the higher administrative departments of St. Petersburg are mentioned. The removal of the Minister of the Interior and the Chief of Police is spoken of.

PRUSSIA.

In the debate in the House of Deputies on Count Schorin's motion for inquiry into the alleged interference of the Government in the recent elections, the Ministers admitted that they had interfered, and justified that interference by stating that seasons of election are times of great excitement, and require the

control of the Government. The motion was rejected by 203 against 92.

ITALY.

The Sardinian Senate has voted the loan of 30,000,000 by a majority of 50 to 7.

The Patriarch of Venice has ordained that, "in order to avoid scandal, all those persons who do not fast on the appointed fast days are to be served in a private room."

SPAIN.

The *Madrid Gazette* announces the resignation of M. Brail, Minister of Finance, and the appointment of M. Santa Cruz as his successor. The new Minister renounces the re-establishment of the *octroi* duties. He will convert the floating debt into a voluntary consolidated debt.

PORTUGAL.

The debate upon the reply to the throne has commenced in the Portuguese Chamber of Deputies, where the Minister of Finance has presented the budget for 1856-57, showing 10,939 contos of revenue, and 12,584 contos of expenditure; but by adding to the revenue the usual abatements from the royal allowances and from public salaries, the calculated deficit is reduced from 1,655 contos to 355 contos, or about £80,000. The Minister of Finance has also brought forward his arrangement with the foreign bondholders; and a bill to regulate the trade in grain, allowing free exportation and importations upon a sliding scale of duties, has been introduced.

BELGIUM.

A private correspondent at Brussels, who is in a position to be correctly informed, transmits us the following statement respecting the recent transfer of the *Independence Belge* into the hands of a French proprietor. "The *Independence* is positively sold to a French company consisting of M. Veron, M. de Morny, and two bankers established at Cologne. So long ago as last summer M. Perrot, the proprietor and director of the *Independence*, was desirous of parting with the property of his journal on account of some difficulties in the way of its circulation in France, and of its conduct at home in the face of a daily increasing liberal reaction against Bonapartism. M. Jules Lecomte, the writer of the *Courier de Paris*, in the *feuilleton* of the journal undertook, or was charged with, the opening of negotiations. Two months since the affair was all but concluded for the sum of 800,000 francs (£32,000), but two obstacles, or rather difficulties, presented themselves. M. Veron proposed to announce the sale in the Paris papers, to which M. Perrot reasonably objected on the ground that such arrangements were better kept secret. On the other hand, M. Perrot was anxious to insure a fixed and certain position to his chief editor, and to give him a share of the property, but to which M. Veron objected. After two months' negotiations the parties assented to mutual concessions. M. Veron consented to make good the position of the chief editor, and M. Perrot to allow the transaction to be published in the papers. Such is the precise state of affairs. M. Perrot will shortly quit the journal, and it is probable that some of his writers also will withdraw rather than remain openly in the pay of M. Veron and of the French police. Already, indeed, M. Louis Hymans, whose name is better known than the rest, has resigned his post on the journal.

TURKEY.

A fire took place on Saturday week in the barracks at Constantinople, occupied by a detachment of the 13th English Dragoons. No lives were lost. The building, with the arms and accoutrements it contained, was totally destroyed.

The Sultan, on the 31st of January, attended the *bal costume* at the English Embassy. This is looked on as a great concession to the non-Mahomedan part of the population, the Mussulmen having a great prejudice against such frivolous amusements. His Majesty seemed much interested in the dancing, to observe which he stood up for about half-an-hour.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

THE COLLISION OFF FOLKSTONE.—An inquiry into the loss of the *Josephine Willis* has been instituted by the coroner for the Cinque ports, and terminated in a verdict of manslaughter against Capt. Burchier, of the *Mangerton*, who appears to have been careless in the management of his vessel. The official inquiry has resulted in the annexed verdict:—"We come to a unanimous conclusion that George Summers and others came by their deaths in consequence of a collision between the ship *Josephine Willis* and the steamer *Mangerton*, owing to an error in judgment on the part of the chief officer of the ship, mistaking the light of the steamer for Dungeness Light, and starboarding the helm. We also agree that if a proper lookout had been kept on board of the steamer, the collision might have been avoided. We feel it our duty also to state that there appears to have been a great want of humanity on the part of the crew of both ships in not sending assistance to the passengers of the ship while they had it in their power to do so; and we believe that, if proper efforts had been made, many more lives would have been saved." A third inquiry has been opened before Mr. Yardley, the

Thames magistrate in London, but is not yet concluded.

THE WRECK OF THE POLYPHEMUS.—Eight officers and sixty-six men of the *Polypemus*, which was lately wrecked on the coast of Jutland, arrived at Portsmouth on Tuesday, to await their trial by court-martial, with the remainder of the officers and crew.

A FEMALE RECRUIT.—A young woman, about seventeen years of age, has enlisted into the 97th Regiment, a recruiting party of which corps is stationed at Windsor. Although she slept that evening in a room where there were several beds occupied by men, her sex was not discovered until next morning, when, being taken before the medical officer for examination, and ordered to strip, as usual on such occasions, she was obliged to confess that she was a woman. She was then brought before the magistrates, charged with obtaining the Queen's money under false pretences, and was remanded. It is said that she enlisted in order to be enabled to join her sweetheart, who is in a cavalry regiment in the Crimea. A subscription has been commenced for her in Windsor.

GREAT PREPARATIONS AT PORTSMOUTH.—Portsmouth garrison presents just now the appearance of a town beleaguered from the sea and the garrison preparing busily for its defence. A large fleet of ships and gunboats is at anchor in the roadstead off the town, and new batteries and quarters for soldiers are being constructed rapidly within the walls of the fortress. At the top of the town, a large range of dwelling-houses and the theatre have been pulled down to create more room for military accommodation, while at the bottom a heavy battery of sixteen 68-pounder pivot guns is in course of completion, having taken the place of the old platform of 6-pounder saluting guns. In the rear of these has been erected a large shell magazine, flanked by a high earth mound to protect it from the shot of an enemy seaward; new embrasures for heavy 32-pounders have been cut in the curtain of the ramparts at various points commanding Southsea, where a mud fort has been built near the old stone fortress, Southsea Castle, to strengthen that defence.—*Times*.

BANQUET TO SIR EDMUND LYONS AT THE MANSION-HOUSE.—The Lord Mayor gave a dinner on Wednesday to Sir Edmund Lyons. After Sir Charles Wood had returned thanks for the Navy, and General Buckley for the Army, the Admiral addressed the meeting, and in the course of his speech, said, that he was afraid that some of the admirals were too old. "They are sorry for it," he added; "but I hope the country will forgive them what they cannot help. As to the captains and younger officers, they are equal to any the service ever boasted of."

OBITUARY.

MRS. CLARKSON, widow of Thomas Clarkson, the great anti-slavery reformer, died a few days since at Playford-hall, near Ipswich. She was in her eighty-third year.

MR. ARKWRIGHT, M.P. for Leominster, died on Wednesday week.

OUR CIVILISATION.

MURDER BY A CONVICT AT PORTSMOUTH.

An inquest was held at Portsmouth on Friday week by the Admiralty coroner, on the body of Mr. Hope, assistant-surgeon to the convict-ship, *Stirling Castle*, now in Portsmouth harbour, that gentleman having been murdered by one of the convicts on board the vessel. On the morning of the inquest, the murderer, Thomas Jones, asked Mr. Hope to examine his chest. The surgeon did so, and afterwards said, in answer to a question from Jones, that he saw no occasion then to send him to the lower deck, which was very full, but that, if necessary, he would be shifted to the lower deck of another vessel. Mr. Hope left the surgery, followed by Jones, and, as he was passing the chapel gallery of the ship, Jones caught him by the neck with one hand, and apparently struck him on the face with the other. One of the officials on board the *Stirling Castle* seized the convict and secured him, while Mr. Hope ran round the gallery. He did not complain of being hurt, nor did there appear to be any mark of violence upon his person. Nevertheless, he was not long afterwards seen lying prostrate by the governor's door, with blood flowing from his mouth and neck, and, on removing the neckerchief from the latter, it was discovered that his throat was cut. He was then scarcely alive, and about five minutes afterwards he died. Previous to his death, he stated that Jones had struck him; but no weapon of any kind was found on the convict.

It would seem that the murderer committed the act out of some offence that he bore against Mr. Hope, as he was heard to say to that gentleman a few minutes before he struck him, "You and Mr. Williams are conniving together to do me a serious injury." Mr. Hope interrupted him, saying he was not to believe anything of the sort, as he had not mentioned Jones's name to Mr. Williams. Jones re-

plied he would not be slow poisoned or slow murdered. After he was captured, he expressed a wish to see Mr. Williams, the chief warder of the ship, and when that gentleman came, he said to him, "You villain! I would serve you the same way as Mr. Hope. Mark my word, there is some one waiting for you on board." It also appeared that he was irritated against Mr. Hope for not sending him to the invalid deck; and at the inquest he accused the surgeon of oppression and cruelty, though of this there seemed to be no proof. He said he had done the deed "without a pang," and only wished he had "finished" Mr. Williams and Mr. Bowler, another surgeon. A piece of a razor, set into a wooden handle, which Jones has carried about for some time, seems to have been the instrument with which the act was committed. A verdict of Wilful Murder was returned by the coroner's jury.

SINKING A SHIP.—Jos. Taylor, late second engineer of the steam-ship *Marley Hill*, has been committed for trial charged with attempting to sink that vessel, by turning on the sea-cock, in consequence of which the engine-room was flooded, and the ship (which was lying in the Pool, off Limehouse Hole) was nearly lost. The object of the prisoner seems to have been to do an injury to the chief engineer, with whom he had quarrelled.

EXCESS OF DUTY.—The charge against two policemen of excess of duty in arresting a Mr. Dawson, in connexion with the shot robbery in the Belvidere-road, Lambeth, has fallen to the ground.

IMPRISONED FOR FORTY-FOUR YEARS.—An inquest has been held on the body of Jean Baptist Dufrene, who recently died in the Queen's prison from old age. He was eighty-two; and had been imprisoned ever since 1812, at which period he was before the Court of Bankruptcy, and, having refused to answer some question with reference to his account books, he was committed for contempt of court. A few years ago he was offered his liberty, but refused. His brother gave evidence at the inquest, and was much affected.

BIOGRAPHY OF TWO CRIMINALS.—Three accomplished thieves, named Monro, Jones, and Richardson, the two former with a great many aliases, were recently sentenced, at the Clerkenwell police-office, to three months' hard labour for loitering about the streets. A police-sergeant, suspecting that more charges might turn up against them, obtained a remand, and found that some shirt collars which they wore were stolen. This led to the discovery of one or two burglaries committed by the men, one on the morning of Christmas-day, when they took out a box from a house in Holloway, placed it in a dog-cart and drove off. They have been committed for trial. The previous lives of two of the men are singular, and may be described as the romance of criminality. Jones was convicted of a burglary in 1839, and was transported for fifteen years. He was sent to Norfolk Island, escaped from there soon after, and returned to England. He was recaptured in Liverpool, when he was tried as an escaped convict, and sentenced to be transported for life. He was then sent to Hobart Town, but escaped from there in 1849, once more returned to England, and was apprehended in January, 1852, tried at the Old Bailey, and again transported for life, but subsequently obtained his pardon. He was shortly afterwards apprehended, and committed for trial for an extensive burglary at a jeweller's shop at Leighton Buzzard, but was acquitted, and has since been in custody, and had three months' hard labour. Richardson is also well known, having been tried for a burglary and sentenced to six years' penal servitude. He was then confined in Horsemonger-lane Gaol, and escaped from there about eighteen months since. Monro is likewise well known to the police, and has been sentenced to two years' hard labour for an attempted burglary.

MURDER OF A CHILD AT WALWORTH.—An infant six weeks old, named Frank Withers Rider, has been murdered by his mother, Mrs. Emily Rider, a lady living in Onslow-terrace, Lorrimer-road, Walworth. An inquest was held on the body last Saturday, when it appeared that on the previous Thursday Miss Georgina Armstrong was told by her sister that Mrs. Rider had drowned her infant son. Miss Armstrong went to Mrs. Rider's bedroom, but not seeing the child there, she proceeded to Mrs. Rider, who told her that she would find her boy in a pan covered over with a board. He was immediately afterwards found in a pan full of water, lying on his face with his legs doubled under his body. He was thought to be quite dead, but Miss Armstrong was too much frightened by the discovery to call in medical aid directly. A verdict of "Wilful Murder" was returned against Mrs. Rider, who was then removed to Horsemonger-lane Gaol. It appeared from further statements that she was of unsound mind, and had repeatedly tried to kill herself.

CAPTURE OF A GANG OF BURGLARS.—Four men, engaged in a burglary in the house of a clergyman near Barnsley, Lancashire, have been arrested by the police. They were entrapped in their own house while in the act of breaking up the plate. The police

suddenly burst in upon them, and so astounded the whole party that at first they did not know how to proceed. At length, however, two attacked the officers, while the other two escaped from the window, carrying some of the spoil; but eventually all were captured, after a fierce struggle.

A STRANGE STORY OF ADULTERY.—A suit of divorce, by reason of adultery, has been brought in the Archdeacon's Court by a Mr. William Yate Hunt. He was married in 1845, and cohabitation and consummation were pleaded in the usual form. In the year 1850, an acquaintance sprang up between Mr. Hunt and the Hon. Maurice Berkeley Portman, third son of Lord Portman, at that time a youth of seventeen; and in 1852, great familiarity was observable between Mr. Portman and Mrs. Hunt. On one occasion, they were together locked and bolted in a room in an hotel, with the blinds down; after coming out of which, Mr. Portman gave the waiter half-a-crown, and said, "Mum's the word, waiter." On Mrs. Hunt's part, the adultery was denied; the consummation of the marriage also was denied; and a certificate from Drs. Frere and Farre sustained both denials. Mr. Hunt himself was accused of adultery—an accusation which his counsel admitted, but pleaded that he had been driven into vicious acts by his wife's infidelity. It was also admitted by Mr. Hunt's counsel that, in fact, the marriage had not been consummated. Sir John Dodson therefore ruled that, though there were suspicious circumstances against Mrs. Hunt, the only conclusion the Court could come to was that Mr. Hunt had, and Mrs. Hunt had not, committed adultery. Mr. Hunt was accordingly dismissed, and a separation was decreed for Mrs. Hunt.

AN IRISHWOMAN'S FREAK.—A young Irishwoman has been charged with being drunk and using disgraceful language in the streets, dressed in men's clothes. It appeared that she had enlisted at Windsor, in order to join her partner, who is in the Dragoon Guards in the Crimea. She had pawned all her own clothes. The magistrate sent her to the House of Correction for five days.

THE LATE CHARGE OF CRUELTY TO COWS.—James Waterman, the drover who was recently charged at the Marylebone police-office with cruelty to cows in removing them from their pens while some had only just calved and others were actually in the pains of parturition, again appeared on Wednesday for the completion of the case. Professor Spooner, of the Veterinary College, expressed his opinion that the act was one of revolting inhumanity; and another veterinary surgeon corroborated this view. For the defence, it was contended that no cruelty had been committed, and that in the country it is customary to drive cows a considerable distance while in the act of calving, under the extraordinary idea that it is good for them! This shocking statement produced a sensation of horror in court. Waterman was fined forty shillings, or a month's imprisonment.—Some other cases of cruelty to animals were brought before the court, and the offenders were fined.

A MAN OF THE WORLD.—A young pickpocket named Patrick Collins, who gave evidence, about a year ago, against King, the ex-detective policeman, was charged with stealing purses in the streets from three persons. One of the purses was empty. At the conclusion of the evidence, he observed to the magistrate, "Before you 'fully' me (fully commit me), just let's look a little at this case. Now, your worship, you are a man of the world like me, and I don't know what you may think about it, but I think it ain't feasible that any man should go for to steal an empty purse." Mr. Hardwick: "You would not have taken it had you known it was empty. Have you anything more to say?" Collins: "Only this, that I hope I shall have justice done me." Mr. Hardwick: "Oh yes; full justice, you may rely upon it. Committed on the three charges."

SUPPOSED MURDER IN STAFFORDSHIRE.—The body of a young man has been found in the canal near West Bromwich, South Staffordshire. Several wounds, the probable cause of death, were discovered in the throat and skull. No one is yet in custody; and the inquest has been adjourned, that the police may make inquiries.

THE ROMANCE OF "THE TIMES."

[Under this head, we reproduce from week to week the most remarkable of those mysterious advertisements which appear every day at the top of the second column of the *Times* front page. Such materials are worthy of being preserved in some other form.]

To R. B.—It is all arranged with your employers, viz., P.—Your family only seek your return. Return, and save almost broken hearts.—London, Feb. 10, 1856.

THE LADY who left her relative's residence on Saturday evening at half-past five, after a walk with her cousin, is earnestly requested to communicate with her friends, who are in the deepest distress.

ALBERT, P. M., is requested by his sorrowing parents to return at once. All will be forgiven. Do write instantly.—M. M.

AMELIA is requested to call at the post-office where

she posted her first and second, and she will receive a letter, which she is earnestly requested to answer immediately.

TO ARCHY.—My ever-beloved husband, I do implore you to come or write to your ever-affectionate but distracted wife. Think of my loneliness. All remains a secret. A separation would kill your devoted wife.—Frances. Heaven bless you. Pray let me come to you.

J. M. Z.—The advertiser declines being the medium of communication between persons whose connexion ought wholly to cease.

NEWPORT.—It is done.—P.

HOPING this may meet the eye of a tenderly loved and youngest son, he is entreated not to add another day to the anxious suspense of his afflicted mother.—M. D.

DEAR W.....R.—Can you bear the guilt of breaking your mother's heart? If you are in want of anything let your brother Henry know. You can rely upon his discretion and kindness.—H. M. D.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE CASE OF DR. VAUGHAN.—The second indictment of the Rev. Dr. Vaughan for making false entries in the registry of the parish of St. Matthew, Brixton, was tried on Saturday, and terminated, like the first indictment, in the acquittal of the accused. No evidence was offered on the third indictment. On cross-examination, the witnesses Hayden and Maltby—who swore that the Doctor took double fees for the burial of a man who had died in the parish, single fees being entered in the registry, and that the reverend gentleman instructed them to tell a lie in the event of questions being asked—contradicted themselves in some important particulars; and their testimony was impugned by that of Dr. Vaughan's three daughters, and his maid-servant, who swore that they were within hearing of the Doctor when Hayden and Maltby called, and that no such transaction took place. Another suspicious circumstance was that the receipt for the double fees, said to be given to Hayden, was not forthcoming, and Hayden could recollect nothing of what had become of it. In the course of the evidence for the defence, Mr. Serjeant Wilkins, who appeared for the prosecution, said he should withdraw, as the case appeared to him to be overwhelming in favour of the accused.

ENORMOUS BLAST AT HOLYHEAD NEW HARBOUR.—A monster blast, which has required the labour of six men in its formation for the last six and a half months, and which required ten tons of powder to explode it, was let off in the quarry belonging to the above-mentioned works on Wednesday week, in the presence of the chief engineer and a numerous staff. It is calculated that the quantity of stone loosened by the explosion is no less than 60,000 tons.

RAMSGATE HARBOUR.—Captain M'Hardy, and Commander J. R. Ward, of the Royal Navy, having been appointed by the National Life Boat Institution to inspect the means of saving life from shipwreck at Ramsgate Harbour, have issued a report in which they state, as the result of a minute survey, greatly facilitated by Captain Martin, the Harbour Master, that the means at the disposal of that officer are excellent, and capable of any improvement. They speak in very high terms of the harbour master, and add:—"From a very interesting pamphlet furnished by Captain Martin, published by himself in 1838, we learn that, during the thirty previous years, 38,257 vessels, with a tonnage of 3,451,181, and of the 'computed value (including their cargoes)' of £108,928,748, took refuge in Ramsgate Harbour. We were also informed by Captain Martin that, during the last thirty years, upwards of 30,000 vessels have done so, during which period four vessels only have been totally wrecked when making the harbour."

RAILWAY COLLISION.—£300, in addition to £50 paid into court, have been awarded by the jury to a commission-agent and woollen-seller, who has brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas against the Eastern Counties Railway Company, for serious spinal injuries received during an accident on that line on the 3rd of last November, in consequence of which his earnings, which had been from £300 to £400 a year, were reduced to less than £1 a week.

ALLEGED PERJURY BY THE LORD OF A MANOR.—Mr. William Padwick, lord of the manor of Haling, Hants, has been summoned to the Westminster police-office on a charge of having committed wilful and corrupt perjury in an affidavit filed by him in the Court of Exchequer of Pleas, in which affidavit he swore that a certain piece of land alleged to be common was his private property. An action had been brought by Mr. Padwick against some men for trespass on this land; but a verdict was given in favour of the defendants, on the plea that the ground was public. Mr. Padwick then applied for, but was refused, a rule nisi for a new trial; and it was on this occasion that the alleged perjury was committed. The consideration of the summons was adjourned till Monday next.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—1,151 deaths were registered in London during the week that ended on Saturday

the 9th of February. The number is below the average, but it is 202 above the number in the previous week. 19 persons—namely, 9 children and 10 adults of 20 to 60 years of age—died of small-pox; 31 died of scarlatina, 42 of hooping-cough, and 65 of typhus, which is now the reigning epidemic. Of 137 persons who died of consumption, 77 were of the age 20—40, and 36 were of the age of 40—60. 40 persons died of apoplexy, 28 of paralysis, during the week, or 68 in the aggregate; whereas the deaths from these diseases in the week preceding were 20 from apoplexy and 13 from paralysis. These and other sudden deaths have been frequent, and account for a part of the increase in the mortality. Bronchitis, pneumonia, and asthma were fatal in 236 cases, many of them probably terminations or modifications of influenza. 23 deaths from violent causes are recorded; 12 by burns and scalds, 2 by hanging, &c., 1 by suffocation, 2 by drowning, 3 by fractures, 1 by wounds, and 2 by other causes. 570 males and 581 females died in the week; 480 were children and young persons under 20 years of age; 189 were of the age 20—40; 206 were 40—60; 224 were 60—80; and 42 were of the age of 80 and upwards. The oldest person who died in the week was of the age of 93 years. The births of 895 boys and 893 girls, in all 1,788 children, were registered in London. In the 10 corresponding weeks of the years 1846—55, the average number was 1,596.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

HEALTH OF LONDON IN 1855.—If the population of London has increased since the census of 1851 at the same rate at which it increased during the ten years that preceded it, namely 1.97 per cent. annually, the number of inhabitants at the beginning of 1855 was about 2,540,000. This population was increased by 84,944 children born in the course of the year, and was diminished by 61,506 persons removed by death. If the account were not disturbed by immigrants and emigrants, who are ever in motion, the gain to the population would be 23,438. The births exceeded only by 260 those registered in 1854. The increase is very small. This is perhaps the effect of the high prices of food; and of war, which removes married men from their homes to occupy garrisons and encampments, to man the fleets, or as workmen to furnish the mighty equipments of sea and land. The deaths contrast favourably with those in 1854, for they were less by more than 12,000 than in that year of the cholera epidemic. But the mortality of 1855, compared with that of some years unvisited by any serious epidemic, was not low, the very cold weather of the winter months (January, February, and March) having swelled the weekly returns to unusual proportions. In some weeks, at that time, the deaths exceeded, in others they fell not much short of 1,600; whilst in six weeks the mean weekly temperature was below freezing point. In the seventh week of the year, the mean temperature was only 25.4°, and in the week following the deaths rose to 1,604. The mortality in 1855 was at the rate of 24 deaths to 1,000 persons living. In the nine years 1847—55, the proportion varied from 21 to 30 in a thousand. The mortality of 1855 attained its maximum in the fourth week of the year, when the deaths numbered 1,630; the lowest numbers were 915 (in the third week of July) and 870 (in the second week of October). From 25° of mean temperature in a week of February to 64° in a week of July the range is 39°. At one of the thermal extremes 700 persons died in a week more than at the other.—From the Registrar-General's Annual Report.

[In the quarterly list of births, marriages, and deaths, last week, we omitted the number of the deaths, which was 97,119].

MR. SAMUEL LOVER.—On the recommendation of Lord Palmerston, the Queen has conferred a pension of £100 per annum on Mr. Samuel Lover, the popular Irish novelist and song writer.

STATE OF TRADE.—The reports of the manufacturing trade of the country for the week ending last Saturday show continued steadiness. At Manchester, although the markets have been without animation, the transactions have been on an average scale, and prices are fairly maintained. The Birmingham advices describe increasing firmness in the iron trade, and state that, although caution is exercised with respect to operations for America, the orders from that side indicate no apprehension of political difficulties. In the general occupations of the place, there has been good employment. Contracts for muskets and munitions of war continue to be made by the Government, without regard to the peace negotiations; and the demand for Australia is better than at any time since the late reaction. At Nottingham, the extent of business has been satisfactory, although, as respects hosiery, the export has not been equal to the home demand. In the woollen districts there is a disposition to an increase of confidence, and the Irish linen markets give continued signs of healthy progress.—Times.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The directors have elected Mr. James Fergusson, F.R.A.S., &c., to the office of general manager of the Crystal Palace. Mr. Fergusson is already well known to the public by his various

works on the fine arts, and on architecture, fortification, and other practical subjects, as well as in connexion with the Assyrian Court in the Crystal Palace, which was erected from his designs and under his superintendence.

STRAHAN, PAUL, AND BATES.—A further adjournment of the last examination into the affairs of Strahan, Paul, and Bates was agreed to in the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday. A dividend of 1s. 9d. in the pound is payable under the joint estate, and a further distribution is expected in the course of four or five months. Small dividends have also been declared under the separate estates of the several bankrupts.

THE PEST-HOUSE PROPERTY AT PADDINGTON.—Lord Craven, in the year 1687, conveyed a piece of land on the site of the present neighbourhood of Regent-street, and Golden-square, for building a pest-house for the benefit of the poor, "and to no other use, intent, or purpose whatever." Houses having soon encroached on this land, the ground (by means of an act of Parliament) was exchanged, about 1732, for some fields at Tyburn; but, subsequently to 1838, that ground also has been built on. This has been held to be an evasion of the original intention; and the case has been brought before the Rolls Court, where his Honour, the Master, held that the trust created by the deed of 1687 was an existent, and not a resulting trust, and that the proceeds of the property ought to be applied solely for the charitable purposes for which it was originally conveyed, or for purposes as nearly assimilating to them as possible; that it would not be just to the poor of the parishes named by the original donor to remove the site of the hospital to any greater distance from London than the land was at present situate; but that under existing circumstances, especially as the inhabitants of Craven-hill and Bayswater might probably, and not unreasonably, object to a pest-house or hospital for "contagious and infectious diseases" being erected in the centre of their neighbourhood, the best plan would be to direct a reference to chambers, and there settle a scheme, and endeavour to ascertain in what way the beneficent intentions of the donor could be carried out. There were no imputations whatever upon any of the persons concerned in the suit, so that the Court felt justified in not saddling any of them with costs.

ACCIDENTAL FRATRICIDE.—A builder, named Townshend, residing at Brighton, was returning home with his three sons, one of whom carried a gun under his arm. The gun was not cocked, but it suddenly discharged its contents into the body of another of the sons who was walking behind. The youth fell to the ground; and the brother, kneeling beside him, asked him if he was shot, to which he replied, "All right, Harry, all right." Those were the only words he spoke; but he pulled his brother's face down to his, and, having kissed him, appeared to die instantly. There is great moral sweetness in this. It appeared, on the inquest, that the brothers were much attached to one another. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

GREAT GALE IN THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.—A fearful hurricane has lately swept over Glasgow and its vicinity, causing considerable damage in the dockyards and harbour, and to the buildings of that and the neighbouring towns, as well as destroying an immense amount of property. A few lives have been lost. The roar of the wind was awful, and the river rolled like a sea. At the ship-building yard of Messrs. Tod and Macgregor, in particular, the destruction was terrible; their total losses are valued at nearly £20,000, and the property is uninsured. Both at Glasgow and Paisley, many buildings, public and private, have been either destroyed or injured by the gale; and, at the latter town, a huge piece of lead, weighing more than two tons and a-half, was blown off the church on to a neighbouring warehouse, which, however, was but slightly injured. All the other towns in this locality present an appearance of desolation, especially in their dockyards; and, at Dumbarton, the new ship North American, only launched eight days previously by Denny Brothers, broke her moorings, and was driven so far up on the shore that she must be dug out. A great many trees have likewise been blown down; and, amongst others, the venerable oak called "Wallace's Oak," has been completely uprooted and felled by the wind, after having stood for many centuries. A link between the past and present has thus been broken.

LORD MAYOR'S TRUMPETER.—It was announced at a Court of Aldermen, held on Wednesday, that the Lord Mayor's trumpeter was dead, and a question arose as to the appointment of a successor. Alderman Wire submitted a motion to the effect that the office was unnecessary. Alderman Carter said he looked upon the office as one which made the civic procession more conspicuously and noisily ridiculous. Alderman Farebrother having remarked that, insignificant as was the office, it might be advisable not to throw it up without due consideration, it was resolved that the situation should not be filled for the present.

TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE PAVILION THEATRE.—A fire broke out in this theatre on Wednesday

morning, about eight o'clock, and, though large quantities of water were thrown on the flames, the building, in the course of a few hours, was completely burnt out. In a piece played on the previous night, the burning of a tavern was represented; and this is supposed to have led to the real conflagration. The actors have lost their wardrobes, and are not insured. A benefit on their behalf will be given by Mr. Douglas, the manager of the Standard Theatre, and some others.

DEATH FROM VEXATION.—The Bell Tavern, in Church-street, Lambeth, was broken into last Sunday morning; but, as the thieves could not find any money to steal, the cash having been carefully removed, they set all the taps flowing, and swamped the floor of the bar. Other mischief of a similar nature was committed by the burglars, of whose entry into the premises nothing was known until seven o'clock the same morning. The discovery of what had taken place appears greatly to have affected the landlord, who was found dead in his bed the following day. He was heard to complain of the cruelty of the burglars in setting the taps flowing; and it is supposed that the loss of property so preyed on his mind as to cause an attack of apoplexy, which brought on immediate death.

THE SORROWS OF A RUSSIAN PRINCESS.—The Princess Galitzin, a Russian lady who has lately resided in this country, is now in the house of a sheriff's officer in Chancery-lane for debt. She had been in England about six months; but, being disappointed of remittances from her husband, a general in the Russian army (who has ceased to send money for some unaccountable reason), her goods were seized by the landlord of her lodgings in Green-street, Soho. Being a sufferer from great bodily infirmity, she is unable to return to Russia. Her female servant made an application at Marlborough-street police-court, for assistance to regain her wardrobe, which was seized together with the Princess's goods. Mr. Hardwicke, the magistrate, sent a policeman to the landlord to try and induce him to give up the servant's clothes; but he refused, as she would not allow her boxes to be opened, to show if she had any property of the Princess in them.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE MOVEMENT.—A deputation, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, waited on Lord Palmerston on Saturday to read an address protesting against any measure which should permit the openings on Sundays of the National Gallery, the British Museum, &c. No specific result was come to.

"BUSY, AS SEEMED, ABOUT SOME WICKED GINN."—Mr. Abraham Ginn, a maltster and flour-dealer at Wakefield, has been found guilty of adulterating his flour with alum. He was fined £5; and the flour was condemned to be sold for cattle, the proceeds to be applied to charitable purposes.

LITERARY FRAUDS.—A Greek, named Constantine Simonides, has been arrested at Leipzig on a charge of selling certain manuscripts which he had himself forged, under pretence of their being genuine ancient productions. It appears that the man has pursued this system on a very large scale; and it is stated that some manuscripts obtained through him have found their way into the British Museum.

DR. PUSEY AND THE REFORMATION.—The Rev. Dr. Pusey has addressed a letter, containing the following passage, to the Rev. T. W. Perry, of Brighton, in reply to a charge made against him at a public meeting in that town:—"My dear friend, I never said or wrote a word in disparagement of the English Reformation. You know that I always disliked the influence of the foreign reformers upon ours, but that was passing. I could not use such an expression as 'the principles, if any, of the English Reformation,' nor should I ever have admitted it into any work for which I was responsible, for I have always believed that the English Reformation had very definite principles, and what I have wished to do (as far as in me lay) was to bring people back to the principles of the English Reformation, as expressed in the Prayer Book and Homilies. I am not conscious of having done one thing beyond the principles of the English Reformation."

THE SUSPENSION OF MESSRS. SCOTT RUSSELL AND CO.—A meeting of the creditors of this firm was held at the Guildhall coffee-house, on Tuesday, Mr. Samuel Beale in the chair, when it appeared that the liabilities are £122,940 19s. 10d.; and that the assets amount to £100,236 11s. 11d. The Eastern Steam Navigation Company reserve their right of any claim which they may establish on the estate for breach of contract, in case a satisfactory arrangement cannot be carried out with them. According to the statement of accounts which have been carefully examined, the assets show about 15s. in the pound, 10s. of which it is believed might be realised about June, leaving the balance open to contingencies, the result of which cannot be safely estimated. The cause of the failure was stated to be the extensive fire which occurred on the premises in 1853. In answer to questions, it was mentioned that it is not proposed to continue the construction of the gigantic vessel of the Eastern Steam Company, the contract passing to the management of the directors. Up to the present time, no loss has

been sustained in connexion with that steamer, but, if the work were continued, it would, no doubt, exhibit an unfavourable result. Finally, resolutions were agreed to, to the effect that the affairs of the house shall be arranged under inspectorship; that the inspectors shall complete the pending contracts, employing Mr. Russell as manager, with an allowance to be hereafter fixed; that, in consideration of these arrangements the creditors shall not sue, but shall sign a release, "upon the inspectors certifying that the liquidation has proceeded sufficiently, and upon Mr. Russell executing an assignment of any remaining assets to trustees for distribution among the creditors."

THE FIRE INSURANCE DUTY.—A deputation of the directors and officers of the Unity Fire Insurance Association waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at his official residence in Downing-street, on Tuesday, relative to the position in which the English companies would be placed by the issuing of policies in England by the French offices. Admiral Pell, Mr. Baylis, and other gentlemen, pointed out that the duty on policies issued by French companies being only 7½d. per cent. on the policy, with no subsequent duty after the policy was issued, a French company, called "La France," was offering to take insurances at two shillings per cent., whilst the English companies had to pay a duty of three shillings per cent., thus bringing them into a competition which it was impossible they could stand. The deputation, therefore, sought for a reduction of the duty payable by insurance companies in England. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he could not at present see any probable danger to the English companies from the operation of the French companies. If any should arise, some change would be made in the law. A similar statement was made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on Thursday night, in answer to a question from Mr. Scholefield.

CAMBRIDGE ELECTION.—The close of the poll last Saturday evening showed 886 votes for Walpole, and 419 for Denman, giving a majority for the former of 467. Mr. Denman then retired, and Mr. Walpole is accordingly elected.

AN ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH TO AUSTRALIA.—The Mediterranean Electric Telegraph Company, which is at this moment occupied in laying down the necessary wires to unite the island of Sardinia with La Calle, on the coast of Africa, intends to establish a complete telegraphic communication between Europe and Melbourne, in Southern Australia. After opening secondary lines between La Calle, Bona, Bougeia, Algiers, and Oran, the company proposes to run the principal line by Tunis, Tripoli, Alexandria, Cairo, Suez, Jerusalem, Damascus, Bagdad, Bussorah, along the northern coast of the Sea of Oman, Hyderabad, and Bombay, where the line is to separate into two branches. The northern branch will proceed directly to Agra, whence a wire will be directed towards Lahore and Peshawur, and thus reach within a short distance of Cabul and Cashmere. From Agra, the telegraphic line will pass through Benares and unite at Calcutta with the Southern branch, which, starting from Bombay, will pass through Bangalore and Madras. From Calcutta, the line will follow the north-east coast of the Gulf of Bengal, the peninsula of Malacca, the Sunda Islands, and thence cross over to the north of Australia, and extending along the eastern coast of that continent, communicate with its numerous settlements, until it ultimately reaches Port Adelaide. The entire length of the line is estimated at 20,000 kilometres.—*Genoa Corriere Mercantile.*

THE SURPLUS FROM PATENT-OFFICE FEES.—An effort is about to be made by the patentees of the country to rescue the large and increasing surplus accruing from the fees paid by them, after deducting the expenses of the Patent office, from absorption into the general revenue of the country. The gross amount of these fees is now £95,000 per annum, and they are estimated six years hence to reach £135,000. The expenses of the Patent office, as at present conducted, make the clear surplus for this year £60,000, which in 1859 will rise to £100,000. It is to prevent if possible, the treasury from acquiring a vested interest in this surplus, and to secure its application to a great extension of the Patent office, and to the promotion of scientific and practical discovery, that the patentees of the country, and persons interested in the progress of invention, now come forward.

THE REV. MR. LUSH AND HIS MARRIAGE THEORIES.—Mr. Lush, the curate of Gregwell, who preposterously insisted on re-marrying a couple according to the rites of the Church of England, though they were already legally united by a Nonconformist clergyman, has been committed for trial (but admitted to bail), on a charge of violating the law, by solemnising the marriage without due publication of the banns, and by describing the parties as bachelor and spinster.

DR. JOHNSON'S GOD-DAUGHTER.—Thomas Carlyle, Charles Dickens, and John Forster, have published in the *Times* the result of their appeal on behalf of Samuel Johnson's god-daughter, the aged Miss Lowe, and her sister. The sum raised is still but a little over £250; but "on the other hand, the price of such a life annuity as was proposed proves cheaper than we

anticipated; and in addition to this there has been a lucky chance come to help us somewhat. Mauritius Lowe, Miss Lowe's father, is now discovered to have been the benevolent painter by whom Turner, at that time a barber's boy, was first recognised, befriended, and saved to art; in return for which fine action an ardent and renowned admirer of Turner (whose name we need not indicate further), desires to gratify himself by bestowing henceforth £5 annually on the Misses Lowe, and permits us to publish such his resolution, if that can make it more binding. So that, on the whole, there is now as good as an 'additional annuity of £30.'

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST TWO ARMY SURGEONS.—Messrs. Turner and Bedwell, two army surgeons, have been committed for trial on the coroner's warrant, charged, the one with administering a large dose of laudanum, in mistake for senna, to two privates at Chatham; and the other with neglecting to take proper measures to counteract the poison. One of the soldiers is dead, and the other is not expected to live.

THE NEW GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANY.—Public expectation awaits with some impatience the promised "new system" and "improved vehicles" of the London General Omnibus Company. The London General Omnibus Company began by offering a premium of £100, to be awarded by judges of indisputable knowledge and impartiality (Charles Manby, Esq., Secretary to the Institution of Civil Engineers; George Godwin, Esq., of "The Builder;" and Mr. J. Wright, the eminent carriage builder of Birmingham and London) for the best design of an omnibus calculated to give increased public accommodation, and they have received, as may be supposed, designs out of number for the proposed object. The award of the premium for the best design will be made by Messrs. Manby, Godwin, and Wright, in the course of next week. If the prize design be suitable to all requirements, it is understood that it will be adopted at once by the London General Omnibus Company; if not, they will take from it what is best, and seek for further improvements at any cost.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, says the *Times*, has resigned his office of Master of the Horse, in consequence of his Grace's disagreement with Ministers on the subject of Life Peerages.

AN EXTENSIVE SPECULATOR.—The affairs of Mr. D. L. Lewis, a bill discounter and merchant, of Salter's Hall Court, are now before the Court of Bankruptcy. He was made a bankrupt twice in the course of last year—the first time in January, the second time in June. In the interval he had large transactions; £19,677 passed through his hands. His balance-sheet showed enormous transactions. His accounts begin in June, 1852, with an alleged capital of £415; but this was proved to be fictitious. In the three following years he incurred debts to those to whom he gave no security to the amount of £2,500, while he owed to those holding some sort of security £218,000; and there was also a liability to the extent of £49,000. He debited himself with securities to Mr. Mould and Mr. Hudson of £67,000. During the whole time these enormous debts were incurred it did not appear that Mr. Lewis made any profits beyond £67 10s. in his capacity as wine and spirit merchant. There did not appear to have been any profits in any of his other dealings, which were very various, including speculations in house-shares, bills, a yacht, Vauxhall Gardens, Westminster Improvement Bonds (denounced by the counsel for the assignees as a "leviathan swindle"), ships, pig-iron, and other matters. Mr. Lawrence, for the bankrupt, said he had been the tool of others, and that Mr. McKenzie, one of the opposing creditors, had given him nearly £50,000 worth of Westminster Improvement Bonds, in exchange for his acceptances—the bonds being worthless, while the bills held good against the bankrupt. Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque reserved judgment, but, in the meanwhile, remarked that, while there was evidence of great imprudence, he thought the admirable way in which the bankrupt kept his books showed that there was no dishonesty of intention.

QUARRY ACCIDENT.—An accident attended with a serious loss of life occurred at Bowthick Slate Quarries, near Camelford, a few days ago. Upwards of one hundred fathoms of rock at the back of the quarry suddenly gave way, and three men named Pasco Hoskin, John Masters, and Youlton, were crushed to death. Several others narrowly escaped.

THE BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES IN GOULSTON-SQUARE.—The recommendation of the City committee, that the baths and wash-houses in Goulston-square be purchased by the Corporation, has been rejected in the Court of Common Council by 62 against 17.

SIR JAMES BROOKE.—A letter received in Norfolk states that Captain Brooke, a relative of Sir James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, is now engaged in London in purchasing steamboats for Sir James.

THE SHIPOWNERS AND MR. LOWE'S BILL.—The shipowners of the north have been holding public meetings to oppose the bill introduced by Mr. Lowe, for the abolition of local dues upon shipping.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, Feb. 16.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CEMETERY DISPUTE.

Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition complaining of delay in opening a cemetery in Carlisle.

The Bishop of Exeter entered into an explanation of the alleged right of bishops under the recent statutes relating to cemeteries.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Earl GRENVILLE moved the second reading of a bill establishing a Vice-President of the Committee of Council of Education, and stated that he would, in fact, be the Minister of Public Instruction. A discussion followed, in which the provisions of the measure were generally approved.

The House of Commons Offices Bill and the Metropolitan Police Bill were read a second time.

The House adjourned at a quarter past seven.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DECIMAL COINAGE.

In answer to Mr. WARNER,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said a commission had been issued to inquire into the subject of decimal coinage.

THE CRIMEAN REPORT.

In answer to Mr. PALK,

Mr. PEEL said he should lay on the table the answers of Lords Lucan and Cardigan as to the allegations against them in the Crimean Report.

Mr. PALK then gave notice of his intention to call the attention of the House to the allegations against the officers named in that report.

Mr. LAYARD asked the Government to give him an early day to bring in his motion on that subject.

Lord PALMERSTON said it was too early in the session to ask such favours, and the hon. member had better "try his luck" in the ordinary way.

FIRE INSURANCES.

In answer to Mr. PALK, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, it was not intended to repeal the duties on Fire Insurance.

REWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS AT THE REDAN.

In answer to Mr. LAYARD, Mr. PEEL said that reports had been sent of the names of officers in different divisions who distinguished themselves at the Redan, to General Simpson, and had not been added to his general report. Those reports had been received at the War Office, and he would inquire for them.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. ROEBUCK brought on the subject of our relations with America. He thought that the statement on that subject which had been made public was incorrect, and he thought he had the means of correcting that statement. He believed that the statement that all that could have been done to conciliate America had been done was not true. The state of the case was that Mr. Crampton, the Governor-General of Canada, and the Governor of Nova Scotia were directed to assist enlistment in America. It was said that those instructions were withdrawn, and an apology made to the United States. But more had been done than was stated; for Mr. Crampton laid a plan with the Governor of Nova Scotia to evade the law of the United States; that is, he tried to induce persons to leave the States and enlist in Nova Scotia, which was as much against the law of the United States as enlisting in the States themselves. Mr. Roebuck then read extracts from the trial of one Hertz, in Pennsylvania, who was employed to induce people to leave the States and enlist in Nova Scotia. He urged that Mr. Crampton had broken through the laws of neutrality, and the United States was justified in demanding his recall, if he had exceeded his instructions; if he had not, the apology made by our Government was not sufficient, and was disingenuous. He asked to be told distinctly what the instructions given to Mr. Crampton were, beyond the mere formality of telling him not to break the law.

Mr. HADFIELD seconded the motion.

Lord PALMERSTON said the same reason which induced the American Government to withhold the correspondence on this subject from Congress, had induced our Government to withdraw it from Parliament. He then stated that the correspondence was still in so imperfect a condition as to preclude its being placed before the House. He would not, therefore, enter into details; all he would say was that the instruction of the Government was that nothing should be done to violate the laws of the United States. He would not yet argue the point put by Mr. Roebuck, with regard to enticing men from America; but he would say that efforts were made, and a conspiracy got up to fasten on England a violation of the law of the United States. He utterly denied that the apology made was insincere or disingenuous; it was not intended after it was given that enlistment should be continued; and if

it had been continued, it was against the order of the Government. The apology was not merely for breaking the law of the United States, but, for anything which could be construed into such an attempt, and was so considered by the American Minister here. In fact, after the question was supposed to have been settled, it was reopened by the American Government. He deprecated the dealing with this question while it was still pending.

Mr. DISRAELI expressed his opinion that no discussion on the relations between this country and foreign countries should take place without full information, and he should not support Mr. Roebuck; but he denied the doctrine of Lord Palmerston, that no member of that House had a right to call attention to the conduct of the Government in such transactions. He wished that all reserve should be observed on these occasions, but he was not surprised that something should have come of the attempt of the noble lord in an *ex-parte* statement the other evening, to bind the House to certain opinions on this question. The noble Lord had said there was a conspiracy on the part of the American Government to entrap England into violating the laws of the United States.

Lord PALMERSTON said it was not to the American Government, but to certain persons unconnected with that Government that he had alluded to.

Mr. DISRAELI after a few further remarks, expressed his hope of the continuance of amicable relations with America, and urged Mr. Roebuck to withdraw his motion.

Mr. ROEBUCK then withdrew his motion.

Mr. M. GIBSON asked when the formal offer of arbitration on the Central American question was made.—Lord PALMERSTON said he did not remember; but the papers when laid upon the table should give all the requisite information.

The Revenue Department Estimates were passed through Committee of Supply.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION.

Several other Bills were introduced, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes to twelve.

IMPORTANT FROM SERBIA.

THE Servian Senate having shown a disposition to side with the Western Powers, the Prince of Serbia entreated the Russian Government to supply him promptly with adequate means of action.

On the 3rd of this month, telegraphic communication was opened between Constantinople and Scutari, thus connecting Europe with Asia.

THE DOMICILES OF THE PLENIPO- TENTIARIES.

Count de Buol, with the persons who accompany him, will put up at the Hotel de la Terrasse in the Rue de Rivoli. The Earl of Clarendon has engaged a very fine apartment in the Grand Hotel du Louvre, where the Count Cavour will also reside. The Grand Vizier Aali Pacha will take up his residence at the hotel of the Ottoman Embassy. The Plenipotentiaries will hold their meetings at the hotel of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the Salon des Ambassadeurs, which adjoins the cabinet of Count Walewski.

It was remarked in Paris that the Russian Ambassador had stolen a march on his colleagues in the Conferences. The British Ambassador was absent in London, and Lord Clarendon had not arrived. Neither the Austrian nor the Turkish nor the Sardinian Plenipotentiaries had reached Paris. Count Orloff, who has to come all the way from St. Petersburg, was expected to arrive last. He is seventy years of age, and must take his time.

NEW LOAN AND FUNDING OF EXCHEQUER BILLS.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has given the usual formal notice that Lord Palmerston and himself will be prepared to receive at the Treasury, on Monday next, the 18th inst., gentlemen who may be willing to contract for a loan for the public service; and will, at the same time, communicate to the gentlemen present the conditions upon which offers for funding a portion of the Exchequer Bills now outstanding, will be received.

It is said that the Hon. and Rev. Montague Villiers is to be the new Bishop of Carlisle. The Rev. Montague Villiers is at present rector of Bloomsbury and canon of St. Paul's. He is brother to Lord Clarendon, and is what is called, we believe, a "popular preacher," a characteristic of Low Church Metropolitan divines.

The *Assemblée Nationale* has received a "warning" for having reproduced an article from the *Liberal Catholic Review*, *Le Correspondant*, in which the virulence of the ultramontane *Univers* was severely condemned, and some regret for the parliamentary regime expressed with great moderation and reserve.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.
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. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.
Communication 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. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1856.

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.

A CONFERENCE OR A CONGRESS?

THE half-developed war has been arrested. The Plenipotentiaries are alighting in Paris. The Princess LIEVEN, that MOTHER CAREY of diplomacy, an Egeria *in partibus*, has arrived as an *avant courier*. In twos and threes the negotiators enter the capital of Europe. While they assemble, and while formalities are debated, we have an opportunity for a personal analysis of this Council of Pacificators, and for an examination of the political basis upon which they will deliberate.

COUNT ORLOFF, the most intimate friend and confidential adviser of the Emperor NICHOLAS, is, perhaps, the man who represents better than any other the spirit of Russian policy. The chief of the secret police, by instinct the enemy of liberalism, and by interest devoted to the family of the ROMANOFFS, he is, at the same time, well known to diplomats and statesmen throughout Europe. He negotiated the treaty of Adrianople, and the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi. He was sent to the Conferences concerning Belgium and the Netherlands; he invariably accompanied the Czar NICHOLAS on his visits to foreign Courts,—to London, Olmutz, and Berlin; he combated the propositions of Lord JOHN RUSSELL at Vienna, where he had previously sought to bind Austria to her neutrality. No Russian diplomatist, therefore, could come to Paris more fully possessed of his master's confidence—more familiar with the policy of the Empire, or better qualified to meet the other plenipotentiaries on equal terms.

The eminence of Baron BRUNOW is due, not to accident or to favour, but to his consummate diplomatic abilities. To London he was known during fourteen years for his rare capacities and perfect manners. A German by birth, he is less identified than Count ORLOFF with the traditions of the Russian empire. Indeed, it was not until the Congress at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1818 that he formed his official connexion with the Court of the Czars. From that period, however, he was incessantly engaged either at the Foreign Office at St. Petersburg, or on political missions. Initiated into English diplomacy in 1839, he corresponded, officially, with five successive administrations, and earned from each a tribute to his disdain of trick, the suavity and simplicity of his bearing, his ever ready knowledge, and the art with which he conciliated our statesmen, without compromising the interests of his own Government.

The Austrian plenipotentiary, Count BUOL, some time Ambassador to our Court, has, since the outbreak of war, exhibited consider-

able firmness and dexterity as the Foreign Minister of the Emperor FRANCIS-JOSEPH. Baron HUBNER, who is associated with him, is an average diplomatist, not likely to exert much influence in the approaching discussions.

It was not to be expected that the French representatives should be men of superior weight or capacity. Both Count WALEWSKY and Baron de BOURQUENEY are Imperial dummies,—the former showy and mediocre, the latter experienced and bland. They will echo the inspirations of the Tuileries; their parts have been rehearsed. France has a distinct policy, to which we may infer the policy of Russia has been already reconciled. Lord CLARENDON is a decorous representative of British aristocratic politics. As Foreign Minister he has displayed resources not expected of him, and he will sit at the Conferences with Lord COWLEY, the intimate of the Tuileries, attended by the public opinion of England, almost under the eye of Parliament, and with the example of Lord JOHN RUSSELL in his memory. On him will devolve the serious business of negotiation, while the select Nobodies who form his retinue will flutter around Lord COWLEY, parade their Britannic French, and illustrate in Paris those winning qualities of simplicity and cordiality so characteristic of their order. The day will belong to the negotiators; the evening to the *attachés*, to the waltzing corps, manœuvring in the blaze of the diamonds of Paris, and the stars of the Plenipotentiaries. We may anticipate, therefore, some real discussion: five of the represented powers have definite and permanent objects in view. Russia, which desires to gain peace, to preserve her influence, to reduce the terms of the Allies, and leave a byway open for future projects; Austria, which only aims at keeping what she has acquired on the Danube; France, which pretends to the lead of Europe; England, which has interests to maintain in the East and North; and Turkey, which may protest against the general decision, but will protest in vain. Sardinia alone finds herself represented at Paris without a claim to uphold. Of all the powers, she occupies the position most difficult to appreciate. Nominally, she will be on an equal footing with the other Governments, and, represented by Count CAVOUR, as well as by her ambassador at Paris, her European views will be enforced with temper and discretion. But, face to face with Austria, what interest does she defend? Having participated in the war, how will she participate in the peace? There is reason, indeed, for the bitter pleasantries of the liberal salons of Paris on the presence of Sardinia at discussions which, to her, can result only in sacrifices, without compensations. Her rights, as an independent power, have been recognised, it is true, but when the partnership of interests is dissolved, when Austria, relieved from the danger of a general conflict, concentrates her pressure on Italy; when French intrigues are resumed, how will England redeem the pledges of her diplomacy?

But the political public has not yet inquired—Is this meeting of Plenipotentiaries to be a Conference or a Congress? There is a broad distinction between the terms. A Conference implies a strict limitation of the discussion to the terms of a peace between Russia and the Western Allies; it is a special and positive negotiation, not extending beyond the political and diplomatic limits of the war, as it has hitherto been developed. But a Congress, as this confluence of diplomacy has been affectedly entitled by the semi-official French press, means, if we are to interpret the term correctly and by precedent, a new deve-

lopment in politics, and implies a general or partial re-settlement of the map of Europe. The effect of the Congress would be to supersede the treaty of Vienna, and the religious work of the Holy Alliance,—sanctioned and sealed under the most solemn protestations, but already obsolete and impracticable. The occasion for such a Congress has not yet come. The great landmarks have not been disturbed; no territories have been detached from the dominions of the negotiating Powers; no institutions have been obliterated; no authority has been eclipsed. Hungary, Poland, and Italy await a deliverance that no diplomacy can bring.

A revolutionary treaty of peace is not the natural result of a diplomatic war, firmly guided by statesmen in the "political" groove. It might flatter the present ruler of France that a Congress should assemble in his capital, and under his influence, unparalleled as it is, and magnified as it has been by the self-abusing policy of Great Britain. But, without an European *Coup d'Etat*, is it possible? Is Austria willing, or Prussia, or Russia, or England? Is England prepared to have her maritime supremacy questioned, or Austria her Italian territory, or Prussia her artificial frontier, or Russia her Polish Borodino? An European *Coup d'Etat* might amaze the world; but can we look for any good results to freedom from a Congress at the Tuileries, with CÆSAR's purple rustling in an inner-chamber? Are the rights and liberties of nations to be disposed of at the instigation of such a will? Or must they not rather bide a better time, and trust to their own vitality?

Limiting the subjects of the Paris negotiations to the original objects of the war, there are grave and delicate questions to be settled. The external security and internal reform of the Ottoman Empire—the erection of the Principalities into a separate State, under European guarantees—the definition of the Bessarabian frontier so as to benefit Turkey, and not Austria only—the neutralisation of the Eastern and Western Coasts of the Black Sea—the total withdrawal of the Allied armies from the Crimea, from Bulgaria, and from Constantinople, and of the Austrians from Wallachia; the *status quo post bellum* of the Aland Isles, and the assent of Russia to the recent Swedish treaty; these are the salient points, and others are in reserve. Not the least difficulty is that which relates to the eastern coast of the Black Sea, for Great Britain may be supported in this demand by Turkey alone. As for the "further conditions," if pressed, they may contain the seeds of a new war. The *Journal des Débats* complacently supposes that they have been already intimated to Russia and accepted by her; if this be true, their importance may be easily appreciated. The *Débats* rejoices that the atmosphere of Paris is charged with peace, and that this serener air must affect the temper of the negotiations. We believe that Russia, Austria, and France are anxious for a settlement, and that Great Britain is prepared for it. But, from a conference held under such auspices, we cannot hope for the positive and durable pacification of Europe. The struggle has been interrupted—not concluded; it has been partial, and leads but to a partial settlement.

We do not pretend to have faith in a war continued by the English aristocracy, in complicity with the French Emperor. Still less could we predict, from a real Congress, a just revision of the map of Europe, or an arbitration of national and political claims. Europe has nothing to hope from the presiding powers, from Emperors by the Grace of God, or by the will of a *Coup d'Etat*. Let us, then, have a Conference, for the results of the war do not justify a Congress.

A Congress is the legitimate result of:

general struggle, by which European politics have been confused and landmarks trampled down. That of Vienna was convened for "the settlement of every point in dispute, and the restoration of order throughout Europe." The Holy Alliance, retaining almost all the unnatural conditions introduced by Louis XIV. and CATHERINE II., was a Congress of geographical and political partition, assigning Hanover, Malta, and the Ionian Islands to England; Warsaw and the Lithuanian, Volhynian, Podolian, and Ukraine provinces to Russia; Norway to Sweden; Holland to the old Austrian Netherlands; the Lombard-Venetian Kingdom to Austria, with Venetian-Dalmatia, and extensive contiguous dominions; Tuscany, Modena, Parma, and Placentia to branches of the Hapsburgs; half of Saxony, Posen, the Swedish provinces of Pomerania, a portion of Westphalia and the Lower Rhine to Prussia; establishing the German confederation, and distributing the smaller states. This was a real Congress, not only to make peace between belligerents, but to determine the limits of empires and the political constitution of Europe. Even that of Verona, in 1822, was an European act, controlling two kingdoms, Naples and Spain. That of London, in 1831, created the liberal monarchy of Belgium.

If the Conferences at Paris remove the actual grounds of contention between Russia and the Allies, they will accomplish as much as can be hoped. But to establish a political settlement, to give repose to Europe, and to settle the portentous questions agitated between governments, dynasties, and nations, is not the present task of the Plenipotentiaries. Before that great judgment of diplomacy is pronounced, the opposing elements must have been brought into collision. As it is, the war has not elicited one result that touches a principle, or that concerns the lasting interests of mankind.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

By good fortune the public, both in the United States and in this country, has taken up the subject of peace or war between the two, and that fact constitutes to us the guarantee for peace. It is also the guarantee for justice. The two peoples of England and America cannot desire to injure each other. We will not say so much for the two Governments, although it is an undeniable fact, that the Government of the Union is more under the command of public opinion than our own. We are not aware that any material interests would be injured in Downing-street by a war between England and America. The only result would be, that Lancashire being reduced to bankruptcy at a blow, would be at rebellion in a week, and Downing-street would explode. But it is difficult to make them believe, in that exalted region, that the American interest has any real influence in this country. The joint interest of the two communities is not expressed by the amount of imports and exports between the two, great as that is. It is not exhausted, when we remember that the Union not only contains a section of our own family, but comprises multitudes of our brothers and sisters who have recently left our homes. It is the great Protestant constitutional commonwealth, whose laws are the same as ours; opinions in the main the same; objects in life scarcely different; and abiding interests so identical, that in any great convulsions of the globe, America would sustain England against the united despotisms of the old world. England, in fact, is infinitely more bound to the United States by substantial interests, by family connexions, class connexions, and the heartstrings

of the two great commonwealths, than England is connected with Downing-street itself. When, therefore, we know that the two publics have taken up the subject of peace or war, we know that they will prevent official meddlers creating some points of honour out of ridiculous treaties from embroiling them in a conflict which would burn the cotton warehouses of New York and bring down our factories. It has been said that the Americans intend to bully us; this is untrue. The journals from the other side would prove how glad the public is at any appearance of pacification on this side. Journals, however, always try to keep up excitements. It is from the private letters that one looks for the real feeling, and we speak of the feeling in states less immediately involved in the excitement than New York, Philadelphia, or Florida. Thoughtful Americans, who are yet thoroughly national, speak with satisfaction at the tone of the press on both sides, as softening towards each other. The best-informed Americans believe that their Government is acting in good faith, and is doing its best to prevent filibustering in Nicaragua. The confusion in Washington—which the Government might end in a moment, if it pleased, by allowing Congress to elect its own man—has really not interrupted public business, and creates impatience rather than sympathy. The public certainly looks to business.

It is true that our Government has offered to refer the Central American question to arbitration; true that an apology was made for the enlistment; but if members of our Parliament desire to impose an effectual check upon our Executive, they will ask to see the terms in which the arbitration has been proposed; and they will ask to have a report upon the circumstances that have occurred respecting the apology. But, since an apology was made, why was it re-opened? Knowing as we do the real desire of the Americans to close that question; knowing that the United States Government is affecting no trespass in Central America, we cannot but believe that a full explanation would make our public understand the matter better. The difference between the two Governments in Central America, is this: Adventurers are trespassing upon quondam Spanish States on both sides; the United States Government repudiates the trespassers, and tries to check them; our Government countenances the trespassers, and claims the right of protecting them. That really constitutes the whole of the difference involved in the technicalities of the CLAYTON-BULWER treaty. Why does not some member get up in the House of Commons and insist upon a complete exposition of the whole matter, even as we had out the real state of affairs in the Crimea?

MR. LOWE'S PARTNERSHIP REFORM.

WE believe that if the public at large understood the nature of the opposition with which Mr. LOWE is threatened in the prosecution of his Partnership Reform Bills, he would have a very strenuous support, from enterprising men in trade, from the very numerous class who have surplus means to invest, and who can only do so now under great risk, and above all, from the great body of the working class. The Limited Liability Bills of last year proved to be a failure; one bill, that for permitting any man to invest his money in a private firm, was withdrawn; the other was so hedged in with obstructive encumbrances, that it has scarcely worked at all. The necessity of having a certain proportion of paid-up capital to register has actually hindered many enterprises, has rendered it impossible for the humbler classes to muster the deposit, and therefore to effect the registration. On the other hand, it

is calculated to act as a blind for sharp fellows who can get up a deposit, make a show of wealth, and come before believing shareholders, as it were, with an official endorsement of their respectability. It has been effectual only for obstruction; it is totally ineffectual as a real security. The amount and number of shares required prevented any enterprise which did not start with a capital of £200; and however paltry that sum may seem in the eyes of business men, it is a large amount for members of the working class. Thus they saw themselves excluded from many most legitimate objects of associated trade, by the arbitrary will of Parliament, acting under dictation of what they considered the moneyed monopoly. Again, there may be, and we believe there are, projects that are legitimate, that merit a decided experiment, but that do not command sufficient faith to call up a deposit as the necessary preliminary for the commencement of business.

Why should there be any restriction upon the freedom of the subject in making his compacts and arranging his enterprise? It would be quite as reasonable to require a man, before opening his shop, to show that he had other handkerchiefs in boxes besides those hung up in the window; that he had sufficient cash in the till to give the customer change, to pay his wholesale dealer, to liquidate the claims of his butcher and baker, to pay the wages of his servants, and to keep his wife and children; to say nothing of the necessity of bringing his marriage certificate and the baptismal register of his offspring. Those who deal with a man may like him to give guarantees and "hostages to fortune," but we do not require them as preliminaries to entering into business. It is true that trade already exists, and that it is not desirable to make sudden compulsory changes. The citizen is protected by the law, and while he claims its protection, those who administer the law and live under its rule may exact from him guarantees that he will act in conformity with its simplest rules. Mr. LOWE's Joint-Stock Company's Bill secures this guarantee by very simple obligations. Men who form a joint-stock company must register themselves; that is to say, as the public has been accustomed to unlimited liability, it is able to know of particular men who depart from that practice that these men, thus associated, are henceforward to be looked upon as limited parties. Since the non-limitation restrains the freedom of entering upon trading, we are accustomed to believe that those who make a certain figure have the means of overcoming difficulties, and the bill provides against our being deceived by very summary methods of calling the limited joint-stock associations to account. This summary power is conferred on all sides—upon the shareholders as well as upon the creditors. One-fifth of the shareholders can procure from the Board of Trade an official, though not a public inspection; that is, one-fifth in number of the shareholders can command such an inspection as will positively secure them against being deceived by their directors and officers. Is this no guarantee? Then one-fourth of the shareholders can wind up the company; so that if a mere minority has been dragged into the enterprise, and sees its money about to be sacrificed to objects of which it does not approve; it can dissolve the tyrant majority which is using it, withdraw its investment, and then leave the tyrant majority, if it pleases, to form a new enterprise without its reluctant coadjutors. If a debt by the company remains unpaid for three weeks, the unpaid creditor can wind up the company. Is not this sufficient? It appears to us that no company could carry on its business under these rules, unless that business were substantial and genuine, and unless its transactions

were regular. Its dealings must, at the very least, be perfectly harmless.

Is there a necessity for removing the restriction upon the association of men for the purposes of trade? The necessity is self-evident. We need scarcely repeat the instance we have so often cited, that by the construction of the previous law the Leeds Flour Mill, which has had such excellent effects for the working classes, could not have been established, nor could it have been established, under the Limited Liability Act of last year, since the shares are £1 shares, and not £10. It is even the rule in the Leeds mill that no man shall hold more than one share—a rule designed to secure a more democratic kind of government, and operating in many respects well. The rule was adopted, after consideration, by prudent and clever men; but the act of last year would have forbidden them to adopt such a rule. Now why should there be this restriction upon the enterprise and judgment of the humbler classes? There is in reality no reason whatever except routine and arbitrary will; but the prevention does operate as a cause of continued, though sometimes smothered discontent, amongst classes who believe their interests to be very little in the care of those above them. From this common aspersion Mr. LOWE at all events must stand exonerated. He has done his best to free the humbler classes from the restriction, and he ought to have their energetic support.

Has free trade in this particular been unnecessary for other classes? We believe it is most desirable. Certainly some enterprises have hitherto been denied existence by the law of unlimited liability. Let us take a case in point, not amongst the humbler and non-commercial class. Amongst the conveniences which are rendered desirable by an extensive and active state of commerce is that which will facilitate the transfer of capital from hand to hand, so that those who require it upon proper security shall be able to get it; that those who have it, and have it lying idle, can put it to profitable account; and that the exchange should be effected for short times as well as long. Amongst the innumerable transactions going on in the City, there are many instances where men require £10,000 or £20,000 more than they counted upon, and where if they have it they can either save themselves a loss or make a considerable gain. On the other hand, it frequently happens that £10,000 or £20,000 may drift into a man's coffers for a limited period; he cannot get much for it in the bank; he knows that he shall have it three or four months hence, and yet he grieves to think that it should remain idle. But he could make his five per cent., and somebody else get even larger profit. There wants, then, an agency to facilitate this distribution and transfer of capital for temporary purposes. It exists; there has long been a house in the City noted for performing this very necessary function; but how surprised will our non-commercial reader be to learn that there is only *one* such house. Why? Probably there are various reasons; but amongst them most certainly is the restriction enforced by unlimited liability. It is only the law of limited liability which has called into existence "The National Discount Company," registered within the last few days. We have no interest whatever in the enterprise, direct or indirect; but the names of the directors are before the public, and can be estimated. There is, perhaps, an infusion of enthusiastic enterprise; there is also an infusion of experience and prudence. The raising of one or two millions capital for such a purpose as that which we have pointed out is likely to be easy; the returns are to be ascertained as a matter of fact; the known practices

of the existing house would furnish the data for that purpose. There is plenty of room for another firm; and here, as soon as we have limited liability, the second firm comes into existence. It is only surprising that we should have been without more than one machinery of the kind so long, especially when we remember that since 1832 the foreign trade of the country has trebled in amount, and that the home trade has received a proportionate extension, with a still greater impulse, in the rapidity with which exchanges are effected at home as well as abroad. And this instance which we give is, we are convinced, only one out of many proving that amongst the commercial body, as well as amongst the working class, Mr. LOWE ought to receive an active and combined support.

ARMY REFORM: NO FLINCHING.

THAT England may never again be found so unprovided as she was in 1854—that it may never again be said by her troops, in the face of an enemy, "We are a band of brave men, but we are not an army," is the fervent prayer of every one who has not misread the lesson of this war. They, at least, will not forget that every soldier who died from preventable causes, whether in the trenches, the battle-field, or the hospital, was a sacrifice to the selfish policy, fostered by a long peace, devoted to material progress, and the extinction of all belief that went much above the heaven of pecuniary success, nor much below the hell of bankruptcy. They will remember that armies cannot be grown in a year, or it may be ten years, now-a-days, although a well-grown army can easily be made to expand to twice its ordinary size; that officers cannot be properly educated except by a long and painful process; that fit men cannot be obtained haphazard; still less that a good organisation can be improvised at the sound of the trumpet. And it will be for them, remembering these things, to do their utmost, every man in his place, to effect such changes in our military system as will, humanly speaking, secure efficiency for the future. We are told there is to be a peace; but if peace be near, how much more incumbent is it upon all who desire that England's army should be second to none to bestir themselves *now*, in Parliament and out of Parliament, to see that the thing is done.

Should the war continue, there can be little doubt that every year will add something to the numbers, equipment, skill, and discipline of the British army—their courage cannot be increased. As a nation we do not rapidly rise and rapidly fall in our undertakings. The incessant play of criticism on our public men sharpens their perceptions and goads on their energies; the mettle of the nation, too, rises with the demand upon it; and, up to a certain point, in military as well as civil affairs, our tendency is to improve with practice. So that, while the war lasts, England will always have an army progressing towards perfection. What we have to fear is, that when peace comes the Manchester trilogy—"peace, retrenchment, and reform"—will mean the pulling to pieces of the military machine built at so much cost during the war.

We are, therefore, glad to see that able men, not connected with military matters, are giving attention to the subject. As a striking instance we select a pamphlet now before us on the "Military Systems of Europe," economically considered, by Mr. CLIFFE LESLIE, one of the Professors of Queen's College, Belfast. The main object of Mr. LESLIE is to show that, without adopting Mr. CORDEN's treacherous advice, and raising an army by conscription; without relying, as the Americans do, upon volunteers from their militia and volunteer companies;

without having recourse to the Prussian system, which SCHARNHÖRST invented for an emergency, which routine has made permanent, and which makes every man a soldier; we have the best and cheapest of all plans for raising an army—by voluntary enlistment, based on our national principle of leaving every one free to choose his own occupation, and only requiring due development to give us, in proportion to its numbers, the finest army in the world. Mr. LESLIE's proposals embrace one which we have heretofore put forward—the necessity of obtaining recruits from a higher class of society than that by which they are now furnished. That might be done, not by bounty—bounty is a barbaric incentive,—but by higher pay; more consideration for the private soldier; every fair chance of promotion from the ranks, as in France, on just principles; and then the middle classes would send a contingent of young men into the army. In point of fact, Mr. LESLIE's plan goes upon the sound principle of maintaining our national habits and customs in the raising of an army, as alone suitable to the genius of a free people; but these he would improve. In that course we concur. We believe that, costly as it would be, taking the figures absolutely, it would not be so costly to the nation as either of the continental systems. For the regular army—voluntary enlistment, good pay; chance of promotion for all; admission to the rank of officer, and promotion in that rank of none but fitly educated men; promotion from the ranks for good conduct, high character, and practical military skill in the handling, management, and disciplining of troops. Here would be what Mr. SENIOR would call a "well-constructed lottery," so attractive to all men, and especially attractive to the kind of men who are wanted in an army. Such a change in our military system is imperative.

But there is something else not less so—an improvement in the habits of the whole body of the people. You will not get the best soldiers, whether you take them from the lower or the middle classes, unless you encourage or enforce military habits among all classes. Voluntary enlistment for the regular army; compulsory training of some kind for everybody; elementary for the youth of all classes; more definite and strict for those who form the militia. We do not agree with Mr. LESLIE that nobody should be taught soldiering but soldiers. It is not good for the national health that the present system should continue; nay, be perfected into a system more rigidly separate than it is now. The political economists may find it cheaper to employ a separate military class for military purposes; but the politician, the statesman, will understand that it is only cheaper in a commercial estimate, and not cheaper in that higher estimate which regards national defence as a duty that every man should hold himself in readiness to fulfil, and public freedom a right which every man should be prepared to assert. To us, therefore, it seems necessary that, if only as a nursery for the regular army, we should adopt some modification either of the compulsory drill of the Prussian, or the free company drill of the American. We do not want a large regular army in time of peace; but we want a perfect one. In order, however, to have an adequate army in time of war, and to have it at the moment we require it, there should be a vast reserve both in the ranks of the militia and in all ranks of society. We shall never grow an army of the best kind until we pay more attention to what may be called the antecedents of the recruit, and give more rights and chances to men in the ranks.

HOW TO WIN SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Those who seek to extend religious feeling among the working classes will do well for

the success of their mission to carry it on in the right spirit, and to give their address the right aim. They will not make the working classes of this country religious by speaking in a tone that begs the question, and that demands submission upon presumption. Neither to cant nor arrogance will the working classes yield, though they will open their hearts largely and generously if the address is directed to their hearts; they will give attention if an appeal is made to their understanding. A public meeting was convened on Monday evening by "The Sunday Rest Association," and about seven hundred persons assembled in a large room in Kentish Town. Lord SHAFTESBURY took the chair, and called upon a religious minister present to open the proceedings with prayer. Many working men loudly protested against this preliminary, their objection causing great scandal and wonder to Lord SHAFTESBURY, who said "he was at a loss to account for the senseless noise and uproar with which his proposition was received." "Being on the most friendly terms with the working men, it was with no little chagrin and surprise," he said, "that he should there be met not only with indignity, but with something like insult." He seemed quite unable to understand when those who resisted the proposal deprecated that construction of their conduct. A distinct motion was made and seconded, that the business proceed without prayer; Lord SHAFTESBURY declared that in all his experience he had never heard such a resolution, and he declined to put it. There was greater uproar; he abandoned the chair, another chairman was chosen, and the proceedings went forward with perfect order. Resolutions were passed in favour of opening the British Museum, the National Gallery, Marlborough House, and similar institutions, on Sunday afternoon. A motion of the same kind was all but carried at a meeting called by the Lord's-day Society in Chelsea. There is, in fact, a strong feeling amongst the working classes against any compulsory interference with their freedom of the Sabbath, and in favour of giving them access to places where the understanding and the taste can be improved, instead of driving them to places where the understanding, taste, conscience, and life itself are imperilled. We do not, however, at present intend to reopen the Sunday question. The Sabbatical agitators will oblige us to do that presently; but just now we have other work in hand.

We have to deal more particularly with the unpleasant incident at Lord SHAFTESBURY'S meeting. We are not exactly surprised at his surprise, although if he understood his own position a little better all wonderment would cease. It is very bad to prescribe without knowing the state of the patient; and those who are so anxious for the soul of the working class ought to know exactly the condition of that soul. The fact is, that sceptical opinions of the strongest kind not only exist amongst the working class, but are shared to a very wide extent. A still larger number of the working class feel that absolute indifference which makes them dislike even to discuss. They care less about the question of religion than the Atheist cares, for he will argue it; but a larger number hold it to be not worth talking about at all. Amongst this sceptical or indifferent class are some of the most intelligent men of the order. It is notorious that we do not share their opinion; but it would be a very foolish dishonesty if we were to deny the ability and the conscientiousness of that number of the working class who entertain such views. Seeing how the class above them frequently conform to religious ordinances—while

it is notorious, is indeed almost avowed in the manners of many people, that they attach no grave meaning to religion—the working classes, who have less motive for "keeping up appearances," are filled with repugnance at that organised insincerity. Their feeling is not the less bitter since the conforming classes are also the classes that "look down" upon the workers. Many an intelligent and independent working man retorts the supercilious manner of the churchwarden class with at least equal contempt. Such working men, then, associate with the professions, manners, and customs of "respectable" religionists a kind of settled insincerity, which they heartily despise.

Independently of this class feeling, which is strong among many, the working class have a very reasonable dislike to the obtrusion of religious observance at public meetings. The assemblage convened in the school-room at Kentish Town was gathered for the particular purpose of discussing a point in religious polity. It may be said that religious observance was represented on the one side, free opinion on the other. Now, Lord SHAFTESBURY'S request to begin the proceedings with prayer implied an attempt to beg the question in favour of religion. It was presumed by the orthodox side, that, at least in that ceremony, the great body of the meeting must submit to a religious form. Logically, the allowance of that form would have given an advantage on the side of the religionist as against the free opinionist, and the working men have quite sufficient logical faculty to make a stand against any such begging of the questions which they were convened to discuss and decide. Many, therefore, who would not be disposed to decide the question *against* religion would resent that endeavour to steal a march upon the sense of the meeting. It may be true, and we believe it is, that no work can prosper which is not carried on under the blessing of God; it may be true that no man enjoys his full strength unless he is a conscious instrument in the same work; but religious observance is desecrated, not exalted, when it is made a means of contention, and is flaunted in the face of those who return the arrogance with scoffing. Appropriate as prayer is to begin the proceedings, when those who are agreed upon the spirit and form of prayer are alone assembled, the intrusion of the form amongst people prepared to dispute the very principles upon which it rests, is nothing more lofty than impertinence.

It is generally admitted now that laws only follow the manners and customs of the people. The Sabbatarians would do well to consider this truth. According to their own statement, it is in districts inhabited by the working classes of the metropolis the custom to trade on Sunday. We may regret that custom, and we do so; but we can only put it down compulsorily at the expense of religion. Religion is not to be produced by statute or coerced by the constable's staff or the bayonet. It is the result only of instinct, confirmed by conviction and feeling; and no statute can awaken instinct, produce conviction, or rouse feeling. It is not through Parliament that the working classes are to be driven away from Sunday trade and Sunday unrest. If those who profess to speak in the name of divine power really have a "mission" they will not need appeals to Acts of Parliament. Their endeavour should be to remove every such false reliance,—to abolish all species of compulsion,—to leave the city and the field equally open,—to let the Museum and the Gallery of Art be as free as the public-house or the church, and to trust entirely in the voice of religion speaking to the instincts of mankind. If they did so, they might perhaps learn to

speak in accents like those by which JAMES CAIRD has compelled attention from Prince, Peer, and people, and has delivered accents that have been equally eloquent from the pulpit of the Scottish church, of the English church, or of the Unitarian chapel; for the sermon of CAIRD, published by royal command, has been preached from established pulpits, and from every Unitarian pulpit in the country. If the museum and the gallery can call the multitude from the tavern, rouse their dormant instincts, elevate their tastes, it is quite possible that a genuine minister of religion, unaided by the constable, might draw people from museum and gallery to the church. But this is a mission not to be performed by a canting arrogance that begs the question against the working classes, and presumes the judgment which they are invited to pronounce.

LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE'S APPEAL.

It is understood that Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE has earnestly entreated the Government to lay before Parliament with the least possible delay, the whole of his correspondence respecting the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, the defence of Kars, the expedition into Circassia, and his own position with reference to the conduct of military questions. We can imagine no grounds on which this appeal could be fairly resisted. Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE is under imputations which affect his diplomatic and personal character. If he can rebut the charges that have been made, the Government is bound to give him the opportunity. The English interests can be served by concealment. If other interests are consulted, which might be compromised by the full publication of the despatches, they are consulted at the expense of justice, and of the reputation of a public servant. Whatever may be Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE'S faults of temper, he has been made obnoxious principally by his overweening devotion to a purely English policy, which he has opposed to many rival influences at Constantinople. It is easy to understand whose object it is to preserve a mystery which comprises our Ambassador. Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE is willing to take his trial, and the public, sullenly suspicious, desires to hear him. What will Ministers do?

The Princess Mathilde has quarrelled with the curé of Saint Philippe du Roule, M. Auzous, for having denied her the honours due to her rank when she came to "assist at" divine service. The curé has been removed to another parish, but his former parishioners have petitioned for his return. Such are the relations of the Church and the Empire.

Mr. Costa's oratorio "Eli" was performed last evening for the first time in London by the Sacred Harmonic Society at Exeter Hall in the presence of her Majesty and Prince Albert and a densely-crowded audience. Mr. Costa experienced an enthusiastic reception, and the performance was a triumph.

FARM SERVANTS IN SICKNESS.—In a case heard at the Wingham Petty Sessions, Mr. Rice, M.P., one of the magistrates, said farm servants should distinctly understand that, during the time they are disabled by illness from working, their masters are bound to keep them. —*South Eastern Gazette*.

THE MANCHESTER STRIKE.—The strike of spinners at Manchester, which has now lasted nearly thirteen weeks, has not yet been brought to a close. There was a meeting of about 300 only on Wednesday night, at which great dissatisfaction was expressed by the meeting with the committee managing the strike, and a motion was made for its dissolution. Much confusion and recrimination followed, and the meeting was ultimately dissolved by the platform lights being extinguished before a vote could be taken.

OPPOSITION TO THE NEW POLICE BILL.—At a meeting of the town council of Leeds, on Wednesday, Alderman Shaw said that the Police bill of Sir George Grey contains so much of the appearance of its predecessor that he thought it would be undesirable to see it adopted by the legislature. A petition was subsequently adopted in objection to some of the clauses of the bill.

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*.

"ONE eye may be very agreeable," says Captain ABSOLUTE, "but as the popular prejudice runs in favour of two, I would not affect singularity in that article." Popular prejudice run in favour of two? Why, it is notorious that the prejudice runs directly counter. If popular language be a correct measure of popular opinion, Monoculism is the ideal of all nations: descendants of POLYPHEMUS are we all! Two eyes are scarcely ever alluded to; always by a pleasing synecdoche does one eye usurp the prominence of our respect. We talk of the "public eye," the "eye of a connoisseur;"—SHAKSPEARE says—

Wear your eye thus, nor jealous nor severe.

SCOTT says how something

Made the Douglas wet his eye.

The Greeks said: *τρεῖς ὁδὸς ὄμμα*; even the rude boys in the street, by a bold unitarianism of feeling, call out, "There you go with *your eye* out."

Whence this unitive tendency? A friend of ours, once writing some such sentence as this—"However it may appear in the eye of a Dissenter," &c., was asked why he did not credit the said Dissenter with two eyes, in favour of which popular prejudice was supposed to run. He instantly replied, "Some Dissenters have only one eye, and they might take it as a personality if I said eyes." An unanswerable reason. Is it, then, the hidden delicacy of politeness which suggests monoculistic language?

But what are we to say to the "half-eye," which popular language also credits? "Oh, you can detect that with half an eye!" says the knowing BROWN, but he does not specify *how* half an eye would comport itself. Science, however, comes to his aid; it tells him that many well-looking people, seeming to have two eyes, have in reality only two halves. *Mirastis, amice?* We allude to persons who cannot see colour. Colour-blindness, or Daltonism, as it is often called, has of late attracted great attention. Sir DAVID BREWSTER, Dr. GEORGE WILSON, Professor WARTMANN, and others have investigated the phenomenon with surprising success; and the *North British Review* has a paper on the subject, to which in all seriousness we refer our readers:—

Till within these few years this affection of the eye was supposed to be confined to a small number of individuals; but it appears from the calculations of various authors, that *one* person out of every *fifteen* is colour-blind. According to the experiments made by Dr. Wilson upon 1154 persons at Edinburgh in 1852-53, *one* person in every *eighteen* had this imperfection.

1 in 55 confound red with green.

1 in 60 confound brown with green.

1 in 46 confound blue with green.

Hence *one* in every 17.9 persons is colour-blind.

Surprising as the phenomenon is, and amazed as we are to learn its frequency—

The existence of colour-blindness might almost have been predicted from analogous defects in the other organs of sensation. In the senses of Touch, Taste, Smell, and Hearing, such defects certainly exist. The sense of *Touch* has not yet been sufficiently studied, but we have reason to believe that it is not only capable, in certain persons, of distinguishing colours, but incapable in others of distinguishing particular colours. Both Mr. Wartmann and Dr. Wilson have examined individuals who correct by the touch the erroneous judgments which they form regarding colours. In the sense of *Taste* the same defect exists. Some persons are highly sensible to certain tastes, and not to others. Some cannot distinguish *Sour* from *Bitter*, and we know of a gardener who is not sensible to the taste of strawberries. In the sense of *Smell*, the same incapacity exists of recognising the presence of particular odours, though others are quickly perceived. But it is in the sense of *Hearing* that we have the most perfect analogy with colour-blindness. Certain ears that hear all ordinary sounds most distinctly, are deaf to grave sounds, while others are deaf to shrill sounds, like the chirp of the cricket and the grasshopper, just as the colour-blind see the colours at one extremity of the spectrum, and not at the other.

The article from which these extracts are taken is written by Sir DAVID BREWSTER, who is one of the great authorities on the subject; but he must permit us to remark that he pushes too far his scepticism of Dr. TUBERVILLE's statement respecting a singular patient. Here is the passage:—

Had he said that his patient saw only *lightness* and *darkness*, we could have supposed that objects which appeared to her *sight* might have had the tint of red, yellow, or blue, but we cannot understand how any eye can see *white* without seeing *all* the colours which compose it. The colours of white light, in so far as we know, exercise, when in a state of combination, the same visual and physiological actions which they do separately, and hence we may deny that the colour-blind could see colourless the White Horse at Banbury Cross. But when the Salisbury oculist tells us that this same maid "could see to read *sometimes* in the greatest darkness," and that this extraordinary faculty lasted only "a quarter of an hour," we are called upon to believe in a phenomenon surpassing in extravagance the miracles of clairvoyance.

On both points we venture to think Sir DAVID hasty. Respecting the necessity which he supposes to lie in the first point, namely, that any one who sees white must necessarily see the colours *composing* white, we remark that the *facts* are directly against him; he has himself recorded instances in which men blind to some colours did nevertheless see white; moreover, *a priori* argument seems to us equally against him. I may perceive a compound body—water, for example—without any perception of the elements which compose it. The waves of ether (on the undulatory hypothesis) which are perceptible to my eye under the conditions producing *white*, may not be

perceptible under the conditions which produce red or blue. Then as to the second point—namely, of the patient seeing in the darkness for a brief period—strange as it may sound, the case is not without well-attested parallels. PROCHASKA, whose authority Sir DAVID will admit to be weighty on all matters connected with the nervous system, speaks of a man who, during an inflammation of the eye, could see by night, but who lost the power when the inflammation subsided. Moreover, nocturnal animals have this faculty in their normal condition.

The best article in the *North British*, to our fancy, is that on BEN JONSON, which only wants to be longer to leave nothing to be desired. Here is a capital passage about the condition of the dramatists in those days:—

To be a literary man about town then meant but one thing; to have a connexion with the theatres either solely as a play-writer, or, better still, as both play-writer and actor. To meet the demand for amusement among a population hardly amounting to 200,000 persons, there were already several regular or established theatres, such as the Blackfriars, the Rose in Bankside, and the theatre in Holywell Lane, Shoreditch; besides many other minor theatres, or rather rooms for scenic representation, scattered through the town, in inns and the like, and supported by the classes who now attend our modern singing and dancing saloons. The frequency with which new plays were produced at these theatres seems also to have far exceeded anything now known. On an average, the audiences at each of the greater theatres required a new play every eighteen days. To cater for this appetite on the part of the public, the managers and proprietors of theatres were obliged to keep continually about them a retinue of writers capable of producing new plays as fast as they were wanted. As the sole end in view was to get ready such pieces as would please when acted (the subsequent publication of the play being but rarely thought of), it was comparatively indifferent to both authors and managers whence the materials were obtained, and whether they were borrowed or original. To furnish up a new play out of old ones which had served their day, or to bring out at a short notice a new play on a subject already made popular at another theatre, was often all that was required. Hence it was not uncommon for proprietors to arrange that two or three, or even five or six of "their authors" should all set to work at once on a projected play, so as to get it done in time. Here, then, was a field for literary talent, fulfilling very much the same purpose for the London of that day that newspaper and periodical writing fulfils for the London of this.

Here also is a fancy picture of BEN and SHAKSPEARE, which, in spite of its length, we must find room for:—

Assume the time to have been 1615. Shakspeare was then fifty-one years of age (the fact that he was the elder of the two is apt to be forgotten); Jonson was forty-two. Glancing from the one to the other, one is struck first of all by the difference of their corporeal dimensions and proportions. Fuller must have had this partly in his eye when he hit on the comparison between the English man-of-war and the Spanish great galleon. The elder, Shakspeare, unless we greatly misinterpret all the contemporary allusions to him that remain, was not above the average size and weight of intellectual Englishmen—"a handsome, well-shaped man," says Aubrey; or, if the imagination insists on being still more literal, let us say, some five feet nine inches in height, and decidedly on this side of twelve stone in weight. Opposite to this model of courteous proportions, Ben, though nine years the junior, was a Colossus—height unknown, but presumably greater by an inch or two than Shakspeare's; and weight, if not yet actually twenty stone bating two pounds, which we know on his own authority it ultimately became, at least tending to that limit, by very visible efforts at increased girth everywhere, but chiefly round the waist. In figure, indeed, and in gait when he walked, Ben Jonson was a kind of first edition of his namesake Samuel. Nor does the resemblance stop here. Like the Doctor, Ben was from his birth of a scorbutic constitution, and bore the marks of it about with him. In his youth his complexion had been tolerably clear and white, but as he grew older, his irregular habits had produced their effects, and there had presented themselves on his face these seams and scars and blotches, which made it, according to all accounts, a face among ten thousand. One has only to look at the capital portrait of Jonson prefixed to Gifford's original edition of the poet's works, and then at any fair copy of the Stratford bust of Shakspeare, or of any of those portraits whose general resemblance to the bust attest their genuineness, to be able to fancy the difference of the heads and faces of the two men as answering to and completing the difference of their forms and figures. On the shoulders of Shakspeare we see that well-known head and face, so difficult accurately to describe, and yet so peculiar, with its general fullness and roundness of contour, its small individual features, its high forehead made still higher in appearance by being bald almost to the crown, its rich and placid expression, and its evident predominance of tissue over bone, of passive sensibility over active energy. One fancies the complexion fair rather than dark, or at least less inclining to dark than to fair. Look, again, at Jonson. The head seems bigger, the features are larger and coarser, the brow is more gnarled and corrugated, the hair seems to cling and curl about the head with a resolution to be stiff and grey rather than fall off, and the expression is altogether surly, rugged, defiant, fierce, and active, rather than passive or impressible. One could anticipate, in a general way, how the two men would conduct themselves in conversation before they opened their lips. Jonson would be dogmatic, aggressive, controversial, blustering, and rude; Shakspeare, unless his face belied him, would be sympathetic, assisting, inventive, full of matter, gentle on the whole, and yet to be roused incredibly by a proper stimulus. Perhaps, however, while the two men were quiet, the bets would have been in favour of Jonson. As in the case of Lord Chancellor Thurlow, the feeling, in looking at his portentous face, would be that of wonder whether any man could possibly be so wise as that man looked: very likely, amid a company of strangers, it would be to his side of the table, and not to that where Shakspeare sat, that all eyes would be turned. But suppose the bets taken, and the combat about to begin. Lo! how big Ben, like the Spanish great galleon, heaves under way, how he rolls and swaggers, how he lays down the law very much as his ponderous namesake did afterwards in a different circle, how he laughs, and quotes, and browbeats, and utters most furious wisdom, and only leaves off when there is enough of admiration to let him fall back triumphant upon the Canary Shakspeare, meanwhile, has been listening to the rhinoceros with the most perfect enjoyment, and watching his foe, and, whether agreeing with him or not, thinking him a most wonderful fellow in the main, and far more learned than himself. It is difficult to get Shakspeare into a controversy, but sometimes a word will be spoken on one side or the other, which leaves him no choice but to develop his own view of a subject in contradiction to Ben, or let Ben off with some roaring fallacy, and the honours of the evening on account of it. Flesh

and blood, even when they are the flesh and blood of a Shakspeare, cannot stand this; so have at you, Ben, for William is roused! It is Fuller's English man-of-war getting under way. There may be a lurch or two as he leaves the harbour, but how swiftly and beautifully he floats at last out into the deep water, and once there, how he masters the element! How he tacks and turns, and sails round and round his antagonist, and baffles him, and bewilders him, and sends shot after shot into him faster than they can be counted! Not that Ben takes it all quietly. On the contrary, he brings all his mass to bear upon his nimble adversary, and tries to drown him at first with loudness, and throws emphasis and rage into his words, and hurls out learned quotations and allusions in the midst of his masculine and witty retorts, and even follows his adversary as well as he can into the regions of the subtle, the hyperbolic, and the sublime. In vain; for, according to his own testimony afterwards, the adversary he is engaged with is, besides all his other gifts and qualities, a man of unparalleled fluency. "I loved the man," said Ben, "and do honour his memory on this side idolatry as much as any. He was, indeed, honest and of an open and free nature; had an excellent phantasy, brave notions, and gentle expressions, wherein he flowed with that facility that sometimes it was necessary he should be stopped: 'sufflamandus erat,' as Augustus said of Haterius." We have not the slightest doubt of it; only we suspect the stopping of him, when he was in one of his phrenzies, would not have been so easy.

We have exhausted our space, or we should gladly have made some quotations from a remarkable article on the Kabbala, in the *Eclectic Review*; but let the curious reader by all means seek out the article itself, which will give him much information in a very accessible form.

SAMUEL ROGERS'S TABLE TALK.

Recollections of the Table Talk of Samuel Rogers. To which is added Porsoniana. Moxon. HAD the writer on *Table Talk* in the last Quarterly waited a few weeks, he might have added to his list one of the pleasantest of the anecdotal works that subject embraces. Samuel Rogers was not a brilliant talker, but his long life, and the amazing wealth of his acquaintance—including princes and poets, actors and artists, warriors and statesmen, wits and leaders of fashion—furnished his conversation with more anecdotes than perhaps any other man of his time could pretend to. The present volume is just what might have been expected; rich in anecdote, and personal glimpses, but by no means remarkable either for wit or wisdom in the passages which Rogers himself furnishes. The editor has discharged his office with unusual skill. He might, indeed, have spared us several feeble entries, but we have reason to be grateful that he has not been more liberal in this respect. He has printed nothing which can affect the living, much that must interest every one; and he has so arranged the scattered fragments under their several heads, that details which in themselves would be too trivial for record, become important as cumulative traits from which to form a picture. In one word, the book is charming, and will furnish "Table Talk" for all England.

Our task will be to enrich our columns with choice morsels. We begin with an exquisite compliment paid by Burke to Reynolds when the painter gave his farewell lecture:—

Sir Joshua concluded the lecture by saying, with great emotion, "And I should desire that the last words which I should pronounce in this Academy and from this place might be the name of—Michael Angelo." As he descended from the rostrum, Burke went up to him, took his hand, and said,

"The angel ended, and in Adam's ear
So charming left his voice, that he a while
Thought him still speaking, still stood fix'd to hear."

The following is not new, but is good enough to bear repetition:—

Doctor Fordyce sometimes drank a good deal at dinner. He was summoned one evening to see a lady patient, when he was more than half-seas-over, and conscious that he was so. Feeling her pulse, and finding himself unable to count its beats, he muttered, "Drunk, by God!" Next morning, recollecting the circumstance, he was greatly vexed: and just as he was thinking what explanation of his behaviour he should offer to the lady, a letter from her was put into his hand. "She too well knew," said the letter, "that he had discovered the unfortunate condition in which she was when he last visited her; and she entreated him to keep the matter secret in consideration of the enclosed (a hundred-pound bank-note)."

This on Voltaire is creditable to Adam Smith:—

When a young man, I went to Edinburgh, carrying letters of introduction (from Dr. Kippis, Dr. Price, &c.) to Adam Smith, Robertson, and others. When I first saw Smith he was at breakfast, eating strawberries; and he descanted on the superior flavour of those grown in Scotland. I found him very kind and communicative. He was (what Robertson was not) a man who had seen a great deal of the world. Once, in the course of conversation, I happened to remark of some writer, that "he was rather superficial,—a Voltaire."—"Sir," cried Smith, striking the table with his hand, "there has been but one Voltaire!"

Of Erskine we have some delightful mots:—

When Lord Erskine heard that somebody had died worth two hundred thousand pounds, he observed, "Well, that's a very pretty sum to begin the next world with."

"A friend of mine," said Erskine, "was suffering from a continual wakefulness; and various methods were tried to send him to sleep, but in vain. At last his physicians resorted to an experiment which succeeded perfectly: they dressed him in a watchman's coat, put a lantern into his hand, placed him in a sentry-box, and—he was asleep in ten minutes."

To all letters soliciting his "subscription" to anything, Erskine had a regular form of reply, viz., "Sir, I feel much honoured by your application to me, and I beg to subscribe"—here the reader had to turn over the leaf—"myself your very obedient servant," &c.

This reminds us of the splendid hoax played by Lokkowitz, the Austrian minister, who detested the Jesuits, and in his will made them a bequest which must have made their mouths water with expectation. After a devout preamble he bequeathed to the society 82,000—here the leaf had to be turned over, and on the other side were the words—"nails towards a new building." The following, especially the first and last, are admirable:—

Erskine used to say that when the hour came that all secrets should be revealed, we should know the reason why—shoes are always made too tight.

When he had a house at Hampstead, he entertained the very best company. I have dined there with the Prince of Wales—the only time I ever had any con-

versation with his royal highness. On that occasion the Prince was very agreeable and familiar. Among other anecdotes which he told us of Lord Thurlow, I remember these two. The first was: Thurlow once said to the Prince, "Sir, your father will continue to be a popular king as long as he continues to go to church every Sunday, and to be faithful to that ugly woman, your mother; but you, sir, will never be popular." The other was this: While his servants were carrying Thurlow up-stairs to his bed-room, just before his death, they happened to let his legs strike against the banisters, upon which he uttered the last words he ever spoke,—a frightful imprecation on "all their souls."

Erskine said that the Prince of Wales was quite "a cosmogony man" (alluding to *The Vicar of Wakefield*), for he had only two classical quotations,—one from Homer and one from Virgil, which he never failed to sport when there was any opportunity of introducing them.

Latterly Erskine was very poor; and no wonder, for he always contrived to sell out of the funds when they were very low, and to buy in when they were very high. "By heaven," he would say, "I am a perfect kite, all paper; the boys might fly me." Yet, poor as he was, he still kept the best society: I have met him at the Duke of York's, &c. &c.

The following epigram may not have been printed before, but it circulates among the Erskine stories:—

"The French have taste in all they do,
Which we are quite without;
For Nature, that to them gave goût,
To us gave only gout."

Many are the stories respecting the power of man's eye on wild animals; but we believe the effect is attributed to a wrong cause; here are two:—

Thomas Grenville told me this curious fact. When he was a young man, he one day dined with Lord Spencer at Wimbledon. Among the company was George Pitt (afterwards Lord Rivers), who declared that he could tame the most furious animal by looking at it steadily. Lord Spencer said, "Well, there is a mastiff in the court-yard here, which is the terror of the neighbourhood: will you try your powers on him?" Pitt agreed to do so; and the company descended into the court-yard. A servant held the mastiff by a chain. Pitt knelt down at a short distance from the animal, and stared him sternly in the face. They all shuddered. At a signal given, the mastiff was let loose, and rushed furiously towards Pitt,—then suddenly checked his pace, seemed confounded, and, leaping over Pitt's head, ran away, and was not seen for many hours after.

During one of my visits to Italy, while I was walking, a little before my carriage, on the road, not far from Vicenza, I perceived two huge dogs, nearly as tall as myself, bounding towards me (from out a gate-way, though there was no house in sight). I recollected what Pitt had done; and trembling from head to foot, I yet had resolution enough to stand quite still and eye them with a fixed look. They gradually relaxed their speed from a gallop to a trot, came up to me, stopped for a moment, and then went back again.

Such facts ought to be registered; but, as before hinted, we doubt the explanation; it is not the fixed look which confounds the animal, but the unusual attitude. Dogs are not accustomed to be attacked by men kneeling before them, or standing motionless. That puts them out. An Indian officer once informed us that he was with a sepoy in the jungle, when they espied a tiger crouching and about to spring; the sepoy instantly crouched likewise, and placing his two hands trumpetwise before his lips, shouted: in another instant the tiger was heard crash, crash, crash, leaping through the jungle. The explanation seems to be that the tiger was alarmed by this unaccustomed mode of defence. Certain it is that in the East, where dogs in troops rush out upon the traveller like so many wolves, the only safety is in seating oneself on the ground, and laying aside the stick or gun. The dogs form a circle round you, but will not attack you so long as you remain thus motionless. Curiously enough Homer has in the *Odyssey* noticed this very custom. When Ulysses returns home, and goes to his shepherds, the dogs all rush out upon him, barking furiously; but "Ulysses craftily seated himself, and laid aside his staff."

Οἱ μὲν κεκληγότες ἐπεδραμον· αὐτὰρ Ὀδυσσεύς
ἔζετο κερδοσύνη, σκηπτρὸν δὲ οἱ ἐκπέσε χειρὸς.

Now Ulysses could not have fixed them all with his eye. Apropos of Homer, an example of his accurate observation will be worth quoting from this volume:—

Some traveller relates, that an Indian being asleep in his canoe, which was fastened to the shore, a little above the Falls of Niagara, an English soldier wantonly cut the fastenings, and the canoe drifted into the current;—that the Indian, after vainly trying the use of his paddles, and perceiving that he was just approaching the Falls, covered his head with his mat, lay down in the canoe, and calmly resigned himself to his fate. So Homer, following nature, tells us in the *Odyssey* that Ulysses, when his companions had opened the bag which contained the winds, covered his head with his mantle, and lay down in the vessel.

Here is a glorious mot of Sydney Smith's:—

Miss Lydia White (long since dead) was a lady who delighted in giving parties to as many celebrated people as she could collect. The following instance of her readiness in reply was communicated to me by my friend the Rev. W. Harness. "At one of Lydia White's small and most agreeable dinners, in Park-street, the company (most of them, except the hostess, being Whigs) were discussing in rather a querulous strain the desperate prospects of their party. 'Yes,' said Sydney Smith, 'we are in a most deplorable condition: we must do something to help ourselves; I think we had better sacrifice a Tory virgin.' This was pointedly addressed to Lydia White, who, at once catching and applying the allusion to Iphigenia, answered, 'I believe there is nothing the Whigs would not do to raise the wind.'"

Lydia's reply was smart, and must have made them laugh, but the flavour and humour of sacrificing a Tory virgin is of a much higher strain.

Charles James Fox in his 'hot youth':—

Fox (in his earlier days, I mean), Sheridan, Fitzpatrick, &c., led such a life! Lord Tankerville assured me that he has played cards with Fitzpatrick at Brooks's from ten o'clock at night till near six o'clock the next afternoon, a waiter standing by to tell them "whose deal it was," they being too sleepy to know.

After losing large sums at hazard, Fox would go home—not to destroy himself, as his friends sometimes feared, but—to sit down quietly and read Greek.

He once won about eight thousand pounds; and one of his bond-creditors, who soon heard of his good luck, presented himself, and asked for payment. "Impossible, sir," replied Fox; "I must first discharge my debts of honour." The bond-creditor remonstrated. "Well, sir, give me your bond." It was delivered to Fox, who tore it in pieces and threw them into the fire. "Now, sir," said Fox, "my debt to you is a debt of honour;" and immediately paid him.

Another glimpse of Fox :—

I saw Lunardi make the first ascent in a balloon which had been witnessed in England. It was from the Artillery ground. Fox was there with his brother General F. The crowd was immense. Fox, happening to put his hand down to his watch, found another hand upon it, which he immediately seized. "My friend," said he to the owner of the strange hand, "you have chosen an occupation which will be your ruin at last."—"O, Mr. Fox," was the reply, "forgive me, and let me go! I have been driven to this course by necessity alone; my wife and children are starving at home." Fox, always tender-hearted, slipped a guinea into the hand, and then released it. On the conclusion of the show, Fox was proceeding to look what o'clock it was. "Good God," cried he, "my watch is gone!"—"Yes," answered General F., "I know it is; I saw your friend take it."—"Saw him take it! and you made no attempt to stop him?"—"Really, you and he appeared to be on such good terms with each other, that I did not choose to interfere."

Chesterfield certainly ought not to be robbed of two such witticisms as these :—

Witticisms are often attributed to the wrong people. It was Lord Chesterfield, not Sheridan, who said, on occasion of a certain marriage, that "Nobody's son had married Everybody's daughter."

Lord Chesterfield remarked of two persons dancing a minuet, that "they looked as if they were hired to do it, and were doubtful of being paid."

I once observed to a Scotch lady, "how desirable it was in any danger to have presence of mind!" "I had rather," she rejoined, "have absence of body."

With the next anecdote we must cease quoting—for this week at least :—

I have several times stayed at Oatlands with the Duke and Duchess of York—both of them most amiable and agreeable persons. We were generally a company of about fifteen; and our being invited to remain there "another day" sometimes depended on the ability of our royal host and hostess to raise sufficient money for our entertainment. We used to have all sorts of ridiculous "fun" as we roamed about the grounds. The Duchess kept (besides a number of dogs for which there was a regular burial-place) a collection of monkeys, each of which had its own pole with a house at top. One of the visitors (whose name I forget) would single out a particular monkey, and play to it on the fiddle with such fury and perseverance, that the poor animal, half-distracted, would at last take refuge in the arms of Lord Alvanley.—Monk Lewis was a great favourite at Oatlands. One day after dinner, as the Duchess was leaving the room, she whispered something into Lewis's ear. He was much affected, his eyes filling with tears. We asked what was the matter. "Oh," replied Lewis, "the Duchess spoke so very kindly to me!"—"My dear fellow," said Colonel Armstrong, "pray don't cry; I daresay she didn't mean it."

Next week we may call upon the volume for some more good things.

A MISSION TO THE CRIMEA.

Krim-Girai, Khan of the Crimea. Translated from the German of Theodore Mundt, by the Hon. W. G. C. Eliot.

FREDERICK THE GREAT was encamped with his army at Strehlen. He had been defeated at Schneiditz; his Pomeranian fortresses were besieged. The Russians, victorious in one part of Europe, encouraged the Austrians, victorious in another. For many weeks the king's fortunes had been disastrous; for once his plans seemed confused. It was at this crisis that—in October, 1761—the rumour spread in Strehlen that ambassadors had arrived from the Khan of the Crimea to propose a league between Prussia and the powers of Tartary against Russia. This surprising announcement had not long been discussed, when a procession of persons, fantastically dressed, with Oriental flags and symbols, appeared, entering the camp. The King's aides-de-camp hastened to meet them. They desired to be conducted to Frederick, the warrior-monarch, renowned in the east and west.

Frederick was then residing in a farm-house at Woschnitz; and the ambassadors were speedily introduced. He looked curiously at their castans, their beards, and their robes; but his gravity repressed the satire of the high officers around, who smiled in half-concealed derision at the barbaric embassy. The King invited the most richly-dressed of his visitors, who stood in advance of the rest, to be seated, and to declare the objects of his mission. With a bold and sonorous voice, the ambassador complied. First recounting the glories that shone round the name of the great King Frederick, he said, that he came from the wise and mighty Krim-Girai, Khan of the Crimea, and of all European Tartars. That his own name was Mustapha Aga; that he was the Khan's barber; and that, having gained in that post the confidence of his master, he had been deputed by him on a mission of friendship and alliance with "the Hero-King of Prussia."

At this point Frederick's generals yearned to laugh; and Frederick himself smiled, but not in satire. He turned to his staff, and gravely remarked that to be a barber and, at the same time, a diplomatist, was by no means astonishing, since, in the East, nobility, or personal rank, did not exist, political and social dignity being conferred by the favour of the sovereign alone. If, then, a man was worthy to shave his master, and to bring a razor into proximity with a royal throat, he was certainly qualified for a confidential mission. Upon the utterance of this politic speech Mustapha Aga drew forth an embazoned document bearing the great seal, and, kneeling, offered it to the King. "After compliments," as the blue-books say, the Khan of the Crimea proposed for a consideration to make war on Russia with sixteen thousand men. Sixteen thousand trained Tartars, led by the descendant of Genghis Khan, would be no despicable auxiliaries. Frederick, therefore, accepted the proposal. He had known Krim-Girai when only Seraskier of the Bukschkoi Tartars, and was sensible that a great impression might be made by an invasion of Russia from the Crimea. Suspensions, indeed, flashed into his mind when he considered that Mustapha Aga, in spite of his Eastern costume, spoke the German language, and that the enemy might have sent him as a spy in the character of an ambassador. However, he was satisfied with deputing Baron Alexander Golz, a Prussian officer only twenty-two years of age, to attend and watch his Tartar Excellency with the utmost vigilance and civility. The barber was sumptuously lodged and entertained, loaded with gifts, and finally dismissed, rejoicing in spirit to bear rich presents and a friendly reply to "the mighty Khan." Golz accompanied him, armed with diplomatic powers, and thus flourished the relations of Frederick William of Prussia and Krim-Girai of the Crimea.

Theodore Mundt, whose singular narrative has been translated with ease and elegance by Mr. Eliot, has relied for the materials on various histories of

the Seven Years' War, on the official account of Golz's mission, and on the memoirs of Baron Tott. From the dramatic incident which occupies the first chapter, his story presents an unbroken series of anecdotes and pictures, of historical as well as of romantic interest. History, indeed, supplies few events more curious than those connected with Lieutenant Golz's mission.

The Prussian King determined to engage the Tartar hordes, ruled by Krim-Girai, in a descent upon Russia, and then to draw the Porte by the prospect of territorial advantage into a military alliance. While accepting the aid of the sixteen thousand Tartars, to be commanded by the Khan himself, he also desired another corps for the invasion of Hungary—and a third to march with Golz through Poland, along the foot of the Carpathians, to Kosel. Entrusted with this important commission Golz travelled with the barber as far as the Dneister, where, falling ill, he was compelled to allow him to proceed alone. Rising from his bed, after a fortnight of sickening fever, he was informed that a splendid sledge with a tent-like cover, and a turbaned and bearded Tartar in the seat, waiting his pleasure. This was the royal carriage of the Crimea, and in it Golz was driven, along wild and dreary roads, across the salt plains, through the narrow gate of Perekop, out of the dismal region of the steppes, into the bright and soft climate of the peninsula. Flocks of cranes and storks were seen in the sky, swans on the lakes, tulips and hyacinths in the garden. The road lay through a continuity of valleys, connected by ravines with Tartar villages built on the terraced rocks until the spires of Simpheropol came in view.

Thence to Bakschi-Serai the surface was sprinkled with ruins, temples, towers, aqueducts, palaces, memorials of a decayed civilisation. Crossing the vale of the Alma—perfumed by a peculiar grass—he entered the capital one evening after dark. In this city all he saw, and all he met, appeared to be parts of a strange world. The houses, each situated in a small garden, ascended in terraced lines on both sides of the valley, the lowest range being composed of shops and bazaars, high minarets and domes of the mosques intervening with avenues of the Lombardy poplar. At the head of the main street, a bridge led to the ancient palace of the Khan, composed of buildings in immense groups, decorated with the utmost richness and elaboration. There were inscriptions and paintings over all the doors, fountains in all the courts, gorgeous and fantastic mosaics as the floors. Inside, in the great halls, the pavement was inlaid with Turkish characters in gold, the little saloons lined with Turkey carpets, glittered with silver, gold, and crystal; and the dignitaries of the realm displayed all the ostentation of a proud and luxurious people.

The Khan himself, imposing, jovial, and munificent, proved a keen diplomatist. For some time Golz remained at Bakschi-Serai, obtaining occasional interviews, but no decision. Every day a train of slaves brought him, from the palace, in salvers and vases, a sumptuous plenitude of pilaws, cakes, sweetmeats, fruits, and all the luscious and dainty things allowable to pious Tartars; Aladdin was not more superbly served. Meanwhile, he lived at the house of Boskamp, a ruined Dutch student of theology, who had been once a cornet of Austrian hussars, then an English spy, then a German courier, and then the King of Prussia's agent in the Crimea. Boskamp was vain, impertinent, and intriguing, and as he suspected that Golz's presence at the capital interfered with his own importance, he worked sedulously at least to procure the Prussian officer's dismissal. Having given to the Khan his reasons why Golz should leave Bakschi-Serai, he gave to Golz certain reasons for leaving the Khan. Among other things, he disclosed the fact that Krim-Girai was jealous of him, Boskamp, on account of a lovely Tartar, whom he would now show to his particular friend, the Lieutenant :—

At these words, stepping out into the entrance-hall, he clapped his hands three times, and called out a few words in the Tartar language, whereupon immediately the light tread of a woman was heard above.

Soon, with an easy, graceful movement, a slender figure descended the steps; and Golz beheld, to his great surprise, beauty which until now he had only found described in Eastern tales and poems.

The fair one wore a short close-fitting garment, confined round the hips by a gold and silver embroidered girdle, fastened by two large silver clasps; wide trousers were confined at her well-turned ankles, and boots of yellow morocco covered her beautiful feet.

Her face, on which shone innocence, peacefulness, and artlessness, was, as well as her throat, of dazzling white; her eyes were dark and languishing; and her glossy black hair fell in thickly-plaited braids over her shoulders.

On the crown of her head was placed a little red cap, adorned with small Turkish silver coins, which heightened in a most agreeable manner the air of liveliness and coquetry with which this Tartar girl approached.

Here is an example of the incidents contained in this book, and of the style in which they are narrated. Boskamp being successful, Golz was sent to Jassy, to treat at a distance with the Khan. Here he heard that Elizabeth of Russia had died, that Peter the Third had succeeded her, that he was inclined to peace, and that Frederick would make war upon Austria alone. When, therefore, at last, Krim-Girai left his capital, with an army of Tartars, it was to invade the Austrian territories—not the Russian. Avoiding the political intricacies of the sequel we will divulge to the reader that there was a story connected with the girl in the morocco boots, with silver coins in her hair. Seineb was her name. Krim-Girai, from a private impulse, had forbidden his favourite, Boskamp, to possess Seineb, but, as Boskamp carried her with the army to the city of Kawsehany, and as Krim-Girai was of the type of that imperial Paul Pry, the great Alraschid, a catastrophe happened :—

Krim-Girai was in the habit of taking walks at night alone, sometimes in disguise. As he passed one evening through a street of Kawsehany his attention was attracted by loud laughter and the noise of mirth, and he stopped before the house from which the sounds issued. Soon was heard the sweet voice of a woman, singing, with the most touching and charming expression, a Tartar song to the sound of the guitar, and Krim-Girai, who was ready for every kind of adventure, could not refrain from climbing on the balcony of the house and taking a peep through the half-covered windows.

What he saw sufficed to inflame his anger beyond all bounds, and he with difficulty restrained it from immediately bursting forth.

The Khan of the Crimea continued peeping :—

The beautiful Tartar appeared more lovely than ever in the joyous company in which she now was with her Prussian friend. She wore a black and red embroi-

dered shawl, wound picturesquely round her glossy, thickly-braided hair, which gave her an irresistible air of coquetry, considerably heightened by a tight-fitting dress, showing to advantage her beautiful figure; and her neck and bosom were adorned by costly jewels, which threw around her a blaze of light.

She was singing and dancing to the sound of the guitar, and displayed such bewitching grace and archness, that at last Krim-Girai, unable to contain his feelings, sprang down from the balcony, giving utterance to them in loud imprecations.

He hurried from the spot, swearing that he would speedily be revenged.

On his way home, he vented his rage on some Tartar soldiers, whom he found asleep on their post, with long pipes in their mouths, close to their dromedaries.

He roused some of these animals by striking them with the flat blade of his sword, so that they suddenly rose with a great noise, throwing the soldiers who lay asleep at their sides to a considerable distance.

A fearful laugh from Krim-Girai, usual with him in moments of great excitement, followed this disturbance; he then vanished in the darkness, and took the road back to the Castle.

Thus it happened that the great Khan, Krim-Girai, was disgusted with the Prussians, and, like a Japanese, because one had offended him, expelled all. He himself suffered vicissitudes, was dethroned, and exiled. During the next war between the Porte and Russia, he was, however, reinstated, and took the field with his brave, fierce, pillaging Tartars. Marching across the steppes, they encountered a curious danger:—

One morning, upon striking their tents, it was discovered that they had unwittingly been pitched on the frozen surface of a lake, and that if they had remained there much longer, the ice, which was very far from being strong, would have given way, so that the whole army must have been engulfed.

We promise all readers, fatigued by the oft-told tale of Russian wars, a rare gratification from the perusal of Theodore Mundt's narrative. It is a book that will first surprise and then delight them. Nor, as far as we can judge, does the picturesque colouring encroach upon romance—upon any other romance than that which belongs to history.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Principles of Currency. Means of Ensuring Uniformity of Value and Adequacy of Supply.
By Edwin Hill. Longmans.

A VERY general expectation is entertained that Parliament will necessarily be called upon by the executive to modify the existing law regulating the currency, the Bank Charter Act of 1844. That there is such a necessity in the present year more than in any other we do not believe. The Bank Charter Act rests upon a perfectly sound principle. It did but establish one particular standard by which to measure other values. A unit of value in the abstract is nothing, you must fix upon some tangible article as a starting point for the comparison of other things, and no advantage is gained by lowering that standard when comparative scarcity makes other things dear, or when some derangement of the market depreciates the property of the seller. No real relief can be given by lowering the standard of value, as little as by reducing the foot to ten inches when the recruiting sergeant finds tall men getting scarce; the military standard or price is then lowered, but the length of twelve inches is still called a foot. Those who ask for elasticity in the standard of value would expect to get tall men by giving the recruiting sergeant a caoutchouc foot rule. The proposals for establishing a paper currency in lieu of metallic amount to nothing more than substituting paper for gold as the standard; and since paper is a commodity much more variable in quality, in density, and in intrinsic worth, it forms a very indifferent standard, as any man may find by going about for a single day to make purchases with sheets of paper. A government stamp declaring paper to be worth a pound when nobody would give a pound for it, is simple waste of outlay. On the other hand, there is undeniable force in the representation that the medium of exchange is, in certain cases, far too limited in quantity. It is necessary to have the standard of value definitively fixed; but if transactions are very numerous, the representatives of value must bear some proportion to the business done; if not, business will either remain untransacted for want of the instrument to effect exchanges, or dealers will resort to the cumbrous and losing operation of barter. Let us imagine the extreme case in which only a single sovereign should remain in the country: it would still be as good a standard of value as ever; but as dealers could not get hold of it to effect exchanges, goods would hang on hand, real prices would fall in the endeavour to push sales, and with plenty of commodities in store, people would be in the same position as if they were poor, from the impossibility of selling their own wares or purchasing the thing they wanted. To supply them with a currency of *assignats* would be to supply them with a very bad currency, and it would totally destroy the standard of value, but perhaps that would not be so serious a calamity as the being reduced to barter from the want of accessible money. We have never been brought to that pass since the Bank Charter Act. We have never been reduced to a single sovereign, but have had a very large supply of gold coin, with convertible, not inconvertible, notes, and with a large supplemental circulation consisting of the credit paper of commerce; but in times of difficulty this credit-paper fails to act as a circulating medium, because want of confidence deprives it of its currency, and then we always have a proposal to relax the Bank Charter—in other words, to sacrifice the standard of value for the purpose of obtaining the representatives of value. It therefore fails at the very moment when it is most wanted. On the other hand, there are instances which show that the standards of value may be perfectly distinct from the medium of exchange. In the tithe commutations, the standard of value is a bushel of corn; and in many cases, corn rents are advocated or adopted. No one proposes, however, that the rent and the tithe commutations shall be paid in corn: they are paid in money, at the market price of corn. Money, then, is the medium of exchange, the bushel of corn the standard of value—facts which prove that the standard and the medium may be distinct commodities. It is to a great extent the same with the sovereign and the bank note, and there is in that case the same accompanying fact of convertibility: the paper being convertible into gold, and *vice versa*; the corn being convertible into money, and

It is observed that while the standard of value could remain absolutely fixed, the circulating medium is required in variable quantities; and sometimes there is a temporary, although very considerable, increase in the quantities required. Mr. Hill gives instances:—

It appears from these returns, that twice in each year, viz., in May and in November, the bank-note circulation receives a sudden and extensive augmentation, amounting to 15, 20, 25, or even 30 per cent. upon the whole quantity previously in use. Such additional notes, however, being wanted for a short time only, return at the end of some ten days into the bankers' chests almost as suddenly as they issued forth.

The explanation of this remarkable phenomenon is, that the chief Scottish Law Terms occur at these times; when by the custom of the country, rents are paid, and most other engagements of the larger kind, as those arising from conveyances, mortgages, annuities, &c., are brought to completion. The whole country is, therefore, during these two short periods of time in a perfect hurly-burly of paying and receiving; and hence the sudden and perfectly legitimate demand for an increased supply of currency at the commencement of every such period, and "when the hurlyburly's done," the equally sudden cessation of such demand.

The great cattle fair, "the Falkirk Tryst," presents a similar scene, upon a smaller scale, but even still more sharply defined; for the bankers bring to the ground all the currency which is made use of in completing the very large dealings which there take place; and at the end of the fair they carry it all away with them.

From a consideration of these facts springs Mr. Hill's proposal. He does not propose to interfere with the standard of value as it was left by Peel. He indicates a preference for a mixed alloy of gold and silver, as being more stable in value than either of the metals alone; but the introduction of that idea will rather tend to expose his book to animadversion, by introducing a new and much disputed question which was not essential, and which he does not work out. Practically, he proposes to leave the standard of value untouched, and whereas Peel asked, "What is a pound?" Mr. Hill will leave the pound as Peel left it. Nor does he propose to declare bank-notes inconvertible, which simply renders them unmarketable. Something is wanted besides either of those expedients, and, in some respects, different from them; something which can be called into activity when more "currency" is immediately required, and which can, without loss, be laid on the shelf. Another quality in bills of exchange is suggestive:—

Whenever "money becomes a drug," bills of exchange are largely laid aside to gather interest as investments, to the great relief of the circulation (and of the community), then suffering from the evils of monetary repletion; on the other hand, whenever "money becomes tight," the hoarded bills are largely brought forth, and used as auxiliary money, to the great relief of the circulation (and of the community), then suffering from the evils of monetary insufficiency.

This would answer if only bills of exchange could always command confidence like sovereigns or bank-notes, and if they were a legal tender. Mr. Gladstone's "Exchequer note" bore some resemblance to the kind of instrument, but that was not, any more than the bill of exchange, a legal tender. It is remarkable, however, how much at times of pressure the market has been relieved by an advance in the rate of interest borne by out-standing Exchequer-bills. The reason was that the Exchequer-bills were brought up to the level of the market; they floated, and became current as auxiliaries among the manifold forms of instruments of exchange. We are now in a position to understand the plan proposed by Mr. Hill:—

Bearing all these considerations in mind, I propose that Government should prepare and issue, under the authority of Parliament, an adequate amount of interest-bearing securities, almost identical with Exchequer-bills; and that these be made a legal tender for their principal sum, together with their accumulated interest up to the day of tender, according to a Table to be printed upon the face of each bill.

The mode of issue to be thus:—Once per week, or once per month, as may be found most convenient to the public, a prescribed amount of the bills to be disposed of by tender; the tenders to be made upon the rate of interest, and not upon the principal sum; and to be sent in a few days beforehand, in order to give the department entrusted with the management of the business time to prepare the bills at the accepted rate of interest.

The rate of issue should be so ordered, that shortly after the completion of the issue of the amount intended to be kept afloat, the earlier bills would begin to fall due; and in order to provide the means for taking them up, further sales must go on continuously; so many bills (and no more) being sold, week by week, or month by month, as would be required for this purpose.

These bills might be issued in comparatively small numbers at first, and in simple sums, say of £100 or £50. We must, however, refer to Mr. Hill's volume for a complete account of the proposal. It appears to us to fulfil his promise, and suggest a plan by which the standard of value, as it was left by Peel, should remain absolutely undisturbed, while the medium of exchange would be "elastic," and would accommodate itself to the demands of the time.

MISCELLANIES.

It seems to be Mr. Bohn's design to save all good books from oblivion. In his various "Libraries" he translates or reprints the best authors of all ages and nations. They may be unpopular; but as "Standards" or "Classics," they inevitably appear, in compact volumes, well-printed, well-edited, well-bound with "H. G. Bohn" on the title page. By such a profusion pouring from York-street criticism is overwhelmed. We have no time to consider the new prefaces, new notes, or new readings of the York-street editors. If we give our right hand to welcome Demosthenes our left must be ready for Quintilian; if we decline their edition of Gibbon, we must be thankful for their edition of Roscoe; Sozomen and Evagrius are scarcely "to hand," before the Golden Ass and the Scandalous Chronicle win us away. Who then, can ask, for more than a register of Mr. Bohn's publications? If we must enlarge upon the good, they are all good; if upon the best, it is difficult to select them. Since we pointed out the old romances rich with the fruit of Grecian fancy, a library has accumulated; Quintilian's *Institutes of Oratory*, translated by the Rev. J. S. Watson; a volume of the elegant and credulous Pliny's *Natural History*; a series of Burke's *Letters and Orations*, of Addison's *Essays*, of Professor Smythe's *Lectures*, and Stoddard's *Exposition of Agricultural Chemistry*. These are valuable editions, deserving a permanent place in every well-assorted collection.

While reprints are under notice, we must remind our public that Hallam's *Histories*, mediæval, constitutional, and literary, are being

issued in a neat and cheap form by Mr. Murray. The second volume of the *Introduction to the Literature of Europe* is now published. A second volume of the *Noctes Ambrosianæ* of Professor Wilson has been aimed by Messrs. Blackwood, at the "pinnacle of everlasting immortality," and a sixth volume of Chalmers's works by the Messrs. Constable. This contains the *Evidences of Christian Revelation*, in which the positivism of Chalmers's is conspicuously illustrated. Vaulting to the antipodes of the world of letters, we find a treasure—Mr. John Forster's *Life and Times of Oliver Goldsmith*, a new and popular edition, with forty illustrations after designs by C. Stanfield, D. MacLise, John Leech, Richard Doyle, and R. H. Hamerton. What more versatile and masterly art could be desired to illustrate this exquisite story of a strange and chequered life. To Mr. Forster's pictures of "Goldy's" career, real and vivid as they are, are now added such sketches as would adorn a history or an invented tale. The *Life of Goldsmith*, already a classic, becomes in this edition doubly pleasant and popular. Edmond About's delightful story, *Tolla*, which we were the first to signalize to English readers, is also presented to us in *Constable's Miscellany of Foreign Literature*.

From the artists to the artisans, some skilled labourers have aided in the production of *The British Empire; Historical, Biographical, and Geographical* (Griffin and Co.) In this triple encyclopædia, Professor Creasy leads off with a review of the progress of the Anglo-Saxon race. Among his coadjutors we find Sir Archibald Alison, dull and voluminous; Sir David Brewster, bold, clear, and sound; Mr. J. A. Heraud, the Epic alive; Mr. Charles Knight, who is the genius of popularity; Mr. John Hill Burton, who atones by care for what he lacks in impulse, and others, whose writings are reliable and pleasantly coloured. The design of the work is, to offer a view of the great events of English history, a biographical catalogue of English worthies, and a gazetteer of the empire and its dependencies. As a companion volume, let us particularise *The Calendar of Victory* (Longman and Co.), "A Record of British Valour and Conquest by Sea and Land on every Day in the Year," projected and commenced by the late Major Johns, and continued and completed by Lieut. P. H. Nicholas, of the Royal Marines.

Among miscellaneous didactics, we find on our table *New Zealand, Its Present Condition, Resources and Prospects* (Stanford), by E. B. Fitton—a concise and popular manual; John Hampden Gurney's *Evening Recreations* (Longman and Co.)—a series of varied lectures; *Practical Hints* (very practical) for *Investing Money*, by Francis Playford, a "sworn broker," and *The Practical Stenographer*, by E. Soper (Darton and Co.)—the last is a guide easy to follow, and worth following.

Mr. Benjamin Drew invites us, in a volume entitled *The Refugee* (Trübner), to take a north-side view of slavery. He has collected the narratives of fugitive slaves in Canada, some anonymous, others improbable, many signifying nothing. Some hundreds of men and women tell us, painfully, how they were stripped, exposed, whipped, paddled, cut, bruised, and flayed, until we are sickened, more than edified, by the story. Surely the evidence is complete; the harrow is superfluous; let us have no more of these bitter libels, which only aggravate a formidable social difficulty, and engage passion as well as interest in the cause of slavery. Miss Mary Elizabeth wormiey, in *Our Cousin Veronica; or, Scenes and Adventures over the Blue Ridge* (Trübner), follows on the same side; but not in a newspaper narrative. Her pleadings are romantic; she adopts the style of Uncle Tom, and writes gracefully and maliciously against the practices of her fellow-citizens. Mary Elizabeth, however, does not use the hickory-stick or cobbling-ladle to move us to sympathy.

Her countrywoman, Fanny Fern, is incorrigible. Fanny Fern's last sin is *Rosa Clark*, which is a romance of modern life, as per sample:—

"Roll on, gentle stars! shall not He who feedeth your never-consuming fires yet make every crooked path straight, every rough place plain? What though the tares grow amid the wheat until the harvest, shall not the great Husbandman surely winnow them out, and gather the wheat into the heavenly granary? Roll on, gentle stars!"

Roll on, Fanny Fern!

Harriot K. Hunt, though an "M.D.," appears to be a woman. Her *Glances and Glimpses* (Trübner), disclose "fifty years' social, and twenty years' professional, life." Her criticisms appertain to diseases of the mind and body; but, she tells us, her father was named Joab, and her mother Kezia, which may account for her Puritan fury; she seathes with the malignity of Agag those "dicers for office" who play "with loaded majorities;" she affirms that "sex is to be felt, not talked of;" she apostrophises "the frost-bound freshets of sorrow;" she invites us to inspect "the statue of her life" in so many attitudes, that we are embarrassed, and wonder what that society can be in which Miss Harriot K. Hunt not only studies, but practises, the medical art.

To these unmanageable miscellanies let us add a few light items of literature:—*Old Jarvis's Will* (Parker), a tale of real life; *False Honour* (Parker); *Wyndecote Hall* (Parker); *The Duke*, by Mrs. Grey (Routledge); *The Watchman*, by J. Maitland (Routledge); *The Hidden Path*, by Harland (Routledge); *My Brother's Wife*, by A. B. Edwards (Routledge); a new American edition of Mr. Horace St. John's *Life of Christopher Columbus* (Low), and of Mr. Knighton's *Private Life of an Eastern King*. Messrs. Kent and Co. have published a remarkable collection of advertisements, *disjecta membra* of living romance, under the title *Puffs and Mysteries, and Tracings from the Capital of the Second Column of 'The Times.'* It is a slipshod but amusing volume. Mr. George Measom's *Official Illustrated Guides to the London and North Western, and the Brighton Railway*; Mackintosh and Kemp's *British Year-book for the Country*; Mr. C. J. Jones' *Account of the Queen's Visit to Paris* (Ward and Lock),—lively and foolish; *The Family Friend* (Ward and Lock)—a treasure of amusement and information; *Enquire Within* (Kent and Co.), an universal receipt book; and Mitchell's *Newspaper Directory for 1856*,—essential to large advertisers; may all be registered *seriatim*. With these we may rank *The Home School, or Hints on Home Education*, by Norman McLeod (Edinburgh: Paton and Ritchie); *Zaphnath Paaneah, or the History of Joseph* (Freeman), by the Rev. Thomeley Smith, and *An Address on Mechanics Institutes and Popular Education*, by Richard Dawes, M.A., Dean of Hereford. This last we commend to all presidents and com-

mitteemen of Mechanics' Institutes. Messrs. Chapman and Hall's valuable *Almanack of Science and Art* should be mentioned by the side of Mr. Bogue's *Year Book of Facts*, the gathering of scientific discussion and inquiry in 1856.

Portfolio.

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

OUTLINES OF RUSSIAN LIFE.

FROM AN UNPUBLISHED VOLUME OF ALEXANDER HERZEN'S MEMOIRS. 1825-1826.

ONE winter morning a senator visited our house before the usual hour, and, with a mysterious expression on his countenance, entered my father's library, and motioned to me not to follow. I remained in the saloon, wondering what he had come to tell. Fortunately, I was not long left in doubt, for a door opposite me opened, and the round face of the senator's lacquey appeared as if framed in his richly-ornamented collar of fur. He made me a sign to draw near the door.

"You know nothing?" he said.

"Of what?"

"The Emperor is dead, at Taganrog!"

I was astonished and excited by the news. I had never before conceived the possibility of Alexander's death; they who, from infancy, had surrounded me, had only imbued my mind with veneration of the Czar. I called to recollection the last occasion on which I had seen him, just before his departure for Taganrog.

He was on horseback, riding slowly from a review near the Barriere de Tuer, and was accompanied by two generals, one of whom was Diebitch. His face was calm and mild; he seemed weary and pensive. I took off my hat, he smiled, and returned my salute. How different from Nicholas, who perpetually carried Medusa's head, half bald, and looked round him with a serpent's fierceness, whether in the streets or at the palace among his officers and ladies of honour! Nicholas sought continually to emulate the boa-constrictor, and to freeze the blood in the veins of those with whom he spoke. Had Alexander's affability been assumed, I should have esteemed such hypocrisy preferable to the insolent candour of absolutism.

While in all the shops portraits of "the Emperor Constantine" were exhibited; while the crowds rushed to the churches to swear allegiance to him, the rumour of his abdication spread. The senator's lacquey, indeed, announced to me that there was an insurrection at St. Petersburg, and that cannon had been fired on the Place de Traak.

The next evening, General Count Comaroffsky visited us. He came from St. Petersburg, where he had been a witness of the insurrection. He described it to us, and I in amazement, listened. A new world seemed to open, dim, undefined, yet sufficient to fill my imagination.

In a few days began a series of arrests and domiciliary visits throughout Moscow. Mothers and wives trembled; all seemed at once to become gloomy. To the nation at large Nicholas was utterly unknown; while Alexander reigned he has been nothing;—he had been seldom mentioned. Now, every one was interested in him. The officers of the Imperial Guard were anxiously questioned, and from them the public began to learn some traits of his coldly-cruel, vindictive, implacable character,—traits which were speedily exemplified. Once, while yet only a Grand Duke, having complaints to make against an officer, he seized him by his collar. The officer said sternly, "Your Highness, do not forget that I have a sword in my hand!" Nicholas recoiled, but he did not forget him. Upon becoming Emperor, he asked, two or three times, whether that officer had not been detected among the conspirators.

The officer, Count Samiloff, threw up his commission, and went to live in retirement at Moscow. Nicholas recognised him at the theatre, and remarked that he was dressed with an approach to foppery. He at once expressed his august desire to turn him into ridicule. Accordingly, the manager directed an actor to imitate the dress and the manners of Count Samiloff, and the mimic acquitted himself to perfection. After the performance, the real count went in search of the manager, and demanded an interview with the ready-witted actor, declaring, however, that he would do him not the slightest harm. As the request was made in public, the manager, dreading a quarrel, called the actor forward. Samiloff thanked him for his clever imitation, but remarked that he wanted one ornament to complete it. So saying, he took off the splendid diamond that glittered on his breast, and said, "Permit me to offer you this; every time you are ordered to mimic me, do me the favour to wear it." Then, bowing, he returned to his stall, and Nicholas, perceiving that the laugh was not with him, forbade a repetition of the farce.

One of the earliest acts of the young Emperor was the organisation of that formidable gendarmery, which, centralised near his palace, exercised its espionage throughout the empire. The secret police of Alexander were disbanded, and their chief officer, an old Voltarian, was himself placed under surveillance. The fear of banishment,—a real or imaginary danger—hung over all; it was as though society had been smitten dumb. Only women, compassionate and heroic, ventured to declare their sympathy with the relatives and friends, dragged from home and thrust into casemated dungeons. The names of some of these magnanimous and pious ladies are known,—the princesses Troubetsky, the Nariskins, and the Youchoreffskis,—I must add that of Madame Tvasheff. Her story is too interesting to be omitted.

M. Tvasheff belonged to a noble and opulent family. He conceived a passion for his sister's governess, and would have married her, but that his mother created such a storm that the young girl retired to Paris, and he was forced to defer his intention. Ultimately, as one of the most ardent leaders of the great conspiracy, he was condemned to civil death, and to forced labour in perpetuity. His father had a natural son to whom he bequeathed the family estates, beseeching him, however, not

to forget his unhappy brother. Meanwhile, the young French girl, when she received the dreadful intelligence, hastened to St. Petersburg, and demanded from Count Benkendorf permission to join Tvasheff in his captivity. Nicholas instructed Benkendorf to dissuade her; she remained firm. He represented to her the miserable condition of women who followed their husbands to the galleys, and the terrible destinies of their children. He added that much consideration would be extended to wives who knew not that their husbands had been compromised, but that she was free, and knowing what her betrothed was, could expect no mercy. The young girl persisted. Nicholas, astonished, shrugged his shoulders, and gave her a passport. He kept his word. No favour was ever shown to this devoted woman. When she reached her husband's prison the authorities, having received no orders, refused her an entrance. She remained, therefore, at a hamlet some miles distant, waiting for an order from St. Petersburg, and surrounded by a population of common criminals and liberated convicts. Among these she met a man who was employed on the fortifications. Relating her story, she begged him to acquaint Tvasheff with her arrival: he undertook to convey a letter and the answer. The devotion of this woman, which had not touched the heart of Nicholas, made a deep impression on the rude nature of the convict. Several times a week, after finishing his task, he issued at nightfall from the fortress, walked several leagues across the snowy plains, amid the desolation of Eastern Siberia, to carry her a few words of affection, written by Tvasheff. At last the reply of the government arrived, and these unhappy ones were married in the fortress.

Ten years passed. Tvasheff's punishment was then commuted from forced labour to exile at a penal settlement. The condition of his wife and himself was thus ameliorated; but the struggle had worn her out—the struggle of seeking a husband at the galleys, and of ten years passed within a fortress in an inclement and bitter climate, had exhausted her strength, and she died, leaving two children. Tvasheff, still young, fell into a profound melancholy, and some months after followed her to the grave. Imagine the situation of the orphans without civil rights, doomed at their birth to live as soldiers in a penal colony, abandoned, friendless, in the solitudes of Siberia!

Tvasheff's father was dead. His son, a distinguished Colonel of Engineers, demanded and obtained the Emperor's permission to adopt these children. Some years passed, and he requested a second favour,—the restoration of their name and civil rights. This, which the Emperor, with such a scandalous outburst of ferocity, had denied to the Princess Troubetskoff, he conceded to the colonel, not perceiving, however, that it amounted to a restitution of their estates, which the worthy man only held in trust for them.

Among devoted women, and among men paralysed by fear, there sprang up a multitude of enslaved fanatics. Some were dragged to baseness by selfish calculations, others, disinterested and unconscious, degraded themselves without a motive.

My thoughts were at once awakened. I know not how it was, but on the first day, I felt in my heart that I was not on the side of those who fired the Imperial guns. The execution of Pestal and his friends did the rest. Every one expected a commutation of their punishment. Even my father, with his discreet and sceptical reserve, said that the sentences and the gibbets were only meant to strike terror, and that no executions could possibly be ordered on the very eve of the coronation. But one day we read in the official gazette,—“On the 5th of July, at five o'clock in the morning, five traitors were hanged by the public executioner.”

We had known too little of Nicholas! As for him, after signing the warrants, he left St. Petersburg, and, without calling at Moscow, awaited the news at the Petrovsky palace.

An universal horror prevailed. The Russian people, degraded by slavery, and by the rod, were, nevertheless, unaccustomed to the infliction of death penalties. Since the monstrous punishment of the officer Mirovitch, for having, by order of Catherine the Second, assassinated the unhappy Prince Teon, and that of Pougatscheff and his two accomplices, there had not been a single execution for fifty years.

During the reign of Paul, an insurrection of Cossacks occurred, in which two officers were implicated. Paul invested his Hetman with an unlimited jurisdiction over the offenders. The two officers were condemned to decapitation; but no one would assume the responsibility of the execution, and the Emperor was applied to. “The Hetman is a fool,” said Paul. “He had full power, but he would throw the odium on me.” The criminals were sent to the mines, and the Hetman was dismissed.

Nicholas—and history should never ignore this trait of his character—re-introduced the punishment of death, by a surprise, and legalised it twenty years afterwards, in a monstrous criminal code, drawn up by the Polish German Grube and confirmed by the Czar.

Some days after the famous 26th, a grand *Te Deum* was chaunted in a rich pavilion, erected in the Court of the Kremlin. Philarete, the metropolitan of Moscow, officiated, surrounded by the high clergy, and gave thanks to God for the victory obtained over the five patriots by the public executioner. The Imperial family, the ministers, and the senate, surrounded the altar, and, further off, were heard the acclamations of the Imperial Guard. While the *Te Deum* was performed the soldiers knelt, and from the Courts to the domes of the Kremlin rose the cry, “God save the Emperor!” Never was there such a *fête* of the gallows.

I was there, with my mother, and I already learned to hate the unnatural power of that implacable man. Nevertheless, my political ideas were somewhat confused. I believed that the insurgents had really designed to place Constantine on the throne, to govern by a constitution. Hence, I conceived a singular veneration for him, as Czarovitch. At the commencement of the reign of Nicholas, indeed, he was much more in favour than his brother with the people, on whom he had conferred no benefits, and with the soldiery, who had experienced none but evil treatment at his hands. It was a popular caprice: he seemed to have atoned for all by the act of abdication.

I saw him at a review, the day after the coronation of Nicholas. He accompanied his brother to the palace and to the cathedral. His brow, never free from wrinkles, wore a sinister expression. He wore the Lithuanian uniform; and with his high shoulders, his drooping head, and *retroussé*

nose, it may be imagined that my hero did not captivate me by his beauty.

My Russian teacher was the first who began to engage my mind. He was young, noble, full of that liberalism which vanishes with marriage, with the first grey hair, with the attainment of a stable position, but which, while it lasts, still dignifies the man. “May God will,” he said to me, “that you shall never abandon these sentiments;” and he began to teach me fragments of Poushkins's and Ryleief's songs, which I committed to writing, little dreaming that, thirty years after, I—I first—should print them.

I read no more romances; I found in the library a history of the French revolution, written by a legitimist of the empire. His exaggerations were so absurd that I suspected them. Resolved at any cost to decide for myself, I thought of asking Monsieur Bouchot, my French master, who was at Paris during the Revolution. Bouchot was a rough man, not much inclined to converse with me. He dictated verses, conjugated verbs, scolded, tattooed the ground with his foot, and did not invite my inquiries.

At last, I took courage, and seeing him in an unusually good humour, said in the middle of a lesson, “Ah, Monsieur Bouchot, I have long wanted to ask you why they guillotined Louis XVI.?”

The old man looked at me steadily, raised one eyebrow and depressed the other, pushed his heavy spectacles over his forehead, took from his pocket his blue handkerchief, and, after having blown his nose violently, said in a dismal voice, “Because he was a traitor to his country!”

“But if you had been one of the judges, would you have signed the warrant?”

“With both hands!” said he, and he took a pinch of snuff.

That lesson was worth many participles and conjunctions.

I was now enlightened. Evidently they had done right to guillotine the King.

Bouchot himself had said so!

A. HERZEN.

The Arts.

“STAY AT HOME.”

A LITTLE drama in two acts, under this title, was produced on Monday evening at the OLYMPIC. It is from a French original, and a version in English has already appeared at the HAYMARKET. The present translation is very free, with large interpolations of original humour, and the scene is transferred from Paris to London, and to the sylvan retirement of Cremorne. Mr. Frank Lauriston (Mr. GEORGE VINING) is a young author with a young wife, whom he leaves at home in solitude while he amuses himself à la Pepys, and flirts with a gay widow because it flatters his vanity. He is followed by his wife, disguised in a domino, to a masqued ball at Cremorne, where, after sundry cross-purposes, all is brought to an appropriate conclusion. These are the chief figures and incidents; but there is a fussy old physician, Dr. Metcalfe (excellently played by Mr. EMERY), who, by communicating to Lauriston the various fanciful ailments under which the gay widow labours—now a headache, now “her nerves”—acts unconsciously as a go-between for the lady and her lover, each ailment having a special and secret meaning. Another character is the doctor's wife (played by Mrs. STIRLING)—a lady bored by her too uxorious husband, and longing for a little jealousy, which she finally obtains; for, dropping in at Cremorne to see what the place is like, she encounters the doctor, who has escorted Mrs. Lauriston to that retreat. She thus finds a temporary motive for fearing that the home-loving physician is becoming “fast.”

The whole piece sparkles with wit and satire; and is not only epigrammatic, but full of movement. The final moral is in favour of the advice embodied in the title; but the author has reserved to himself great liberty of comment on social “make-believes.” Of the acting, we may say it was good throughout. Miss FANNY TERNAN played the half-broken-hearted wife with touching sweetness: her efforts to keep her husband awake by playing and singing, and the way in which she continues the song after she finds he is asleep, until the voice getting more and more tremulous, she falls forward in a fit of sobbing,—all this was truly and beautifully felt. Mr. GEORGE VINING was easy and audacious as the husband; and Mrs. STIRLING, as Mrs. Metcalfe, shone wickedly delightful. The vivacity with which she flashes forth her comments on the stupidity of too-loving husbands, and the inner chuckle with which, when asking Mrs. Lauriston to go to the masqued ball, she adds, “It's rather improper,” are matters to be remembered.

A CAPITAL farce, under the homely and nutritious title of *That Blessed Baby*, was produced at the ADELPHI on Monday evening, for the return of the KEELEYS, with complete success. The author, new to fame, has hit upon a novel and interesting “situation,” and has worked it out with roaring fun and comicality. The piece—which, by the way, is of home and not foreign extraction—is written to the very measure of the admirable talent of the KEELEYS, whose acting is simply unsurpassable for mirth and humour, whether in its broad effects, or in those finer touches, which sometimes elude the public, but are full of meaning to the critical sense.

“THE Stranger” is becoming quite the man in possession at the HAYMARKET. He is constantly putting in a distress upon the premises. But if he would always appear under the fat and florid aspect of the Mr. SIMPSON who appeared the other night in that character, he would be a little less of a bore. Alphonse Karr imagined (and shuddered at the thought) *une femme chauve, en lunettes, comblant les vœux de son amant*. Who could the *amant* be but Mr. W. H. SIMPSON, in the character of the “Stranger?”

MISS P. HORTON's entertainment at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION is becoming increasingly popular. It is cleverly written, and furnishes an infinite variety of opportunities for the display of the accomplished lady's wit, vivacity, and grace. When she sings, we cannot help reflecting with pain that there are few such voices to be heard at the Opera.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BURY.—On the 1st inst., at Kilkenny, the Hon. Mrs. Bury: a daughter.

CHAPMAN.—On the 1st ult., at Deegha, Dinapore, Bengal, the wife of Robert Barclay Chapman, Esq., Bengal Civil Service: a son.

EBRINGTON.—On the 10th inst., at Castle-hill, Viscountess Ebrington: a son.

MARRIAGES.

DELAFOSSÉ-DAVEY.—On the 12th inst., at Redruth, the Rev. Augustus Newland Delafosse, M.A., Oriel College, Oxford, youngest son of the Rev. D. C. Delafosse, rector of Shere, Surrey, to Catherine, eldest daughter of the late William Davey, Esq., of Redruth.

HAMOND-BUXTON.—On the 7th inst., at Northrepps, Philip Hamond, Esq., of Annesley Park, Notts, to Richenda, daughter of the late Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart. of Northrepps Hall, Norfolk.

SHOWERS-NIGHTINGALE.—On the 9th inst., from the house of the Hon. Mrs. Law, at Wargrave Church, Berks, Capt. Charles L. Showers, 14th Regt. Bengal Army, to Frederica, widow of the late Manby Nightingale, son of Sir Chas. Nightingale, Bart., of Kneeworth Hall, Cambridgeshire.

DEATHS.

FARNHAM.—On the 10th inst., at Leamington, Grace, Countess of Farnham, in the 90th year of her age.

HANBURY.—William D. Hanbury, aged 25, Second Lieutenant of H.M.S. Nerubudda, third son of Osgood Hanbury, Esq., of Holfield grange, Coggeshall, Essex, supposed to have been lost with the ship and the whole of the crew, in a hurricane off the Cape of Good Hope, Africa, in June, 1855.

HENRY.—On Saturday morning, the 9th inst., at 2, Cumberland-terrace, Regent's-park, the Right Hon. Lady Emily Henry, in her 78th year.

PLUNKETT.—On the 3rd ult., at Jamestown House, near Dublin, after a protracted illness, taken in the West Indies, Anthony Sydney Shawe Plunkett, late Lieut. of the 5th Regt. of Foot, youngest son of the late Hon. Mathew and Sydney Plunkett, of Bellough Castle, county Tipperary.

RAY.—On Sunday evening, the 3rd instant, on board the ship Josephine Willis, in the endeavour to rescue a lady fellow-passenger, Herbert Wilberforce Ray, aged 21.

WILLIAMS.—On the 14th inst., at 33, Milton-street, Dorset-square, Mr. John Williams, in the 73rd year of his age, and in the 60th year of his official connexion with H.M. George III.'s library, now in the British Museum.

WILSON.—On the 4th ult., at 19, Howland-street, Fitzroy-square, Miss Charlotte E. Wilson, artist, after many years of great suffering.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 12.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM SCHENK, Royal Exchange-buildings, Cornhill, and elsewhere, merchant—THOMAS EVANS, St. James's-street, and St. James's-place, Westminster, tailor—GEORGE TILLEY, Cambridge-street, Old St. Pancras-road, dust contractor—WILLIAM JAMES, Nayland, Suffolk, builder—WILLIAM BOWMAN, Sloane street, Chelsea, tailor—HENRY BARNES, Winchester, wine merchant—MORTON ANDREW EDWARDS, Dean-street, Soho, sculptor—DAVID DAVIS (known as DAVID P. DAVIS), Merthyr Tydfil, shopkeeper—RICHARD MINIFF, Honiton, baker—CHARLES PHILLIPS EDNEY and ALFRED RAINS, Liverpool, druggists.

Friday, February 15.

BANKRUPTS.—GEORGE WESTBURY HALL, Bush-lane, City, merchant—THOMAS JOHNSON, Kensington Gravel-pits, victualler—ALFRED WILLIAMS and WILLIAM MAJOR HOLLAND, Duncan-street, Leman-street, Whitechapel, wholesale grocers—WILLIAM BELL ROBERTSON, Red Cross-square, Cripplegate, mourning hat-band manufacturer—GEORGE FREDERICK COBBHAM, Milton-next-Gravesend, carpenter—PHILIP DAVIES, Aberkenfig, Glamorganshire, grocer—CHARLES HUMPHRIES, Penny Compton, Warwickshire, victualler—THOMAS BRADY, Harborne, Staffordshire, corn dealer—ALEXANDER FINNIGER, Lydney, Gloucester, draper—WILLIAM GOULSTONE, Bedminster Wood and Bristol, auctioneer—JOHN WOOD and WAINMAN WOOD, Millbridge, Yorkshire, machine makers—HENRY ALFRED JONES, Liverpool, merchant, outfitter, and dealer in tents.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

London, Friday Evening, Feb. 15, 1856.

The announcement from the Treasury which reached the Stock Exchange this morning, as to the proposed new loan and funding of Exchequer Bills, caused a fall of nearly two per cent. at once in the price of Consols, which was afterwards fully attained. Up to noon yesterday, funds had throughout the week steadily and firmly advanced, quoting at that time 92½; but, in consequence of heavy sales later in the day, prices declined, and left off 92½. Money has been much in demand, and large amounts are required to meet the payments on the shares of the New Joint-Stock Bank undertakings; but for this, earlier in the week prices would have ruled higher, much confidence having been placed in the result of the Conference, and the public having largely invested.

The Foreign Stock Market has been steady, though quiet, but the premiums on the New Bank Shares have not held their former quotations. The Ottoman Banking Company lately formed is one of the first evidences of the development of Turkish resources. Yesterday the settlement of the Paris and London Joint-Stock Bank took place.

The General Screw Steam Shipping Company have announced the purchase of eight of their largest steamers by a French Company for £500,000 or more, and a proposed further purchase by the same Company is intimated of some of their smaller vessels. The above amount of £500,000 will enable the Company to return more than half the capital to the shareholders.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Feb. 15, 1856.

The supply of English and Foreign wheat and flour since Monday has continued very moderate, and the demand is still limited to satisfying immediate wants, but there is a firmer feeling springing up in the trade, and the business has been done at 1s. over former rates. The arrivals of barley and oats have been quite trifling, and the latter have advanced 6d. since our last report. Beans are still heavy, but holders have not evinced any disposition to give way, and peas remain unaltered in value.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock	214	214	214	214	214	213
3 per Cent. Reduced	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	90½
Consols for Account	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	90½
New 3 per Cent. An.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	91½
New 2½ per Cents	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	91½
Long Ans. 1860	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
India Stock	232½	232½	232½	232½	232½	224
Ditto Bonds, £1000	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	3 dis.
Ditto, under £1000	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	1 dis.
Ex. Bills, £1000	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	1 dis.
Ditto, £500	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	1 dis.
Ditto, Small	3 dis.	3 dis.	3 dis.	3 dis.	3 dis.	4 dis.

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On Tuesday, February 19, Bellini's Opera of LA SON-NAMBULA. Amina, Lucy Escott; Elvino, Mr. Henry Haigh; Count Rodolpho, Mr. Durand. Each of these Operas will be produced on the grandest scale the whole of the unlimited resources of this, the first theatre in the metropolis, will be called into requisition for the occasion. The *mise en scene* will be characteristic of all that has been produced on the boards of Covent Garden. Conductor, Mr. Loder. Full Band and Chorus. The opera to be followed, each evening, with the new Farce, condensed of WHAT DO YOU WANT? (in consequence of numerous inquiries.) The Wizard, by Professor Anderson; the other Wizard by Mr. Leigh Murray, who will have the honour of introducing his celebrated *fac-similes* of Mr. Charles Mathews and Mr. Charles Keane. The performance to conclude, each evening, with the Ballet of L'ECOSSAIS PRETILLANT, supported by Mr. Flexmore, Mr. W. Barnes, Mr. Charles Brown, and Miss Emma Horne. Mademoiselle Auril will make her first appearance these eight years at this theatre, in the role of Josephine. Private Boxes, £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 1s., and 12s.; Grand Balcony, 4s.; Upper Boxes, 2s. 6d.; Pit and Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Private Boxes and Seats in the Balcony, Stalls, and Upper Boxes may be secured on application at the Box-office of the Theatre, which is open, under the direction of Mr. O'REILLY, daily from 10 to 5. Doors open every evening at Half past Six. Commence at Seven. Second Price at Nine o'clock.

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and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN. Monday, and during the week, will be performed a new Comedietta, entitled STAY AT HOME, in which Messrs. G. Vining, Emery, F. Vining, Miss F. Ternan, Mrs. Stirling, and Miss Bromley will appear. After which the new and doubly-moral, though excessively old, Melodramatic Fairy Extravaganza, entitled THE DISCREET PRINCESS; or, THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS, in which Messrs. Emery, F. Robinson, H. Cooper, Miss Marston, and Miss Maskell, will appear.

MONDAY, February 25th. STILL WATERS RUN DEEP, in which Mrs. Alfred Wigan will re-appear.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

MORNING CONCERT.

HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS, MONDAY NEXT, FEB. 18.

MR. MITCHELL respectfully announces that Mr. and Madame GOLDSCHMIDT'S FIRST MORNING MISCELLANEOUS CONCERT will take place on MONDAY NEXT, Feb. 18, commencing at Two o'clock.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.—Overture, "Jessonda"—Spohr; Air, "Ave Maria," Mr. Swift (Clarinet obligato, Mr. Lazarus)—Cherubini; Scene, "Crudele," and Aria, "Non mi dir," Madame Jenny Goldschmidt (Don Giovanni)—Mozart; Concerto (D Minor), Piano-forte, Mr. Otto Goldschmidt—Mendelssohn; Air, "Oli del mio dolce ardore," Miss Dolby—Stradella; Duo, "Per placere alla Signora," Madame Jenny Goldschmidt and Sign. F. F. Lubache (Il Turco in Italia)—Rossini.

PART II.—Overture, "Euryanthe"—C. M. von Weber; Air, "Quando l'ascolai la Normandia," Madame Jenny Goldschmidt (Roberto)—Meyerbeer; Romanza, "Deserto sulla terra," Mr. Swift (Il Trovatore)—Verdi; Duo, "La Mère Grande," Madame Jenny Goldschmidt and Miss Dolby—Meyerbeer; Tarantelle, Piano-forte Solo, Mr. Otto Goldschmidt—Thalberg; Songs, "My heart the Aeolian harp resembles"—(Benedict), and "Invitation to dance" (Dalcroze Melody), Madame Jenny Goldschmidt; Wedding March (Midsummer Night's Dream)—Mendelssohn.

Conductor, M. BENEDICT.

Doors open at One, to commence at Two o'clock precisely. Reserved and Numbered Seats, £1 1s. each; Unreserved Seats, 10s. 6d.

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DECLARATION OF BONUS.

The Governors and Directors have to announce that the Second Quinquennial distribution of profits, under "Series 1846," has been completed up to the 31st of December, 1855, and a very satisfactory Bonus declared thereon. Such Bonus attaches to all Policies effected from the 1st of January, 1846, to 31st December, 1855.

The following Table, including the addition made in 1850, exhibits the total amount of Reversionary Bonus added to Policies of Ten Years standing.

Age when Assured.	Sum Assured.	Total amount of Premiums paid.	Total Bonus.	Per Cent on Premiums paid.
30	£1000	£253	£170	67.1
40	1000	325	187	57.5
50	1000	452	193	42.6
60	1000	661	218	32.9

The character and standing of this Corporation, maintained during nearly a century and a half, guarantee to the public a full and faithful declaration of profits.

The Corporation bears the whole expenses of Management; thus giving to the Assured, combined with the protection afforded by its Corporate Fund, advantages equal to those of any system of Mutual Assurance.

Premiums may be paid Yearly, Half-Yearly, or Quarterly.

All Policies are issued free from Stamp Duty, or from charge of any description whatever beyond the Premium.

The attention of the Public is especially called to the great advantages offered to Life Assurers by the Legislature, in its recent enactments, by which it will be found that to the extent of one-sixth of income, Life Premiums are not subject to Income Tax.

The fees of Medical Referees are paid by the Corporation.

Annuities are granted by the Corporation, payable Half-Yearly.

Every facility will be given for the transfer or exchange of Policies, for Loans thereon, or any othersuitable arrangement will be made for the convenience of the Assured.

Prospectuses, and all other information, may be obtained by either a written or personal application to the Offices as above.

JOHN LAURENCE, Secretary.

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DIRECTORS and MANAGERS who are desirous of making their Societies safe through amalgamation with the UNITED ORDER PROVIDENT ASSURANCE COMPANY, and of joining the Board, are invited to apply to the Manager, WM. CURRIE OTTER, Esq., without delay, at the Chief Offices, 63, Pall-mall, London.

PROGRESS of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CHIEF OFFICES.

Unity-buildings, 8 and 10, Cannon-street, City.

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1, New Coventry-street, Leicester-square.

It is with feelings of peculiar satisfaction the DIRECTORS of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION submit the following statements respecting its progress and business during the year 1855, commencing 1st January, and ending 31st December last. It will be observed the amount of new business transacted during that period produces annual premiums exceeding £12,390. This is a very large result indeed, judged by the average amount of new business effected by other life offices, which varies from £3,000 to £5,000 per annum.

There is but one sure test by which the progress and soundness of a life assurance institution can be judged practically—viz., the amount of new business it secures. No other test is valuable or even useful for such purpose. Unless a life office continues year after year to obtain a large new business, it must rapidly decline and eventually cease to exist.

STATEMENT of New Life Business of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, from 1st January, 1855, to 31st December, 1855:—

MONTHS.	Business Proposed.		Business Completed.		
	No. of Proposals.	Amount Proposed to be Assured.	No. of Policies.	Amount Assured thereby.	Annual Premiums thereon.
January, 1855.	100	39,946	65	19,350	£ 641 6 3
February, "	130	36,150	101	27,216	845 10 4
March, "	167	38,550	141	33,000	913 17 6
April, "	147	46,025	118	31,850	958 9 3
May, "	187	72,260	118	39,810	1,193 0 8
June, "	115	43,950	105	27,150	809 6 8
July, "	107	41,050	109	37,250	1,124 16 6
August, "	123	72,390	103	45,250	1,998 8 10
September, "	132	49,187	95	33,285	1,003 10 1
October, "	94	32,630	109	37,122	1,156 18 1
November, "	129	42,200	98	29,100	1,046 13 6
December, "	89	23,275	89	22,658	688 2 9
Totals	1,520	£537,733	1,251	£383,141	£12,393 11 5

This Table shows:—

1. That in the year 1855, 1,251 new Policies have been completed and paid upon.

2. That the amount assured thereby is £383,141.

3. That the new Annual Premiums thereon amount to £12,393 11s 5d.

It is very gratifying also to know that the great bulk of this business is entirely free from loan operations, as the following analysis will show:—

	Policies.	Assuring.	Producing in Premiums.
In connexion with Loans	89	£50,866	£2,114 9 9
Unconnected with Loans	1,162	332,275	10,279 1 8
Totals	1,251	£383,141	£12,393 11 5

Such are the results obtained by the UNITY GENERAL during the year 1855. They are published as facts illustrating the power and influence of its connexions, and likewise the popularity of the principles propounded by it.

MONETARY RESOURCES OF THE UNITY GENERAL.

The following facts exhibit at a glance the perfect security offered by this Association to Assurers:

1. The number of Shareholders is ..	2,087
2. The subscribed capital is ..	£309,308
3. The paid-up capital is ..	£77,334
4. The number of Policies issued is ..	3,413
5. The amount assured thereby is ..	£1,162,967
6. The gross annual income from Premiums, including that of the TRAFALGAR LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, now merged into the UNITY GENERAL, is ..	£37,497

To have achieved such a solid position in so short a period and thus be enabled to command such extensive funds, is a success without precedent. It is attributable to many favourable circumstances. The close connexion of the UNITY GENERAL with its powerful and kindred institution, the UNITY FIRE, has tended in many ways to advance its career. In like manner the UNITY GENERAL has benefited the UNITY FIRE, whilst the third Unity Association, viz., the UNITY BANK, will be of considerable service to the others. All three Institutions, viz., the UNITY FIRE, the UNITY GENERAL, and the UNITY BANK, although perfectly separate as regards capital, liabilities, management, &c., will be conducted in the same buildings, and thus, while they feed each other with business, so will they promote economy, power, and an extension of their connexions.

THE UNITY BANK.

All the necessary capital for the UNITY BANK, amounting to £300,000, has been subscribed for, whereof £100,000 is paid up and invested. Nor has the capital stock been hurriedly allotted to persons for speculative purposes. The Directors have exercised the greatest care in this most important particular, and it is very satisfactory to know the Shares are all held by bona fide Shareholders in very small numbers. This fact is illustrated by the circumstance that up to the present period there are nearly 600 highly respectable Shareholders, whose names and addresses will shortly be published together with an explanation of the terms and principles on which the business of the UNITY BANK will be conducted. The names of the various Gentlemen appointed as Officials to the Bank will also be published.

COMMENCEMENT OF BANKING BUSINESS.

The Directors of the Bank are not enabled to name the exact date on which the business will be commenced in consequence of the uncertainty always attending the proceedings of the authorities at the Board of Trade. The event, however, is close at hand, and will be duly announced as soon as it is decided. It is gratifying to know that no difficulty whatever exists (with the exception of the usual formalities) to the UNITY BANK commencing operations in a very few days.

UNITY GENERAL BONUS IN 1857.

The first Bonus of the UNITY GENERAL will be declared in the year 1857, therefore all intending assurers

desirous of participating are urged to make their proposals with as little delay as possible. The prospects of a large division are very good, arising not only from the great extent of business already effected, but also from the results that may be reasonably expected from the future.

Applications for forms of Proposals, Prospectuses, Agencies, and all other information, are requested to be made either personally or by letter, to any of the Local Managers or Agents throughout the country, or to

THOMAS H. BAYLIS, Managing Director.

Unity-buildings, 8 and 10, Cannon-street, City.

Jan. 30, 1856.

ALLIANCE (FRANCE and ENGLAND) BANK.

(Caisse de l'Alliance Anglo-Francaise, Société en Commandite in Paris, with liability limited to the amount of Shares, and to be formed hereafter into a Société Anonyme):

Established for the transaction of Business at and between Paris, London, and Constantinople.

Capital £800,000, in Shares of £20 each.

Bankers—The Union Bank of London, London.

Brokers—Messrs. Hope and Dodgson, 26, Royal Exchange, London; A. A. Hoghton, Esq., Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.

Solicitors—Messrs. Swift and Wagstaff, Great George-street, Westminster.

Standing Counsel—J. H. Lloyd, Esq., King's Bench-walk, Temple.

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Under the control and especial protection of the French Government and laws, the Alliance (France and England) Bank will combine, with the great advantages thus offered, a strict application of the sound principles of the above-mentioned London banks and will supply a want which has been long felt, and is generally admitted. At the same time it will not enter into competition with any of the existing banking establishments in London, where its business will be strictly that of agency.

Responsible managers and agents of high respectability, well conversant with international business and banking, have been secured for Paris, London, and Constantinople.

The shares will be of £20 each, payable to bearer, and without any further liability.

Under the French law of limited liability, the shareholders are not required to sign any deed of settlement.

The capital of £800,000 will not be increased without the authority of a General Meeting of the shareholders. It will be issued in separate series of shares, and the holders of the first series will have a preferential pro rata right to the succeeding issues.

Applications for shares may be made in the annexed form, addressed to the brokers, Messrs. Hope and Dodgson, 26, Royal Exchange, London; and A. A. Hoghton, Esq., 12, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street; or to Edward Geach, Esq., Secretary, 31, Threadneedle-street; but no application will be entertained unless a deposit of £1 for each share applied for be previously made with the Union Bank of London, London, the bankers of the Company. This deposit will be returned in the event of the application not being acceded to; and if an allotment be made it will be applied towards the deposit of £5 per share, which will be then payable.

Form of Application for Shares.

To the Council of the Alliance (France and England) Bank.

Gentlemen,—I request you to allot me — shares of £20 each in this Bank and I hereby agree to accept the same or any less number which may be allotted to me, and to pay the deposit of £5 per share allotted; and in the event of my failure herein I hereby agree to forfeit the deposit now made with the bankers of the Company, and I authorise you to cancel the allotment.

Name _____
Profession or business _____
Address _____
Date _____

ALLIANCE (FRANCE and ENGLAND) BANK.

The present issue of shares is limited to 10,000, viz., one-fourth of the capital, and the holders of shares in this issue will be entitled to pro rata allotment of the succeeding issues.

EDWARD GEACH, Secretary.

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No FURTHER APPLICATIONS for SHARES can be RECEIVED AFTER MONDAY next, the 18th instant.

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