

W. E. Arnold and Galloway, B. H. Chand.

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.*

Contents :

REVIEW OF THE WEEK—

	PAGE
Imperial Parliament	219
The War	221
War Miscellaneous	221
The Peace	222
Total Destruction of Covent-Garden Theatre	222
Our Civilisation	222
America	224
The Orient	224
The French Emperor's Speech at the Opening of the Parliament	224
Continental Notes	225

Ireland	226
State of Trade	226
Thames Union Industrial Farm	226
Naval and Military News	227
Miscellaneous	227
Postscript	227

PUBLIC AFFAIRS—

The Danubian Principalities	228
Fourteen Russian Treaties	228
Army Reform Debates	229
Women and Law Reform	229
Oxford Manicheism	230

OPEN COUNCIL—

An Historical Study	231
The Amended Statutes	231

LITERATURE—

Summary	232
After Dark	232
Southey's Letters	233
The Dutch Republic	233
Pine-cones from Italy	234
Decay of Nations	235
Life in Brazil	235

Biographical Dictionary	236
-------------------------------	-----

THE ARTS—

The First Printer	236
-------------------------	-----

The Gazette	237
-------------------	-----

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—

City Intelligence, Markets, Advertisements, &c.	237
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SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1856.

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Review of the Week.

By favour of the alliance, of accident, and of every folly or complicity of his fellow sovereigns, LOUIS NAPOLEON equivocates every phase of Europe into a personal glorification. His last address to his senators and deputies is as complete an illustration as his treatise upon the extinction of pauperism from his prison at Ham. Socialism reared its head above the middle class mark, and LOUIS NAPOLEON in person identified himself for the day with the socialism. The King of the Barricades allowed the stool to be jostled from under him, a republic was on foot, and LOUIS NAPOLEON accepted the Presidency. France sickened into servitude, and he restored the Empire. Mischievously demanding a Latin key for the holy places in the East, he drew Russia upon him, provoked the crisis in Turkey, but managed to place England before him in vindicating the East against the aggression of the North. The Emperor NICHOLAS refused to call him "Sir, my brother," and now the Emperor NAPOLEON condescendingly patronises the Emperor ALEXANDER for deferring to the distinctly expressed wish of Europe which France has dictated; for, says NAPOLEON in his speech, the present Emperor of RUSSIA "inherited a position which he had not created." NAPOLEON will not punish the son for the sin of his father: and Europe sees him magnanimously consenting to receive submission from the child of the man who refused to recognise his equality. Thus at the same moment France holds out the hand of friendship to Russia, yet maintains a complete accord with England, her ally for the war. The head of the Paris form advertises the capacity which France possesses, with its increased wealth, its cash ready to be placed in his hands, its military zeal, its private charity, to undertake the part of war or peace. The Plenipotentiaries of Europe are assembled in his capital, and under his patronage will the settlement of Europe be accomplished, or the fresh stage of the war initiated. It is probable that our own Government has had some share in these transactions; but the dramatic attitude, which

is proper to the French people, enables the Emperor NAPOLEON to give himself the most conspicuous place, and to stand before flunkies, if not before history, as the first among the first.

There is indeed great reason to doubt whether he has on all occasions preserved that foremost place. The papers respecting Kars which have just been brought forward are an exposure for many of those who were engaged. The Ottoman Government is shown to have been strangely impotent in the control of its own armies; the Turkish commander is for ever disgraced in history; the excessive corruption of the Turkish Administration, where it is removed from the centre, is brought under the light of English State papers and journals; but Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, who left the really heroic WILLIAMS unsupported even by the solace of a friendly letter, is not less pilloried for his neglect of the duty towards a personal friend which would have been considered the first obligation of a gentleman. And the weakness which prevented the Emperor NAPOLEON from overriding the obstructive jealousy of PELISSIER is unveiled by the publication of those words in which he shuffles off the responsibility, and leaves our foreign office to deal with the allied generals, PELISSIER, of course, included. That Kars episode is not over with yet; the materials have scarcely yet come to hand; but we shall have to explore its dark passages. In the meanwhile, it is clear that caution here actuated NAPOLEON THE THIRD far more than chivalry.

Just as we have this exposure of Government impotency in Turkey, of calamitous corruption, cross purposes, and treachery, we have the Imperial Hattæ Sheræf sketching out an universal Reform Bill for the Ottoman Empire—comprising ecclesiastical reform, financial reform, administrative reform, electoral reform, everything reform! Wild as the scheme looks, it is indeed possible that Turkey may be more competent to carry out a reform than a regular administration. Her system is entirely dissolved: re organisation is absolutely necessary, and the Plenipotentiaries have sketched out the plan for her re-organisation.

It is a pity that some of them cannot apply this Turkish lesson to their own realms. Let Austria give perfect equality of religion; or let France abolish corruption. If, however, we get

Turkey so completely to reform her entire system, it will be difficult to make even Austria continue to serve as a barbarous foil.

Especially if, in the very heart of Germany, another such example were to arise. Such a contingency is not impossible. We all know the wrong which has been done by the princes of Germany to the peoples of Germany, and England must take shame to herself for having played false with Hesse Cassel and Schleswig-Holstein, to say nothing of the moral effect that a better support for those states would have had in Prussia. However, there are Germans who can see their duty for the future, and amongst those Germans, remarkably enough, appears the reigning Duke of SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA, the brother of Prince ALBERT. He deploras "the melancholy indifference manifested to all that belongs to constitutional government," and "the blind zeal for preventing all participation of the people in the administration of their own affairs," he invites the whole country under his rule to concur with him, in demonstrating how much prosperity the constitutional system is able to bestow upon a country, where people and sovereign agree in supporting each other's rights. This was said to a deputation of delegates from all parts of the Duke's dominions. It is a very remarkable manifestation. It is a proof of the ideas which are working in high places, as well as humble, and of the strange events which we might foresee if there were to be another year of war in Europe.

Yes, freedom does continue to advance, although the people who are to enjoy it scarcely appreciate their own duties, and their indifference gives every possible advantage to the enemy. We have now, by perseverance, succeeded in abolishing Church rates, and we are about to abolish them with the help of Government far more efficaciously than we could with the help of Sir WILLIAM CLAY. For the Ministerial scheme is much more effective than the liberal Baronet's. His plan was this: he proposed to abolish the compulsory assessment of Church-rates, and to render the impost a voluntary contribution, levied by the churchwarden, under the superintendence of a quincunx of parish auditors. Thus, although the compulsory levy would

MINISTER

be abolished, every parish would be saddled with a cumbrous machinery empowered to *bother* the residents out of rates, and to bully them if they did not pay. Ministers take a much shorter cut, reviving a still-born bill introduced by the Archbishop of CANTERBURY last year. He proposed to continue the assessment of Church-rates as under the existing law, but to confer upon the refusal of the parish, if it persevere in that refusal for a certain time, the effect of a definitive refusal within the district. In other words, each parish is empowered to settle the Church-rate question for itself. There can be no question about the result. In the first place, probably, under the proposed act, a majority of parishes in England and Wales will abolish Church-rates; the example will encourage the Nonconformists in other parishes, and the number of rate-paying parishes will be diminished, until at last they will altogether disappear from the ecclesiastical map. Virtually, therefore, we may regard the Church-rates as being abolished by the unpretending amendment with which Ministers convert Sir WILLIAM CLAY'S bill into their own.

They have not taken such effectual steps to abolish the purchase system in the army, probably because they care more to retain for a certain class the privilege of buying commissions, than they care for the tribute to the Church. General EVANS moved for a select committee to consider the system with a view to its abolition; it was quite evident that he had a strong support from an increased number of members on both sides of the House; but Ministers drew a herring across the trail: they offered a *commission* instead of a committee—a board of inquiry composed of men under their own orders, instead of a Board selected by the House of Commons. It is probable that the instructions to the Commissioners also will less definitely point to the purpose of *abolition*, and rather to “*amendment*.” The officials want to save as much of the system as they can; but they have been compelled to take the first step towards cutting it up.

Among the movements in Parliament which have no reference to party politics is Lord STANHOPE'S proposal for a national portrait gallery. It met, not with acquiescence, but welcome; and it may be said that the House of Lords and the Government at once identified themselves with the scheme. Lord STANHOPE proposed that a sum of money shall annually be set apart to purchase the portraits of eminent men that abound in this country, in order to bring them together in one gallery. Lord ELLENBOROUGH originated rather an amusing episode, by raising the question, whether the terms used by Lord STANHOPE “honourably mentioned in the history of the country” would not exclude some of our eminent men, such for example as MARLBOROUGH, WOLSEY, Bacon, Cromwell, “and many others.” It was agreed, therefore, to sink the point of honour and substitute “*eminence*,” so that Mr. OLIVER CROMWELL stands a chance of appearing among the eminent persons of the country.

Lord JOHN has again taken his stand as head of the Order of Preceptors. His language has been of a kind to mark almost something more than coldness towards his noble and honourable friends; and in the education debate, which he opened himself with resolutions describing a new plan, he let it be plainly seen that he intended to keep education as his own property, and not to respect the difficulties of any of his friends in office. He made common cause with Sir JOHN PARKINGTON and the Liberal Conservatives against high Tories, Ultra-Radicals, or officials. It is almost as if he had finally abandoned political objects, and had devoted the remainder of his life to the interest of his order. His

plans attempts to combine central and local management, and to avoid all the objections levelled at all the plans that have gone before. Religious teaching in the public schools to be established under his plan, is limited to the reading of the Bible. He would still use up subscriptions, endowments, and even forgotten charities, where they could be made available or school-funds; but where the district is too poor or too indifferent, he would empower the county magistrates to levy a rate for the district, the district still to appoint the masters and mistresses of the school. A great increase to the inspecting force under the Committee of Education is to be the machinery for concentrating information upon the means and state of education, and of setting the local powers in motion. Lord JOHN only describes his plan; the resolutions were brought before the House simply to be recorded in the votes and proceedings, but were not moved and were not to be until after Easter. Plenty of time, therefore, will be afforded for their consideration. The plan professes to be active, but harmless. It however, is, equally threatened with hostility by those who deprecate the admission of the Bible under any circumstances, and by those who insist upon direct dogmatic teaching. It may be remarked, with regard to the latter, that even under the Bill they could carry out their plans by establishing schools of their own.

One of the best marks of our progress is inscribed on the register of the week in the fine Roman hand of FRANCES, Marchioness of Londonderry. The Marchioness has been giving a great party at Chilton Moor, in Durham, on the vast estate that she inherits from her father's family. The guests were the colliers working in her mines, to the number of nearly 3,000. The very appearance of the people showed the progress which has been made under ground, and a still greater progress goes on in the Marchioness's collieries. At one time the little trucks conveying coal from the passages to the lift were dragged by women and children; they are now dragged by horses and ponies, and they are about to be dragged by steam machinery. The men at table did credit in their toilet to the progress of civilisation: they were dressed as for a dinner party; and one of the number proposed the Marchioness's health in a speech that would grace any dinner table in the country; noting in particular the spread of education and literature amongst this class. The Marchioness addressed them in a speech much above the after-dinner average. It recognised the progress of the age, and proclaimed her fidelity to the principle of religious freedom. She “looks to no man's creed—that is between him and his Maker.” Strange times, when Tory Marchionesses utter sentiments like these, in speeches delivered to working colliers, and begun with the trembling voice of genuine emotion!

The destruction which in so many forms man inflicts upon himself has this week taken the awful shape of conflagration, and has swept Covent-garden Theatre from the public buildings of the metropolis. On Tuesday evening London went to sleep with the satisfactory conviction that the great *bal masqué* of Professor ANDERSON, in winding up his monster entertainment, was proceeding with all the splendour and fervour of such profane amusements; and the fervour indeed was sufficient to make those concerned forget the laws by which this earth of ours is governed. Fire, which is a noble slave, was allowed to break its bonds and become the master; and just before dawn the flames burst into the middle of the theatre, scared away the lingering maskers with a terrible sermon on the idleness of human pursuits. The manager, who had hoped to close a doubtful season with a great indraft of revenue,

found himself surveying the flaming and smoking ruins of his theatre. The performers and servants of the house, who commonly minister to the gaieties of the public, are now advertised as the burnt-out recipients of charity. Last week the town was full of reports as to the arrangements actually made for opening the Italian Opera, at Covent-garden. This week there is no Covent-garden, but we are told that the opening of the Opera season is “certain.” So little can human nature learn to know the uncertainty of human certainty!

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The total number of deaths registered in London last week was 1,029. Of these 529 were deaths of males, and 500 of females. The return is satisfactory, as tested by experience; for it is less by 221 than the average number of deaths (corrected for increase of population) in the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55. Phthisis, as is usually the case, produced a greater number of deaths than any other disease, and was fatal in 136 cases. Bronchitis was fatal in the next degree, and carried off 95 persons; pneumonia numbered 62, of whom two-thirds were infants not more than two years old. Hooping cough prevailed to some extent, and 60 children died of it. Of 52 deaths from typhus (including continued fever), 17 occurred in the north division, which contains the London Fever Hospital, 14 in the east, 9 in the west, 8 in the south, and 4 in the central division. Typhus is frequent in Bethnal-green; the registrar of the Church sub-district recorded three deaths from it in two days; and one (that of a man 32 years old, occurred at 7, Nelson-street, Hackney-road, where the fatal disease is attributed by the medical attendant to “fetid smells arising from the house-drains.” Nine deaths from typhus, and one from scarlatina, took place in the Fever Hospital. The total deaths from scarlatina were 24, from measles 17, and from small-pox 14; 1 from rheumatic fever, 10 from rheumatism 17 from cancer, one from intemperance, 2 from delirium tremens. On February the 7th, at 45, Park-street Marylebone, a man is returned as having died from want of food.—Last week, the births of 1,002 boys and 974 girls, in all 1,976 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1,575.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

ADULTERATION OF FOOD, &c.—Mr. Scholefield's select committee on this subject is again sitting; and the evidence received during the last few days is similar in effect to that of the previous session. The majority of the witnesses agree in the prevalence and the injurious effects of adulteration; while some few are found to deny or excuse the fact. Mr. Thompson, a member of the College of Surgeons, and an analytical chemist, gave evidence last Wednesday, and stated that, “generally, he thought that articles are sold in such a pure state that no injury occurs to the public health.” He had no doubt that alum is mixed with all the bread sold in the bakers' shops, but it undergoes a chemical change into potash and alumina, and thus ceases to be injurious. He did not think there would be any objection to a chemist putting up in his shop, “White bread mixed with alum.” Mr. W. Bastick, analytical chemist, said he believed the greater number of English chemists are not able to detect the adulteration introduced into the drugs they retail. This witness read from a book of recipes the following recipe for making new-old port wine:—“Cyder, 45 gallons; brandy, 6 gallons; good port, 8 gallons; ripe sloes, 2 gallons; stew them in 2 gallons of water—press off the liquor, and add to the rest; if the colour is not strong enough, tincture of red sanders. In a few days, this wine may be bottled; add to each bottle a teaspoonful of powdered catechu, and mix it well; it will very soon produce a fine crusty appearance. The bottles being packed on their sides as usual, soak the ends of the corks in a strong decoction of Brazil wood with alum, which will, with the crust, give it the appearance of age.”

MACAULAY BURNT IN EFFIGY.—The Highlanders of Glenmore, in Inverness-shire (says the *North British Daily Mail*), feeling aggrieved and indignant at the slanderous charges brought by Mr. Macaulay against their predecessors, in his last volume of the “History of England,” assembled together, and, headed by a piper playing the “Rogue's March,” proceeded to the Black Rock, near Glenmore-house, and there burnt in effigy the distinguished historian. The assembled crowd gave three shouts of execration as the effigy was consuming. Macaulay, when in the Highlands, resided for a considerable time at Glenmore-house.

SCREAM TO AMERICA.—The owners of the United States mail steamers have notified that the vessels of this line, to avoid the dangers from ice, will not cross the banks north of 43 degrees, until after the 1st of August next.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, March 3rd.
JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord BROUGHAM moved a series of resolutions relating to judicial statistics. Since 1839, a false economy had caused these statistics to be greatly abridged, so that many interesting details are omitted for the sake of saving some small sum. A much better system exists in France, where the minutest facts illustrating the position and history of convicted criminals are set forth in official returns. A congress for the discussion of these questions was held last year in Paris; and England was represented there by three commissioners. These commissioners recommended an adoption of the French plan of fashioning judicial returns; and the object of Lord Brougham's resolutions was to call the attention of the House to the necessity he conceived to exist for a better system than the present. He did not, however, ask the House to adopt the resolutions at present, but only hoped that they might be allowed to lie on the table. They had reference to returns from the criminal courts and the civil courts, including the Admiralty Courts, the Ecclesiastical Courts, and the Bankruptcy Courts.—The LORD CHANCELLOR acknowledged the importance of the subject, and promised that it should receive every attention.—The resolutions were then laid on the table.

IMPERIAL HOTEL COMPANY'S BILL.

IN the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the motion for the second reading of this bill (the object of which is to enable a company to purchase the National Gallery, and turn it into an hotel to be called the Imperial Hotel), a short discussion ensued. Mr. BENTINCK, Mr. FITZROY, Mr. BOUVIERE, Mr. DUNCOMBE, Mr. PATTEN, and Mr. DRUMMOND, opposed the bill, on the ground that it was an unprecedented thing for a private or merely trading company to ask for compulsory powers for taking land; that it would be a nuisance to have a large hotel in Trafalgar-square; and that the whole concern was a job for the benefit of the architects whose names were connected with the bill. Mr. DRUMMOND, in the course of his observations, said he thought the National Gallery the purest specimen of Greek architecture in London.—On the other hand, Sir JOHN SHELLEY, Mr. OTWAY, Mr. MACGREGOR, Mr. EWART, and Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, supported the bill; while Mr. WILSON explained that the Government only sanctioned the sale of Crown property, leaving the matter of private property entirely open.—The second reading was carried by 72 to 64.

THE DEBATE ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

Sir DE LACY EVANS offered some explanations relative to the strictures on the conduct of the Duke of Cambridge, General Simpson, Colonel Gordon, Lord Claud Hamilton, and others, which he had made in the course of the debate on the evening of Friday week. He felt that he had spoken with greater warmth than was justifiable; but some letters had since passed between him and the friends of some of the parties aggrieved, and very satisfactory explanations had been made on all sides. With regard to the statement of Lord Claud Hamilton, in reference to the advice Sir De Lacy tendered to Lord Raglan after the battle of Inkermann, he should be ready, at the proper time, to state what that suggestion was, and the reasons for giving it. In the meanwhile, he read portions of a letter he had written to Lady Evans, in which he hinted that the probable reason of the suggestion not being adopted was, that there was a want of complete unity in the command.—Lord CLAUD HAMILTON and Mr. ARTHUR GORDON expressed their satisfaction at the explanations which had been made, and were about to introduce some observations, when in both cases the feeling of the House interposed, and the subject dropped. In the few observations which he made, Lord CLAUD HAMILTON desired permission to read the grounds upon which he had stated that on the evening of the 5th November (the battle of Inkermann) General Evans counselled, and strongly and repeatedly urged, the immediate embarkation of the British army, leaving our guns and our French allies to the mercy of the enemy.

UNDER-GARDENERS.

Colonel HARCOURT called attention to the way in which the tax on under-gardeners is levied, the effect being that the tax presses heavily and unfairly on poor men.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the interpretation of the revenue is that all gardeners under a head gardener are under-gardeners, and liable to the tax of half a guinea a-year. Some of the judges have already decided that the revenue gives too lenient an interpretation to the act.

OUR RELATIONS WITH PERSIA.

Mr. LAYARD called the attention of the House to the state of our relations with Persia. Having related the circumstances which led to the present diplomatic breach, and to the departure of a naval expedition from Bombay to Bushire, he expressed his opinion that we have neither justice nor reason on our side. The wife of Mirza Hashim is of royal

blood, which of course augments the natural sensitiveness of Persians with respect to their women. By treaty with Persia, we can only have agents at Tabriz and Teheran; yet the Mirza has been sent to Shiraz. An apology has been demanded from the Shah, which is in itself an insult, for a king should not be asked to apologise. And this has been followed up by the first step to a war—a war which, if it take place, must have the effect of throwing Persia still more into the arms of Russia.

Lord PALMERSTON deprecated the discussion of this subject while negotiations were yet pending—a course which might have the effect of rendering an arrangement much more difficult. Mirza Hashim (according to a custom prevalent at all the foreign missions, and long acknowledged by Persia) took refuge in the English Embassy, and was sent by Mr. Murray to Shiraz, where we have been in the habit of having an agency. It is usual for the protection of the embassy to extend to the family and goods of the person threatened; but the Mirza's wife (who, though connected with the Shah, is not of royal blood) was seized; and, to letters from Mr. Murray, demanding her release, the Shah had written some replies which showed that he had not studied a Persian "Polite Letter-Writer." Mr. Murray had not required an apology for the offensive expressions; but had demanded that they should be withdrawn. We are not at war with Persia; and only two small vessels have proceeded to the Persian Gulf, to protect our commerce.

THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS.

Mr. DISRAELI inquired whether it was true, as reported, that the preliminaries of peace had been signed at Paris.—Lord PALMERSTON replied that, as the House was aware, certain articles had been proposed by Austria to Russia, with the previous consent of England and France, as conditions to serve as the foundation of a treaty of peace. These conditions were at first accepted by Russia, with a reservation, and afterwards unconditionally, or *pur et simple*. These articles were subsequently recorded in a protocol at Vienna, signed by the Plenipotentiaries. When the conferences commenced at Paris, it was agreed at the first meeting that the previous protocol should be inserted in the proceedings of that day, and it had been determined that that protocol and the articles which had been accepted should have the force and value of a preliminary treaty of peace. That was the precise state of the matter. No treaty of the ordinary form of a preliminary treaty had been signed.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply, when votes were taken for the Army and Ordnance. In the course of the discussion which arose on one of the votes, Mr. PEEL stated that Lord Hardinge had announced his intention of not taking the extra pay to which he is entitled from the rank of Field-marshal.—Sir CHARLES NAPIER complained of the unsatisfactory manner in which the Order of the Bath had been distributed, and mentioned the names of several distinguished officers who had been overlooked, through favouritism.—Colonel NORTH mentioned other instances of neglect.—Lord PALMERSTON remarked that the House of Commons was not well qualified to judge of the respective merits of individual officers.—Mr. STAFFORD reminded Lord Palmerston of his promise of last session that the medical department would be remodelled. No improvement had taken place, and Dr. Andrew Smith still appeared at the head of the department.—Mr. PEEL remarked, in answer, that Mr. Stafford's own report of the great improvement which had taken place in the department had made the Government less solicitous to introduce changes.—Captain VERNON objected to the vote for the Army Works Corps, which he could not regard in any other light than an encumbrance to the army. If the corps of Sappers and Miners had been increased, there would have been no necessity for the organisation of an Army Works Corps at all.—Mr. PEEL explained that there had been such heavy demands made upon the Sappers and Miners for India and the colonies, that the corps was not now one-third of its proper number.—Sir J. FERGUSON was notable, from what he had seen of the corps, to bear testimony to its efficiency. Several other votes were agreed to, and the House resumed.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The House being resolved into a Committee of Ways and Means, on the motion of Mr. WILSON, a resolution was agreed to, granting £26,000,000 out of the Consolidated Fund towards making good the supply voted to her Majesty.

The ANNUITIES BILL and the EXCHEQUER BILLS, FUNDING BILL were read a third time and passed.

Tuesday, March 4th.

GALLERY OF NATIONAL PORTRAITS.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, Earl STANHOPE moved an Address to the Queen, praying her to take into consideration the expediency of forming by degrees a gallery of original portraits of persons distinguished in British history by eminence in arts, science, literature, or arms. The richness of England in national portraits, and the establishment of a new National Gallery, offered opportunities, as he conceived, for

the realisation of such a design, which might be effected for a very moderate sum.—The motion was supported by the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, the Earl of CARNARVON, Viscount DUNGANNON, Lord REDESDALE, and Lord COLCHESTER. Some objection was offered by the Earl of HARROWBY, who thought that such a gallery would have a tendency to weaken that strong sense of duty which has always been the basis of the English character, and the source of our greatness, by holding out other incentives to exertion. However, he did not oppose the motion, which was agreed to, and the House adjourned.

ANNEXATION OF OUDE.

IN the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. VERNON SMITH, in answer to Mr. CORDEN, said the Government could not at present lay on the table any papers relating to the annexation of Oude. Certain matters tending to the reform of that kingdom were still in progress, and to issue the papers would therefore be injudicious.

KARS.

Mr. WHITESIDE asked the First Lord of the Treasury on what day the papers relating to the Fall of Kars would be laid on the table of the House.—Lord PALMERSTON, without making any reply, proceeded, amidst much laughter, to the bar of the House, and then, being called up by the Speaker, placed the papers in question upon the table in the ordinary way.

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN LEGION IN PIEDMONT.

In reply to Mr. BOWYER, Lord PALMERSTON said it was quite true that reports had prevailed in Piedmont of a plot formed in some of the regiments of the Anglo-Italian Legion, and in consequence some of the soldiers were arrested by the Sardinian authorities; but upon inquiry it turned out that there was no foundation for the report that any plot existed in any of the regiments. It had, however, been thought better to remove them to Malta, the place for which they were originally destined, and two of the regiments had embarked thither. Nothing, he added, could exceed the discipline and good conduct of these troops.

THE EASTER RECESS.

Replying to Mr. SPOONER, Lord PALMERSTON said, with respect to the Easter recess, that he thought the course adopted last year had been a very convenient one, and he should therefore propose to follow it this session. He should move that the House adjourn on Friday, the 14th, until the following Monday fortnight.

SALE OF COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

Sir DE LACY EVANS moved for a select committee to consider, examine evidence, and report to the House, on the expediency of abolishing the system of sale and purchase of commissions in the army, and on the means that may be adopted for the accomplishment of that object. He denied that the expense attending the abolition of the present system would be enormous, and that it would lead to an unmixt system of seniority. To his own knowledge, many excellent officers were obliged to abandon all hope of rising in their profession, owing to want of funds. If the Government objected to a committee, and preferred a commission, he was ready to modify his motion to that effect.—The motion was seconded by Lord GODERICH, who observed that, in point of fact, the mass of English officers actually serve their country for nothing, their pay being little more than interest on what they have paid for their commissions—a system disgraceful to a free and brave people, more especially to be deprecated when it is considered that the country is no pecuniary gainer by it.—The system of seniority is already recognised in the highest grades of the army, where it does most evil; but the proposed reform would not lead to the substitution of seniority. The change might be made for about five or six millions.—Mr. ELIOT admitted that the time had come when the country would no longer be satisfied unless the Government made an attempt to solve this difficult question; but he warned the House not to incur the inevitable evils of a too precipitate change. Inquiry, he believed, to be the proper step to take.—Sir JOHN FITZGERALD spoke against an abolition of the purchase system.—Lord STANLEY, while agreeing that inconveniences might arise from the abolition of purchase, thought the present system a scandal to the army, unsound in principle, and mischievous in practice. If an inquiry were conceded, he believed that in five years from publishing the report the purchase of commissions would cease. As it is, the system is repudiated by all foreign countries, and even in this country is unknown in the civil service, in the navy, and in some departments of the army itself.—The motion was also supported by Mr. RICH, Mr. HEADLAM, Mr. MONCKTON MILNES (who conceived that a case had been made out for inquiry), Colonel ADAM (who, however, recommended a commission instead of a committee), and Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT (who wished for inquiry in order to remove the misapprehension in the public mind with regard to purchase in the army, the abolition of which, without ancillary provisions, would operate to the injury of the service, but who desired

to see purchase put an end to above the rank of captain).—Colonel LINDSAY thought that purchase in some form or other is inevitable in the army, and that it prevents jobbery. Already it had crept into the Indian army; and in the royal army it had secured physical efficiency. Mental efficiency also might be procured by proper arrangements.—Colonel NORTH likewise opposed the abolition of the purchase system.

On the part of the Government, Mr. FREDERICK PEEL and Lord PALMERSTON argued that, although promotion by purchase is bad in the abstract, and ought not to be admitted if we were forming an army for the first time, yet that it had become so inwoven, by long existence, into our military system, that it would be difficult, and in some respects injurious, to remove it; that some positive and undoubted evils resulting from the present system should be shown to justify an alteration; that a change would involve a very large pecuniary loss to the nation (not only by the repurchase of commissions, but in the enlarged scale of retirements); and that promotion by merit would give rise to complaints of unjust preference. Lord Palmerston, however, would undertake that a mixed commission of civilians and military men should be appointed to pursue the inquiry begun by a former commission on army promotion, provided Sir De Lacy Evans would withdraw his motion.—This was agreed to.

TEA DUTIES.

Mr. MACARTNEY moved for a select committee to inquire into the circumstances attending the payment of the very large amount of duties upon teas on the 20th of April, 1855, by certain persons trading in London and Liverpool, thereby evading the increased duties proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget of the same evening, in order to ascertain whether such persons were enabled to do so in consequence of previous information communicated by some persons connected with the revenue department of the Treasury.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER was surprised at the course pursued, the charge resting on mere suspicion. If there was any evidence in support of it, he would not oppose the motion; otherwise, he must.—No evidence was brought forward, and the motion was negatived.

OUDE.

Sir ERSKINE PERRY, in moving for a return enumerating the territories which have been annexed, or have been proposed to be annexed, to the British dominions by the Governor-General of India since the close of the Punjab war, inquired on what ground of right we had interfered in the State of Oude, if its annexation had taken place.—Mr. VERNON SMITH repeated the answer he had given more than once, that a despatch had been sent to Lord Dalhousie with respect to the mode of dealing with the mal-administration of the kingdom of Oude, which had been left to his discretion; but he declined to enter into details until he could lay all the papers upon the table.—After some remarks by Mr. OTWAY (who spoke against the annexation), and Mr. KINFAIRD, the motion was agreed to.

The DWELLINGS FOR LABOURING CLASSES (IRELAND) BILL was read a second time after some opposition.

Wednesday, March 5th.

CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS Sir WILLIAM CLAY moved the second reading of this bill. Since the decision of the House of Lords, church-rates might be said to exist no longer, as a rate cannot be made except by a majority of the parishioners. Yet contests continue to spring up, and, to make the law perfectly clear and harmonious, the present bill was introduced. The bill abolished church-rates, saving where there are charges upon them, and substituted voluntary contributions, to be collected by the churchwarden, whose office and power are preserved; and the bill provided that auditors, to be elected by the vestry, should control the disbursement of the funds. Sir William said that his bill of last year authorised pew-rents; but, objections having been made to that provision, he had given it up.—Lord JOHN MANNERS moved to defer the second reading for six months. He fully acknowledged as a grievance the right to tax Dissenters for the maintenance of the Church, and desired to see that cause of complaint redressed; but the bill, though professing to substitute some "other provisions" in lieu of church-rates, in fact did nothing more than give a superfluous sanction to charitable donations, thus abolishing without compensation an ancient and universal charge on property which has secured to the poor the privilege of a free exercise of religious worship. The whole expense of upholding the fabric of the Church would thus be thrown on the shoulders of Churchmen; yet Dissenters, while escaping from all pecuniary liability, would be enabled to interfere in every arrangement connected with the services of the Church, and the distribution of funds collected by Churchmen. He therefore looked on the measure as unjust and iniquitous.—The amendment was seconded by Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE.—The bill was also opposed by Mr. DRUMMOND, who suggested that

Ministers should bring in a bill themselves, and asked whether, if the rate should be abolished, the benefit would go into the pockets of landlords of houses.—Following on the same side, Lord JOHN RUSSELL said he dissented from the proposition that it is a hardship to compel Dissenters to pay Church-rates; but, had the bill fulfilled its promise of making "other provision" for the rates, he would have supported it. All the judges had agreed that there is a legal obligation to repair the parish church; but the obligation cannot be enforced, and has therefore been evaded. To legalise this evasion was the object of Sir William Clay's bill, and the amendments of which the Government had given notice.

Sir GEORGE GREY (who spoke immediately after Sir Stafford Northcote) said Lord John Manners had forgotten the existing state of the law under the decision of the House of Lords. By that decision, church-rates were practically abolished; and it had been found that abundant means of repairing churches had been derived from voluntary contributions. The Government, therefore, was forced to acknowledge the abolition in effect of this source of ecclesiastical revenue; but Ministers were not prepared to enforce the cessation of rates in those parishes where there was still a majority in favour of them. They proposed that, when rates have been refused in a parish for a given time, and there is an expression of a determined will on the part of the rate-payers not to pay them, they should cease to be levied. This principle, which they regarded as a sound one, had been embodied in the bill, sanctioned by the heads of the Church, which was introduced into the House of Lords last session by the Archbishop of Canterbury. In those places where the rates continued, he saw no objection to allowing a rate-payer to claim exemption on a declaration that he is a Dissenter; but, although such a person has no right, after such claim of exemption, to take part in the imposition of the rate, or to have any other connexion therewith, he could not consent to other disqualifications, such as refusing the Dissenter liberty to enter the walls of the church.—Lord PALMERSTON said the Government conceived their best course to be in proposing to the House various amendments on the present bill. Lord John Russell had denominated church-rates an ancient property founded on the law of the land; but it is a mockery to say that the Church has a property which a majority can withhold. The present course was the only one open to Government.—Mr. MALL made a few observations in favour of the bill; and Lord JOHN MANNERS (who, in his first speech, had alluded to "the reckless Attorney-General"—an allusion which Sir A. Cockburn indignantly repelled, observing that he who made it was not held high in general estimation for sagacity or wisdom) explained that he did not mean anything personally offensive to the Attorney-General.

The House then divided, when the amendment was negatived by 221 to 178, and the bill was read a second time.

Thursday, March 6th.

CHURCH-RATES.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Bishop of EXETER and Lord PORTMAN presented petitions against the abolition of church-rates without an equivalent. The Bishop spoke emphatically against the bill brought into the lower House by Sir William Clay, and sanctioned, with certain alterations, by the Government.

SALARIES OF COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

Lord PORTMAN gave notice that on some convenient day after Easter he would move a resolution relating to the salaries of the County Court judges.—The LORD CHANCELLOR was understood to say that he had now finally settled a bill relating to the same subject, and that he intended to introduce it on Monday next, and then to postpone the second reading till after Easter.—Lord BROUGHAM strongly deprecated any reduction of the salaries.

EXCHEQUER BILLS FUNDING BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill, Earl GREY entered into some criticisms on the impolicy of the course which had rendered it necessary to make this further addition to the national debt. Within the financial year which had nearly expired, £23,000,000 had been added to that debt, including a loan of £16,000,000, and an issue of about £7,000,000 of Exchequer Bills. They were next called upon to agree to a bill which sanctioned a further loan of £5,000,000, making the whole addition to the debt within the financial year no less than £28,000,000; and this, as they were told on the highest authority, only included the expenditure up to the 1st of April, the termination of the current year. Such a policy was a departure from that of the Government existing at the commencement of the war. We were then told that a large portion of the expenses of the war would be raised by taxation rather than by loans; but, of the £46,000,000 which, according to a recent statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the war had already cost, at least £30,000,000 perhaps more—had been raised by loans. This facility of raising money had led to extravagance of expenditure; all considerations of economy in the war having been disregarded. The four millions ex-

pended for Militia had been totally useless; for a greater number of recruits to the regular army might have been obtained for much less money. Then, as to fortifications, they were asked for new works and fortifications at home and abroad to the amount of £1,700,000, being an increase of £600,000 on last year. The larger portion of these works had no reference to the war. The vote was for fortifications on the coast, which would certainly not be required during the present war, and for barracks which would not be completed until after the war had terminated. The fortifications, moreover, were constructed on principles such as are opposed by the best engineers of modern times. He should be glad if Lord Panmure would appoint a commission to take into consideration the system of earthwork fortifications introduced by Mr. Ferguson, and used with admirable success by the Russians during the siege of Sebastopol. But such a commission should not merely be composed of military men, who are opposed to any innovation in their art, but should include civil engineers.—Lord PANMURE defended the outlay on the militia, which had given 27,000 men to the British army, and had done the garrison duty of the country. The fortifications had long been considered necessary to the defence.—Lord MONTEAGLE thought that a large unnecessary expense had been incurred during the war for purposes not connected with it, and which might have been postponed; and he objected to the appropriation to war purposes of £34,000,000 not intended for those purposes, and which had fallen under the control of Lord Panmure, owing to the consolidation of the war department. This was a subject for inquiry in the House of Commons.—Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY (who stated his opinion that the present war had been carried on with less suffering to the country and less inconvenience to commerce than any other war on record) said that the whole extraordinary expenditure occasioned by the war—about £50,000,000—would be raised in nearly equal proportions by increased taxation and by loans. The loans, moreover, differ from all previous loans by the creation of a sinking fund, so that they will all be redeemed in about twenty years.—The bill was then read a second time, and subsequently went through all the other stages, and was passed. Previous to this result, Lord PANMURE, in answer to the observations of Lord MONTEAGLE, made some explanations, but was forced to acknowledge that the appropriation in question could not legally be made as long as the present law exists.

The CONSOLIDATED FUND (£1,631,005) BILL was read a third time and passed.

THE ARMY.—ILLEGITIMACY.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Major SIBTHORP asked the Under-Secretary for War whether a claim made for the pay and medal of a soldier who fought at Alma, and who was believed to have been present with his regiment at Inkermann, and reported to have died before Sebastopol on the 7th day of November, 1854, had been refused, on the ground that the soldier was of illegitimate birth?—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said that, if Major Sibthorp would give him the name of the soldier in question, he would make an inquiry into the case.

EDUCATION.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved a series of resolutions on the subject of education. He did so, he said, with a feeling of great anxiety, as he was embarking on a sea noted for shoals, and covered with the wrecks of many previous adventurers. But the time had come when we must endeavour to put this country on a more equal footing with other nations. We must waive that proud ambition of which Milton spoke when he said, "England should not forget her precedence in teaching the nations how to live;" we must abandon that position with respect to education, because other nations have gone before us in establishing excellent systems, which had been most successful in their operation, and which had elevated the character of the nations among whom they were found. The researches of statistical inquiries of one of his predecessors (Sir John Pakington) had been most accurate, and his statements were of the greatest value. From the census of 1851 it appeared that there were about 4,000,000 children and young persons between the ages of five and fifteen, and, according to the returns of Mr. Horace Mann, about 2,000,000 were entered in the school books, 1,750,000 of whom were in attendance; but, considering the character of the teachers in some of these schools, it was doubtful whether what appeared upon the surface to be education could be so considered. With respect to the education in the schools under the Committee of Council on Education, which were attended by upwards of 500,000 children, the grants from 1839 had been the cause of a great improvement of education, by the training schools for teachers and the general bettering of elementary education. In the canton of Berne, one in every four is receiving a good education; in New England the proportion is one in five; and Scotland, in former times at least, was famous for her educational arrangements. But in England one great obstacle to the education of the young is to be found in the early age at which the

children of the poor are taken from school. From the report of Mr. Moseley, it appears that children are withdrawn from school at between nine and ten; and that this is done now to a greater extent than formerly. Education therefore seems to be depreciating. A clergyman, who writes to one of the inspectors from Ipstone, says: "I really think that, comparing the present time with several years ago, there are now fewer who can read and write, in my parish than there were at that time." With respect to the means of remedying the present imperfect system of education in this country, Lord John Russell dissented from Sir John Pakington's proposal that rating should be permissive, and that education should be free, as it appeared clear to him that we could hardly maintain the present system of grants from the Committee of Privy Council and free schools at the same time. Bearing in mind that it was intended to appoint a Minister of Education, he proposed to extend, revise, and consolidate the minutes of the Committee of Privy Council on Education; to appoint a larger staff of sub-inspectors, whose individual duties should be concentrated upon special districts of manageable proportions; to define the powers and responsibilities of these sub-inspectors; to provide for the constant preparation of reports concerning the state of education in every district for the inspection of the Committee of Council; to facilitate the application to their designed objects of the charitable funds which had been bequeathed in vast numbers for educational purposes, without requiring the costly intervention of Chancery; and to provide that, in places where schools are deficient, the Council of Education should have power to order the levy of a compulsory rate, under conditions and upon a scale to be hereafter determined. With respect to the character of the education—whether it should be religious or secular—he proposed that, in every school either wholly or partially supported by grants from the State or by compulsory rates, provision should be made for reading the Scriptures and affording instruction of a moral and religious character, but that every parent who entertained conscientious scruples might forbid his children from participating in those exercises. The testimony of the state schools in Massachusetts was, it must be admitted, in favour of a secular education not being necessarily irreligious. The teachers in those schools are bound to impress on the minds of their pupils a regard for piety; but no especial form of religion is enjoined; and some of the greatest intellects in America have spoken highly of the beneficial effects of those schools. For himself, however, he was of opinion that morals could not be taught separate from the Christian religion. As regards expense, the calculation was that the education of each of the 3,600,000 children who ought to be under tuition would cost 18s., making a total of £3,240,000. That sum was large; but it would be contributed by subscriptions, school pence, grants, charitable endowments, and rates.

Mr. HENLEY approved of many of the suggestions they had just heard; but more information was required. He was gratified with Lord John Russell's declarations with respect to religious instruction.—Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, Mr. ADDERLEY, Mr. DENISON, Mr. GEORGE BUTT, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, and others also spoke in favour of the plan, taken in the whole.—Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. MILNER GIBSON, and Mr. MIAL, spoke in favour of religion being purely secular; and Mr. BAINES thought that the voluntary system had made great strides of late, but held nevertheless that parents should be compelled by law to provide for the instruction as well as for the maintenance of their children.—Lord PALMERSTON said he was sure the House would feel deeply grateful to Lord John Russell for bringing forward these propositions, to which he gave a willing acceptance, hoping that they would be found to overcome the difficulties which had hitherto beset this most important question. He particularly approved of the retention of the religious element.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in reply, thanked the House for the cordial reception which his proposals had met with, and stated that it had been suggested to him that it would be better for the resolutions to be discussed in a committee of the whole House. He therefore proposed to withdraw them, and to move instead a resolution that the House would on Thursday, the 10th of April, resolve itself into a committee to consider the state of public education. This proposition was agreed to, and the resolutions were for the present withdrawn.

OXFORD STATUTES.

Mr. HERWOOD moved an address to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to withhold her approbation from the regulations and ordinances recently sanctioned by the Oxford Commissioners for the amendment of the Statutes of Exeter, Lincoln, and Corpus Christi colleges, in the University of Oxford, such regulations and ordinances being in many points inconsistent with the spirit of the Oxford University Act of 1854.—To this, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON moved an amendment, with a view to calling the attention of the Government to the omission in the new statutes of any reference to a ground of preference

which had hitherto prevailed in nearly all the colleges of Oxford, in elections to scholarships and fellowships—namely, the pecuniary position and means of the candidate.—Sir GEORGE GREY said that the matter had been referred to the law officers of the Crown.—The statutes, nevertheless, underwent a good deal of discussion chiefly with reference to the point raised by Sir JOHN PAKINGTON in regard to the Exeter statutes, Sir WILLIAM HEATHCOTE, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, Mr. HENLEY, Mr. CARDWELL, Mr. FORTESQUE, Mr. WALPOLE, Mr. ROBERT PHILLIMORE, Mr. WIGRAM, and Mr. GLADSTONE taking part in it. The motion and the amendment were both withdrawn.

THE WAR.

THE resolution with reference to an armistice, which was agreed to in the Conference on the 25th ult., was known in the Crimea on the 28th, and on the following day a conference was held at Traktir Bridge between the chiefs of the staff of the allied armies, on the one hand, and General Tutchineff, delegated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian army, on the other. On this occasion it was decided that there should be a complete suspension of hostilities. But it has been emphatically announced by the allied Governments that, should peace not be concluded, no extension of the armistice will be granted after the 31st of March.

Notwithstanding this temporary peace, and the prospect of a permanent accommodation, warlike preparations continue on both sides. We learn from Marseilles that the preparations for the embarkation of troops destined for the East are on a very larger scale. They contemplate the despatch of 20,000 men. From St. Petersburg we are told that the Minister of Marine, by command of the Grand Duke Constantine, has ordered all the buoys and landmarks in the Baltic to be removed, and all the lighthouses to be extinguished; and a private letter from Stockholm, of the 19th ult., mentions that the Russians are sending troops in considerable numbers to Finland, concentrating a large force round St. Petersburg, and strengthening the barriers near Cronstadt, so as completely to close up the entrance.

DESPATCH FROM GENERAL CODRINGTON.

Sebastopol, Feb. 16.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acquaint your lordship that a Russian force, estimated at about 3,000 infantry and Cossacks, appeared on the morning of the 12th inst. on the ridge of Kardoubel, above the valley of Baidar, but retired after a short reconnaissance.

The French engineers blew up, on the 12th inst., two portions of the aqueduct which formerly supplied the docks of Sebastopol.

Some blasting experiments have been made on the walls of the large barracks, near the dockyard, and the mining is in progress.

The weather for some days past has been showing the gradual approach of spring, and the health of the army continues excellent.

General Sir Colin Campbell rejoined this army on the 14th inst.—I have, &c.

W. J. CODRINGTON.

General Commanding.

The Lord Panmure, &c.

A later despatch, dated February 19th, contains nothing more than an account of the extreme severity of the weather, which, on the 17th ult., prevented the assembling of the infantry of the English army on the brow of the plateau.

THE FALL OF KARS.

The papers relating to the fall of Kars, recently laid on the table of the House of Commons, confirm the accounts previously given of the vain appeals of General Williams to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to exert his influence with the Porte in getting reinforcements for the beleaguered and starving garrison. On arriving at Kars, General Williams found the army in a dreadful state of corruption, the men without pay, almost without clothes, desertions constantly taking place, and the Pachas cheating the soldiers of their due to fill their own pockets. The English General was looked on with distrust, and was almost insulted, Omar Pacha telling him he would not be permitted to interfere, and the Turkish officers even refusing to call on the officers of his staff. In this state of things, General Williams wrote to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe for assistance. By December 8th, 1854, the General had written fifty-four despatches, each accompanied by a private letter, to the Ambassador; but no reply was received. At length, General Williams brought the matter before the attention of the English Government; and Lord Clarendon, who from the first had urged Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to support the English General, immediately wrote to our Ambassador at Constantinople a despatch which contained the ensuing passages:—"It would seem

that your Excellency has not taken any notice of Brigadier-General Williams. . . . Her Majesty's Government desire to receive your Excellency's observations on the despatch of General Williams which I need hardly say have been read by them with great regret, after the anxiety they have felt and the remonstrances which they have in vain addressed, through your Excellency, to the Porte." In answer to an inquiry from Lord Clarendon as to whether General Williams had been officially recognised by the Sultan, and a request that a copy of the document containing the recognition, Lord Stratford confesses that he never obtained it, conceiving it was not wanted. Lord Clarendon concludes: "Your Excellency will understand that her Majesty's Government require to be furnished with a full and detailed report of everything that has passed between the Embassy and the Porte, in compliance with the instructions that so frequently, but in vain, have been addressed to your Excellency." Lord Stratford, in his reply to the charges brought against him, says he fulfilled all General Williams's requests with respect to the Turkish Government, but that Turkish ministers are slow in carrying out their measures. He adds:—"The well-known proverb which contrasts the facility of bringing a horse to water with the impossibility of forcing him to drink, is no less true at Constantinople than in London or Paris. Unfortunately, too, the horses whose reluctance I have to overcome are not without circumstances to excuse, though not entirely to justify, the slowness of their pace." English ministers in former times, he urges, have been equally corrupt. With regard to the non-answering of General Williams's despatches (which ultimately amounted to a much larger number than fifty-four), the Ambassador alleges the uncertainty of the Trebizond packet as an excuse, and his desire "not to occasion disappointment by announcing measures which might not be carried into effect." He disclaims all intention of disrespect to General Williams.

It appears that, in the course of last July, Omar Pacha desired to induce the allied Generals to send a portion of their army from before Sebastopol to the relief of Kars. This they opposed. Omar's final expedition into Asia was discountenanced at first by the French Government, but urged by the English. The opinion of Mr. Brandt, English consul at Erzeroum, was that Omar's army should have been directed on Kars by way of Erzeroum, and not on Georgia. Had the former been effected, he thinks Kars might have been saved. He also condemns the apathy of the Porte and the cowardice of Selim Pacha. The proposed expedition of General Vivian's Anglo-Turkish contingent was disapproved of by the English Government as being impracticable.

WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE BALTIC.—Notwithstanding the prospect of peace, our Baltic fleet is beginning to take up its position in the north. On the 29th of February, the Samson, the Falcon, and the Pylades arrived at Elsinore, and the screw frigate Impérieuse sailed through the Belt.

THE MURDERER DAY has been hung.

SYMPTOMS OF PEACE.—The right siege train before Sebastopol has begun to embark for England. Three companies marched down to Balaklava on the 15th ult., preceded by several of the Light Division bands, which played them some way on their road, and cheered by the men in the camps they passed through.

SHOT IN THE CAMP.—The Methodist preacher sent to the Crimea by the Wesleyan Missionary Society and whose presence here has been sanctioned by Lord Panmure, has arrived. It would, perhaps, be incorrect to say that he has commenced his spiritual labours, for he finds himself much in the position of a shepherd without a flock, the formation of which, it is presumable, is the real object of his coming. Judging from the result of inquiries I have made, there is no pretext for the introduction of a Methodist minister into the British camp. The men are all well content to class themselves under the three denominations—Church of England, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic, which have their priests and ministers already here.—*Times Correspondent.*

GENERAL WILLIAMS.—Letters have been received at Constantinople from Tiflis, announcing that General Williams is so dangerously ill that his medical attendants despair of his life.

OMAR PACHA.—The resignation tendered by Omar Pacha has been refused.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY.—A report from Dr. Hall, dated February 18th, states that "the sanitary condition of the army continues most satisfactory." The Doctor observes: "Taking the last eight weeks, the ratio of mortality has only been at the rate of 15½ per thousand per annum, which is considerably under that of the Foot Guards when doing duty in London."

ANOTHER AMERICAN VIEW OF THE WAR.—The *Daily News* publishes the letter of an American gentleman long resident in St. Petersburg, giving a fearful account of the system of despotism existing in Russia; fully acknowledging the justice and necessity

of the war between the Allies and the Czar; and asserting that Russia, if she do not now make peace, will soon be compelled to sue for it, as her resources and the spirit of her troops will not bear any comparison with those of France and England. "A good many people," says this writer, "have been scattering themselves round over the civilised world, pretending to represent the facts in regard to Russia. Among others, I might allude to a Colonel Schaffner. I have branded him as a pretender—a bloated eulogist of Russia. He never was able to inspire any respect for himself in America, and he has returned to his country to publish fabulous accounts of Russia, which are publicly denounced in New York by Russian gentlemen as base fabrications. They say that, when Russia requires the aid and advocacy of such characters, she will cease to be worthy of the names she bears."

THE BLOCKADE.—From Elsinore, it was reported on the 24th ult., that the American vessel which succeeded in escaping the vigilance of our cruisers last autumn, and in landing her cargo of arms at Revel, had subsequently been frozen up in the ice on the Swedish coast. The American vessel which our Government had caused to be detained in Copenhagen roads, and which nevertheless contrived to put to sea on Christmas eve, returned safely to Copenhagen after discharging her cargo at Revel.

BRITISH RECRUITING AT HAMBURG.—Several persons connected with a vessel which plies between Heligoland and Hamburg have been fined by the Senate for being concerned in the recruiting for the English German Legion which has recently been going on.

THE PEACE.

The Morning Post announced in the course of the week in the most positive manner that, at the meeting of the Paris Conference last Saturday, the Plenipotentiaries signed "the preliminaries of peace"—the said preliminaries being identical with the Austrian propositions; but that many questions were necessarily still left open for discussion. *The Independence Belge* made a similar statement. Subsequent accounts affirmed that the Czar, immediately he heard of this fact, transmitted by telegraph his approval of what had been effected. Thereupon, it was announced far and wide on the continent that peace had actually been concluded; and the money markets vibrated. But it was evident that, as far as the latter part of the intelligence was concerned, a trick had been played for stock-jobbing purposes, and one particular firm in Paris is charged with the fraud. With regard to the signature of "preliminaries of peace," the statement of Lord Palmerston in the House on Monday night showed that the phrase had been somewhat strained. The original protocol of Vienna, and the articles which had been accepted, were signed by the Plenipotentiaries; but nothing more.

Le Nord asserts that, "when the question of the rectification of the frontiers on the side of Bessarabia was mooted by Count Biot, Count Orloff observed that it was impossible to carry out the new frontier they wished to establish between the sea and the mountains, because there are no mountains on that side, but only plains."

Some correspondence between the French and Russian Emperors is alluded to in the *Emancipation* of Brussels, where we read:—"In the letter which the Emperor Alexander has written to the Emperor of the French, and which evinces the greatest moderation, the following passage is said to exist:—'Without repudiating the policy of my father, I wish to prove by my moderation that I desire to give peace to Europe, and you may rely, Sire, that I will, in order to attain that object, make every sacrifice compatible with the honour of Russia.' It is added that the Emperor Napoleon has replied that he entertained the same sentiments; that he also wishes to prove to Europe that he would not follow the warlike policy of his uncle; that his programme had not changed, and that he would not depart from the greatest moderation, because *l'empire d'était toujours la paix*."

TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE.

"THERE is many a true word spoken in jest." In last Saturday's *Leader*, when briefly announcing Mr. Anderson's farewell Masqued Ball at Covent-garden Theatre, we observed that that gentleman—meaning, of course, his management—was determined "to die like the phoenix—in a blaze." The banter has proved to be too true. The masquerade took place on Tuesday, as announced, and terminated in a blaze which has reduced Covent-garden Theatre to a mere matter of the past.

It was about five o'clock on Wednesday morning when the alarm of fire was first given. Fortunately, the greater number of the masquers had gone; but some two hundred still remained, who were joining in the last stanza of "God save the Queen"—the loyal and religious termination of somewhat wild orgies—when a beam from the roof fell down alight upon the stage in the midst of the throng, and Mr. Anderson shouted, "Fire!" A few minutes previously

to this, Castles, the fireman, and another person, had observed a bright light shining through the chinks of the flooring in the carpenter's shop, situated at the top of the "flies." Without communicating the fact to any one, they proceeded to the spot, and found the room filled with smoke, which proceeded from a smouldering heap in the middle of the floor. Almost suffocated, they were obliged to retreat, without turning on the fire-mains on that floor; but Castles succeeded in effecting this on the next floor below, though the fire, speedily overtaking him, prevented his fixing the hose, and drove him to the next "flies." He then cut away those parts of the scenery most likely to catch the fire. On the fall of the burning beam on the stage, it may be conjectured that the audience rushed, with the precipitation natural to such occasions, in the direction of the doors, all of which were immediately thrown open. The gas was turned off, and Mr. Anderson, in the semi-darkness, which was soon kindled by the scarlet glare of the fire rapidly eating its way through the roof, was heard to exclaim that "He was sorry for Mr. Gye, but that he himself was a ruined man." The flames soon gathered greater strength, and curled round the proscenium into the body of the house, peering in with no welcome countenance. The musicians fled from the orchestra, in many cases without saving their instruments; the ballet-girls rushed from their dressing rooms in such costumes as they happened to be wearing at the time; and the crush for egress was stern and desperate. The police took possession of all the doors, and did much to moderate the frantic haste of the crowd; but several women were trampled on, and carried off fainting and seriously injured. Very speedily, however, the theatre was emptied; the flames shot forth in vast bodies of red light, throwing out in strong relief the black steeples of London churches, the vast dome of St. Paul's, and the dark line of the Surrey hills, pictured distinctly in the hot-hued atmosphere; and the adjacent streets beheld the unusual sight of a mob of masqueraders in their fantastic costumes, flying anywhere for safety.

At half-past five, the roof fell in. Mr. Braidwood and his fire-brigade were soon in attendance; and their efforts were not only directed towards the theatre, but towards the adjoining houses, which were seriously threatened, and which have received considerable damage. At one time, the police-office in Bow-street was partly ignited. In the theatre itself, a man who, in a most extraordinary manner, continued sleeping for at least an hour after the fire broke out, suddenly presented himself at one of the windows, and called for assistance. A ladder was brought, and he was rescued. We are happy to add that no lives were lost.

The proceeds of the night, which lay in the treasury, were rescued from danger. Mr. Anderson then devoted himself to assisting Mr. Pouteau, treasurer of the theatre, and private secretary to Mr. Gye, in saving certain valuable documents and papers from Mr. Gye's private room—a labour in which also Mr. E. T. Smith, lessee of Drury-lane Theatre, rendered energetic aid.

The Piazza, Tavistock, and Bedford Hotels were all more or less injured by the fire; and had the wind set from the eastward, nothing could have saved that side of the market. Fortunately, the efforts of the Fire Brigade, aided by the police, were successful in preserving the adjacent property. Of the theatre, nothing remains but the skeleton and ruined walls. All the scenery—the productions of Grieve and Telbin—the properties of the theatre—the warbrobes—the mountings—the dramatic library—the valuable operatic scores—some of which can never be replaced, as the *Elisir d'Amore*, of Donizetti, and the *Oberon* of Weber—all these are gone.

In Princess-place, the court-yard by which her Majesty entered the house, one attempt at salvage was successful. The "properties" appertaining to the Wizard's tricks were in an apartment very near the stage door, and these were in great part saved. A small quantity of furniture, belonging to Mr. Costa, including his private piano, was also rescued. Great praise is due to the courageous exertions of Mr. Anderson, Mr. Pouteau, Mr. Francis, printer to the theatre, Mr. Nimmo, a gentleman engaged about the establishment, and the bill-sticker of the theatre, a man named Burgess, who particularly distinguished himself. But the loss of curious and valuable MSS., &c., has been melancholy. The original MSS. of "The School for Scandal," "The Miller and his Men," the opera of "The Slave," and others, have perished.

It has been stated that the building itself is uninsured. This is too true, and the loss will be terrible to those proprietors who hold a large number of shares. Among them may be mentioned the Kemble family, the family of the late Mr. Harris, Mr. Surman, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Thomas Grieve, and others. The only insurances known to exist in connexion with the building are two—one of £8,000 upon a portion of the properties, and another of £2,000, effected by Mr. Anderson when he entered on the occupation of the theatre for three months, which insurance would have expired this day (Saturday).

The cause of the fire is not clearly known; but it

seems that Mr. Sloman, the chief machinist, has for a long time past complained of an escape of gas about the building, and has brought the subject under the notice of the proprietors, saying that he would not be answerable for the safety of the house. But nothing seems to have been done. At four o'clock in the morning, one of the "flymen" had occasion to ascend to the second "flies," but did not detect any sign of fire. It appears that, when Mr. Gye learned that a *bal masque* was to be given in the theatre, he put his veto on it; however, he was induced to give way. He was in Paris at the time of the fire, but was telegraphed for.

"The first Covent-garden Theatre," says Mr. Timbs, in his 'Curiosities of London,' "was built upon part of the Convent site, by Shepherd, architect of Goodman's Fields Theatre. It was opened Dec. 7, 1732, by Rich, the celebrated Harlequin; and Hogarth's caricature of 'Rich's Glory, on his Triumphant Entry into Covent-garden,' refers to his removal here. Here the Beefsteak Society was formed in 1735, by Rich and Lambert, the scene painter. In 1746, Garrick played here for the season. In 1803, John Kemble became a proprietor and stage manager. On Sept. 20, 1808, the theatre was burned to the ground, and twenty persons were killed in the ruins. It was rebuilt by R. Smirke, R.A. The O.P. (old prices) riots of seventy-seven nights ensued on the reopening. In 1817, John Kemble here took leave of the public; and in 1840 retired his brother, Charles Kemble. In 1847, the auditorium was entirely reconstructed by Albano, and opened as an Italian Opera April 6. The exterior has a pure Grecian-Doric portico, copied from the Temple of Minerva at Athens; and statues of Tragedy and Comedy, and two panels of bas-relief figures, by Flaxman. The reconstruction of the interior, by Albano, cost £40,000. The house held upwards of 3,000 persons."

Several gentlemen connected with Covent-garden Theatre have formed themselves into a committee for receiving subscriptions for the immediate relief of the sufferers from the fire—a very large body, including many who can ill support their affliction.

Immense numbers of persons visited the ruins of the theatre on Thursday; among them, many members of the aristocracy, and even the Queen herself, accompanied by the Princess Royal, and followed by Prince Albert. In fact, a sort of state visit was paid to the wrecks of the demolished edifice. Her Majesty, attended by ladies-in-waiting and equeuries, passed over a mass of charred ruins, and arrived at a spot near the site of the royal box, where she remained some time, looking at the scene. Mr. Gye had the melancholy honour of escorting the Queen over the remains of his theatre, and of receiving the condolence of royalty. Some of the walls were in a very dangerous state; and workmen have been engaged in pulling them down. It is understood that Mr. Gye expresses his determination to carry on the opera in some one of the metropolitan theatres, notwithstanding his losses.

It is singular that Mr. Anderson's theatrical season has been once previously brought to a sudden termination by fire. In 1844 he erected the City of Glasgow Theatre, which was opened by himself, and burnt to the ground within less than twelve months from the first stone being laid.

OUR CIVILISATION.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES LINE: OUR BUSINESS "CIVILISATION."

COLONEL WYNNE, in his official capacity, has addressed a letter to the Board of Trade, with respect to the condition of the Yarmouth and Lowestoft branches of the Eastern Counties Railway. The report, which is dated February 21st, was addressed to the Mayor of Norwich; by him it was sent to a local paper, and has now reached the London press.

"The Lowestoft branch," says a summary in the *Times*, "falls into the Yarmouth branch near a viaduct called the Reedham Viaduct. Colonel Wynne began his inspection at the Lowestoft terminus. Between Lowestoft and the first station at Somerleyton the line lies low, and in this section Colonel Wynne found a number of sleepers in a state of complete rottenness, so much so as to render this portion of the line insecure. There are many twelve feet openings on the line at this point, which are spanned by beams of the usual size. The Colonel proceeds thus with his report:—'These timber beams are in most instances deeply decayed, especially where their ends rest in the ballast; a great number of these have been strutted in the ordinary way, and the bearing being thus reduced one-third, the presumption in my mind is that the bridges so treated have been temporarily rendered safe, in so far as one may hazard an opinion on an unsound piece of timber in which the extent of the decay cannot have been fully investigated.' Colonel Wynne adds that he arrives at this conclusion much in the same way as a sharp observer might hazard a guess that a piece of rotten ice which he had just seen bear a greater weight might sustain a lesser one. The peril is, however,

far greater at the Somerleyton viaduct. This is of great length, and passes over the line of navigation between Norwich and Lowestoft, with a swing bridge in the middle. In this viaduct, the piles, braces, capsills, longitudinal timbers, struts, and groundsills, on which the latter abut, were in a dangerous state of decay. Work people were busy at this point making repairs; but the result of their labours is dismissed by the inspecting Colonel with the same criticism which he had bestowed upon the improvements in the smaller openings. One point of the line appears to have been distinguished by peculiar insecurity; it there consists of a viaduct which passes over what is called Sir William Beauchamp's Navigation. The original timbers are described by Colonel Wynne as being in a state of utter rottenness. "In many parts," he writes, *these timbers could be dug out with a spade, like garden mould*, and it is a matter of astonishment how a structure in such a state was able to bear the loads which continually passed over it. It is but fair to add that, according to Colonel Wynne's report, this particular viaduct has been put in a state of good repair; but one shudders at the thought of the danger to which the travellers who passed over it were exposed before the company were driven to do something, lest their viaduct should crumble down some morning, like 'garden mould,' under the pressure of a passing train.

"The result of Colonel Wynne's report is that these branches of the Eastern Counties line are decidedly unsafe, and unfitted for public traffic."

The Board of Trade has sent to the directors of the line a warning to place their line in a permanently safe condition.

FACTS FOR THE LAUREATE.—The Recorder, in addressing the Grand Jury, at the opening of the March session of the Central Criminal Court, observed:—"During the last twelvemonths, after having for forty years enjoyed the blessings of peace, we have been familiarised with all the horrors of war, and there is no doubt that during the same period the most heinous crimes have been committed by persons of high station, by persons also holding a high position in the commercial and banking community, and also by persons in a more humble position of life; and in this court there has certainly been a most unusual number of cases involving the destruction of human life." If peace be really a "canker," its removal does not cause the disappearance of a great many other cankers.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.—George Sandford Keymer was charged at the Central Criminal Court with embezzling various sums of money from his employers, Messrs. Chambers and Ellwood, wine-merchants, in the city. It was alleged that he was to act as town traveller and collector, at a salary of £10 a month. In 1853, he was a defaulter to the amount of £472; but no criminal proceedings were taken at the time; the amount was written off as a debt; two bills were drawn on the accused for the amount, and it was agreed that his salary should be raised to £30 a month. In the course of last August, it was discovered that other sums of money besides the £472 were not accounted for, and proceedings were at length taken. On cross-examination, it appeared that the prosecutors kept their books very badly; and that they had at different times stated variously the amount of Keymer's defalcations. Mr. Ballantyne, for the defence urged that it had been agreed on between Keymer and his employers that the former should have half the profit of all the business he brought to the firm, and that the prosecution originated from spite. The jury brought in a verdict of Not Guilty, and the accused was discharged.

DELIRIUM TREMENS.—Elizabeth Webster, the woman charged on her own confession with the murder of her infant, has been dismissed, as it appears that there is no foundation for her story. She seems to be suffering from *delirium tremens*, and while in gaol she made an attempt to strangle herself. Before the magistrate she promised to leave off drinking.

ROBBERIES FROM JEWELLERS' WINDOWS.—Three cases of robbery from jewellers' and silversmiths' windows came before the magistrates on Monday. The first case was brought forward at Marlborough-street. The robbery had been committed at the shop of Messrs. Lambert and Co., Coventry-street, about five o'clock in the afternoon, and the smash of broken glass first called attention to the fact. The man who committed the outrage appeared to be throwing the goods on the pavement, and not to be carrying them off. He was committed for trial.—The second case was heard at the Thames-office, where William Cooke, a noted thief, and supposed to be a ticket-of-leave man. Five silver watches were abstracted. On the evening of the day (which was as long ago as the 31st of last December), Cooke returned to his home in a registered common lodging-house, with one hand severely cut, and, in answer to the landlord, Thomas Flinn, he said he had dashed his hand through a pane of glass in a jeweller's shop, and had robbed the shop, but had only got one watch. After a considerable time he was arrested,

and has been committed.—The third robbery was committed on the 21st of January, in the Commercial-road East, and here again Flinn was called to substantiate the case, which he did, with the same result as in the preceding cases.

A MISER'S DEATH.—An old man, named Howe, has died in a house at Hoxton from sheer starvation, though possessed of about two hundred pounds. He was found in *articulo mortis* by the police, lying on a mattress swarming with vermin. Just before his death, he raved about his gold. Four of the rooms of the house were filled with books from floor to ceiling, the worth of which, though covered with cobweb, is, at a rough guess, about £800, and numerous oil paintings hung against the walls.

THE DISGRACEFUL STATE OF TACHBROOK-STREET, VAUXHALL.—Mr. Thomas Brodgers, a gentleman living in this street, was awakened a few nights ago by a scratching at his street door. Examining the door, he found his name written on it, coupled with a disgraceful epithet. He went out into the street, and saw a Mr. William Duncan, described as a merchant in the borough, whom he had seen just before quitting the door-step, and who now advanced, and repeated the offensive expression, threatening to punch Mr. Brodgers's head. The cause of this animosity results from Mr. Brodgers having interested himself to suppress the disreputable houses in the street, at the windows of which women may at times be seen in a state of semi-nudity. At one of these houses Mr. Duncan lived, and he seems to have resented the interference. Mr. Brodgers stated to the magistrate before whom Mr. Duncan was brought that sometimes men would drive up in cabs to his and other houses in mistake. Only a few days ago, a drunken person, having the appearance of a gentleman, entered his house in the daytime, and began mauling his servant about, but, ascertaining the mistake, he had the decency to stammer out an apology. A fine of forty shillings was imposed on Mr. Duncan, and the magistrate directed the police to take immediate steps to put down the nuisance.

THE MATFEN MURDER.—James Conroy, 26, basket-maker; Michael Allen, otherwise Anderson, 23, hawker; Isabella Allen, otherwise Anderson, 55, hawker; Jane Anderson, 18, hawker; Eleanor Anderson, 15, hawker; and Elizabeth Conroy, wife of James Conroy, none of whom could either read or write, were charged at the Newcastle Assizes with the wilful murder of Dorothy Bewicke, at the parish of Stamfordham, on the 21st of October last. On being charged, they pleaded not guilty. The murder, it will be recollected, was committed on an old woman living in a hut in a secluded part of the country frequented in the summer by persons engaged in broom-making and chair-mending. The hut had been broken into at night, apparently for the purpose of robbery, and the old woman was killed. A stick, the handle of a hammer, a strap used to tie the legs of the poor creature, and some other fragments left behind by the murderers, which corresponded with similar articles possessed by the accused, seemed to fix suspicion on them; and one witness (who had turned Queen's evidence) stated that Michael Allen slept with him in a barn part of the night of the murder, but was absent another part. For the defence, it was contended that the evidence was not sufficient to convict; and a complaint was made of the prisoners having been subjected to the spy system, and prevented from conversing freely with their counsel—a complaint the fairness of which the judge admitted in his summing-up. The jury declared all the prisoners Not Guilty.

A DISREPUTABLE CASE.—Some amusement and much disgust was created in the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday, by the trial of John Sturt, Sophia Sturt, Thomas Dowsett, Charles Dowsett, and David Hart, on a charge of conspiring to defraud. It appeared that the prosecutor, James William Spokes, was connected with "a loan and discount society," and that he advanced a loan to Sturt, on the security of a bill of sale on some furniture. He was afterwards informed by Mrs. Sturt that an execution had been put into her husband's house by some upholsterers, and she called on him to protect the goods under his bill of sale. He therefore put in another execution, under charge of Thomas Dowsett; but ultimately it appeared that Dowsett (with whose transactions his brother Charles and David Hart seem to have mixed up) had paid the rent, and therefore claimed the goods. An appeal to the police, and afterwards to the magistrates, produced no result. In cross-examination, Spokes said:—"I am a bookseller by trade. I do not follow it. I am an auctioneer, house-agent, and manager of a loan society. I decline to say who constitute the society. This was a private affair of my own. There are other members of the loan society, but I will not give any names. I was a bankrupt in 1847. I did not commence money-lending directly. Some years elapsed. I knew that the houses kept by Sturt were tenanted and used by gay women. I do not call that a house of ill-fame. I have taken tea there, but not gin-and-water. I did not take Mrs. Sturt to Canterbury-hall. I did not propose to do so; she is not to my taste." (Laughter.)

In further cross-examination it was elicited that, upon two bills for £50 each at three months, Spokes had charged £20 interest, and could only account for £120 given to Sturt, although he held security for £191. Mr. Ballantyne, for the defence, denounced the disreputable character of the proceedings; and the Recorder said that Spokes was one of those disgraceful men trading as a loan society, and that the criminal law had been stretched to try a civil right. The defendants were acquitted.

A POACHING CASE.—James Thurgood, William Thurgood, Thomas Thurgood (brothers), and James Guiver—all athletic young men—were tried at the Chelmsford Assizes, on a charge of murdering William Hales, a gamekeeper on Sir John Tyrrell's estate, on the 18th ult. The evidence bore chiefly against James Thurgood. It appeared from the statement of Ebenezer Chalk, an accomplice in the poaching, who turned Queen's evidence, that on rallying forth James Thurgood said he would not be taken, as he would shoot any one who opposed him. The affray took place in a wood; the murdered man was a little in advance of his comrades, and no one actually saw the shot fired, though the report was heard; but James Thurgood was the nearest to the dead body, and he was seized, his companions for the time escaping. The shot taken from the neck of Hales corresponded with that in the possession of the accused, the others being totally different, and there were other points of circumstantial evidence. The jury found James Thurgood guilty of being accessory to the murder; but they were not satisfied that he had actually discharged the gun. The other prisoners were acquitted of the charge of murder, but found guilty of another charge of poaching, and were sentenced each to four years' penal servitude. James Thurgood was sentenced to death, the law regarding the being accessory to murder as tantamount to murder itself; but the Judge said he would make a representation of the opinion of the jury. On hearing this, James Thurgood, who was not in the least affected, said—"Thank you, sir. God bless you all!"

THE SERVANT AND HER TALE OF ROBBERY.—Lucy Constable has been examined at Lambeth on a charge arising out of the strange tale of burglary at her master's house in Sutherland-square, Walworth, which we mentioned in our last week's paper. She was remanded for a week.

ALLEGED MURDER OF A CHILD BY A BOY.—A boy of twelve years of age, named William Sopp, was charged at the Reading Assizes with the murder of a child of four years old. Sopp had been out with the little boy, Silas Rosier, on the downs, cutting furze; but he returned alone, and the dead body of the child was afterwards discovered in a pit, with its head hacked in several places. Suspicion falling on Sopp, he was taken into custody; and he then said to the constable:—"When we got to the downs, I began to cut furze, and the billhook came out of the handle and hit the poor little fellow about the head and knocked him down. He tumbled and rolled about on the ground, and I was afraid, if people thought I had tried to do it, I should go to gaol; and I killed him." There was no apparent motive for the boy wilfully murdering the child; and, considering that Sopp, according to the interpretation of the law, was not of an age to have a "mischievous discretion," the jury leant to a merciful consideration, on the ground that the death might have been the result of accident, and acquitted the youth.

SELF-BETRAYAL OF A BURGLAR.—A notorious thief, named Charles Morris, was charged at the Lambeth police-office, together with a "ticket-of-leave" man, with having committed a burglary at the house of Mr. Stow, a jeweller and silversmith, living at Camberwell-green. In the course of last November, one of the turnkeys of the House of Correction, where Morris was then confined, having overheard him say to a fellow-prisoner that, when he was released, he meant to break into Mr. Stow's shop, the governor of the prison communicated this intelligence to Sir Richard Mayne, who informed Mr. Stow of Morris's intention, and warned him to be on his guard. Mr. Stow, therefore, had extra fastenings put on to the doors leading to his shop, so that when the two men broke into his premises, although they succeeded in getting through the outer door of the house into the kitchen, from which they stole a few silver spoons and other property, they could not get beyond it. Both the thieves were apprehended next morning at the lodging of Morris. They were remanded.

ASSIZE CASES.—William Henry May, James May, and Henry Phillips were indicted at Winchester for burglariously breaking into the house of Messrs. Emanuel, jeweller, at Portsmouth, and stealing a large quantity of jewellery. The facts of the robbery have already appeared in this journal. The discovery was apparently brought about by William May leaving a box in his room while on a visit to London, and telling his sister that there was something in it which he should not like any one to see. The sister, like Bluebeard's wife, immediately determined to look, and found some jewellery and watches, of which she ultimately took some. It appears also that some one else abstracted part of the property, and James May

and Phillips then employed various persons to pawn the articles. This led to detection; and the prisoners were found guilty, and sentenced to various terms of penal servitude.—Thomas Jones has been found guilty at Winchester of the murder of Thomas Hope, surgeon on board the Stirling Castle convict hulk at Portsmouth. The facts will be found in the *Leader* of February 16th. The prisoner was sentenced to death. In this case also the defence was temporary insanity.—Michael Cuffe, a private in the 22nd foot, was charged with attempting to drown his wife. He had contracted an intimacy with another woman, and, under the pretext of trying "whether he was as strong as he used to be," he lifted his wife on to the parapet of a bridge in Portsmouth which they were passing, told her to stand there a moment while he looked at her, and then threw her deliberately over. She was speedily rescued. Cuffe was found guilty, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

THE BAL MASQUE AND THE FIRE.—The usual number of charges of rioting, drunkenness, and pocket-picking, consequent on a *bal masque* and a fire, have been heard at Bow-street within the last few days, arising out of the events of the memorable Wednesday at Covent-garden. One of these cases was that of a man with being drunk while driving a carriage. Mrs. Anderson (wife of "the Professor") had returned home from the theatre in her husband's carriage, and had sent it back for Mr. Anderson and the children. The coachman found the theatre on fire, and, being alarmed, he quitted his box, and entered the house. The prisoner then jumped on the box and drove off, but was taken into custody by the police. He was fined ten shillings.

INCENDIARY FIRE.—The Canklow fire-mills, near Rotherham, have been destroyed by fire, together with their valuable contents in grain and flour. The conflagration is supposed to be incendiary. The mill is the second which has been burnt down after sunset, within the last few weeks.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—William Bousfield has been tried for the murder of his wife and three children, and, being found guilty, was sentenced to death. The facts were of such recent occurrence that they need not now be repeated. Bousfield's counsel admitted the overwhelming nature of the evidence, and set up his defence on the usual plea of insanity. The prisoner appeared to be overwhelmed with grief, and was removed almost fainting.—A case involving unquestionable madness, though but of brief duration, was tried on the same day in the same court. Emily Ryder, aged twenty-one, a married lady, was charged with the murder of her infant, by drowning it in a pan of water. The child was her first, and she appeared to be passionately fond of it. But shortly after her confinement she was attacked with nervous fever, and became almost frantic—an effect not unfrequently following on the confinement of women. In this condition the act was committed. She was found not guilty, on the ground of insanity, and she will be restored to her friends.—Another case of child-murder was then tried. Hannah Bramwell was charged with causing the death of her illegitimate child. She had been abandoned by her seducer, and reduced to the greatest distress; and in this state she drowned the child (as alleged by the prosecution) in the Serpentine, Hyde-park. On being questioned as to its absence, she told several contradictory stories, and evinced great grief. From the diseased and emaciated state of the body, the jury conceived that the child might have died from natural causes, and therefore, with the concurrence of Mr. Justice Erle, found the prisoner not guilty.—Joseph Taylor, a man employed on board one of the Iron Screw Collier Company's steamers, was acquitted of a charge of attempting to sink the vessel by turning on the "sea cock," out of spite to the chief engineer.

AMERICA.

The organisation of the Senate was not entirely completed at the date of the last advices (February 16th). In order to arrange his committees without annoyance, the new Speaker, Mr. Banks, had deserted his usual place of residence, and taken lodgings in some undiscovered place of concealment. The State Department had sent to the Senate a mass of documents bearing on the Central American question as far back as 1850. Speaking with reference to Lord Palmerston's proposition to refer the matters in dispute to arbitration, the *New York Herald* observes:—"The United States have no friend in Europe, and, therefore, reject the idea of arbitration."

The members of the Western Anti-Slavery Society have memorialised the Legislature of Ohio to withdraw from the Union. Barbour, the witness against the acquitted Irish Filibusters at Cincinnati, has been put on his trial for perjury. The English Consul has given evidence in favour of the veracity of the accused. Mr. Dallas, the new Minister to England, was to leave in the Baltic on the 5th inst.; his son had been appointed Secretary of Legation. The Governor of Kansas has left for his post, carrying with him instructions to Colonel Sumner, who was at the head of eight hundred troops to hold himself prepared for

all emergencies. Some sharp engagements have taken place off the Feejee islands, and the crew of the United States sloop of war John Adams. The natives of the islands had committed great cruelties on some American seamen; but a treaty has now been ratified between Commander Boutwell and the King of Feejee.

In Nicaragua affairs are quiet. General Walker had about 1,000 men with him. President Rivaz had issued a decree suspending all official communications with the Ministers of the United States. Mr. Manning, acting Vice-Consul of the English Government at Realigo, has addressed an official letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, recognising the government of Walker, and assuring the executive of the good-will of the English Cabinet.

Mexico, as usual, is in a state of insurrection and civil war. Santa Annas property has been seized. In the interior all the telegraph wires have been cut away. Uruga has been beaten; and it is said that the southern provinces are tranquil. Peru is in a very unsettled state.

The New York commercial advices report that the money market was plentifully supplied with capital, and a good business was being done at the rates previously quoted. The stock market was buoyant.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

The proclamation annexing Oude had not appeared when the last advices left Calcutta (January 24th); but troops are already swarming towards Cawnpore. The King will be dismissed with a lack of rupees a-month; and it is thought that he will retain his personal immunities. The Jaghirdars will retain their rent-free lands for life, and a new settlement will be commenced. The Governor-General has received *carte blanche*, and is arranging the administration of the sequestered province, notwithstanding his extreme ill health. He is drawing up also complete accounts of every province and department for the benefit of Lord Canning, and a report upon his own administration of eight years. The question of the remodelling of the Bengal Marine gives some trouble. Their position is ill defined, as their commanders have no naval rank, and the sailors are not subjected to control. A proposal has been made by the Court of Directors to amalgamate the Marine with the regular navy; and it is now proposed by the Governor-General to place the vessels of the former under martial law, and to give the officers a suitable rank. Great inconvenience, also, results from the want of sufficient pilots at Calcutta, owing to which the existing pilots are terribly over-worked. There has been talk of a strike, but this has not occurred. The Indigo Planters' Association have resolved to present a petition to Parliament praying for the introduction of non-official members into the Legislative Council. Sir William Gomm has issued his farewell address to the Indian army, the chief command of which he has just relinquished.

A demonstration has been made against the Persian Government. Two war steamers have been despatched from Bombay to Bushire. Some further accounts have been received of the insurrection of Arabs at Judda, in the Red Sea. It appears that a traffic in slaves has long existed between Judda and some of the ports on the Abyssinian shore of the Red Sea—a traffic from which the Ottoman Government derived a considerable revenue, and which, consequently, it was interested in maintaining. Nevertheless, the present Sultan has abolished it in the interests of humanity; but the inhabitants of Judda, displeased with this annihilation of one of their chief sources of profit, asserted that the abolition of the trade was against the law of Mahomet. A serious disturbance was the result; the Turkish pacha and the European consuls were threatened; and the town was declared in a state of siege. The place is thought to be in no immediate danger.

All is quiet in Rajpootana, though the chiefs have not yet given in their adhesion to the award. Lord Dalhousie has promulgated his decision with respect to the affair of Colonel Mackenzie and the mutinous troopers at Bolarum. The brigadier is censured for his conduct, and the ringleaders in the disturbance have been dismissed the regiment. The new Governor-General and Lady Canning arrived at Bombay from Suez on the 28th of January. A scarcity of water, owing to want of rain, is apprehended at Bombay, and measures of relief are being taken. At the initiation of one of these schemes—the construction of a large reservoir or lake in the valley of Vehar, in the island of Salsette—Lord Canning presided.

The money market in Bombay is very tight during the past fortnight, and the banks have raised their rates of interest to twelve per cent. All securities are much depreciated in value. The import trade has not improved, prices remaining very low. In the export market some activity has been manifested.

CHINA.

Admiral Stirling has organised a system of convoy to protect vessels from the attacks of pirates—a measure much needed. Several daring attacks have

been made by robbers on private residences at Hong-Kong. Two very large fires have broken out at Macao, and destroyed the greater part of the Chinese town. The rebellion is making head against the Imperial Government. The insurgents have entirely possessed themselves of three prefectures in the province of Kiangsi; and it is feared that the transit between the tea and silk producing country and the English possessions will be interrupted. The province of Honan in the north is said to be in a state of insurrection; but particulars are not yet known. It is reported that a plague has broken out in Chin-kiang-foo, and carried off upwards of 100,000 persons.

EGYPT.

The despotic extravagancies of Said Pacha continue. The Bedouins are especial sufferers: several have been chained in couples, and cast into the vilest prisons. Many have died; but the dead body is not for a considerable time removed from the living companion to which it is linked. Mr. Gisborne, who is at Alexandria on the part of the Eastern Electric Telegraph Company, is very well satisfied with the arrangements he has made with the Egyptian Government for the formation of an electric telegraph for his company between Alexandria and Suez, and he speaks highly of Said Pacha's liberality. Mr. Gisborne hopes eventually to extend the line from Suez to India, and the submarine electric telegraph between Constantinople and Alexandria is expected to be in working order in the course of the ensuing summer.

THE FRENCH EMPEROR'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE CHAMBERS.

The Legislative Session at Paris opened on Monday when the Emperor delivered the subjoined speech:—

M.M. LES PAIRS, M.M. LES SENATEURS,—

"The last time that I summoned you to meet grave anxieties weighed upon us. The Allied armies were exhausting themselves in a siege, in which the stubbornness of the defenders made success doubtful. Europe, uncertain, seemed to await the issue of the struggle before declaring herself.

"To sustain the war, I asked a loan which, although it might appear excessive, you voted unanimously. The high price of provisions menaced the labouring classes with general discomfort, and a disturbance in the monetary system gave ground to fear the slackening of business and the diminution of employment. Thanks to your aid, and to the energy displayed in France and in England—thanks, above all, to the support of Providence—these dangers, if they have not entirely disappeared, are for the most part dissipated.

"A great deed of arms has since decided a desperate struggle, unparalleled in history, in favour of the Allies. The opinion of Europe from that moment has been more openly shown. In every direction our alliances have extended, or have become more firm. The third loan has been supplied without difficulty. The country has again proved to me its confidence by subscribing a sum five times larger than I required from it. It has undergone, with admirable resignation, the sufferings inseparable from dearth of provisions—sufferings which, nevertheless, have been mitigated by private charity, by the zeal of the corporations, and by the millions of francs distributed in the departments. An arrival of foreign corn has now produced a considerable fall in the price of food; the fears arising from the disappearance of gold have faded; and never has labour been more active, never have the revenues been so large. The chances of war have reawakened the military spirit of the nation. Never were there so many voluntary enlistments, nor so great an ardour among the conscripts.

"To this short statement of our situation, I may add a fact of a high political signification. The Queen of Great Britain, wishing to give a proof of her confidence in, and esteem for, our country, and to render our relations still more intimate, came to France. The enthusiastic reception which her Majesty received must have proved to her how deep were the sentiments inspired by her presence, and how much of a character tending to strengthen the alliance of the two peoples.

"The King of Piedmont, who had unhesitatingly embraced our cause with that courageous ardour of which he had previously afforded proof on the field of battle, also came to France to consecrate a union already cemented by the valour of his soldiers. These sovereigns beheld a country, some time so disturbed and fallen from her rank in the councils of Europe, now prosperous, peaceable, and respected, making war, not with the hurried delirium of passion, but with that calm which belongs to justice and all the energy of duty. They have seen France, which had sent 200,000 men across the sea, at the same time convoked at Paris all the arts of peace, as if she meant to say to Europe—'The present war is but an episode for me, and my strength is always in great measure directed towards peaceful occupations. Let us neglect no opportunity of coming to an understanding, and do not force me to throw into the

battle-field the whole resources and power of a great nation."

"This appeal seems to have been heard; and winter, by suspending hostilities, favoured the intervention of diplomacy. Austria resolved upon a decisive step, which brought into the deliberations all the influence of the sovereign of a vast empire. Sweden bound herself more closely to England and to France by a treaty, which guaranteed the integrity of her territory. Finally from all the cabinets advice or petitions were sent to St. Petersburg. The Emperor of Russia, inheritor of a situation which he had not brought about, seemed animated by a sincere desire to put an end to the causes which had brought about this sanguinary conflict. He accepted with determination (*avec détermination*) the propositions transmitted by Austria. The honour of arms once satisfied, to defer to the distinctly expressed wish of Europe, was to do himself honour."

"At this moment, the Plenipotentiaries of the belligerent and allied Powers are met at Paris to decide on the conditions of peace. The spirit of moderation and equity, which animates them all, must make us hope for a favourable result. Nevertheless, let us, with dignity, wait for the end of the Conference; and let us be equally ready, if it prove necessary, to unsheath the sword again, or to offer the hand of friendship to those whom we have honourably fought."

"Whatever happen, let us busy ourselves with all matters which tend to augment the power and the wealth of France. Let us draw still closer, if that be possible, the Alliance which has been formed by a common participation in glory and in sacrifices, and of which peace will make the mutual advantages appear even more conspicuous. Let us, lastly, at this moment, so solemn for the destinies of the world, put our trust in God, so that He may guide our efforts in a way the most advantageous to the interests of humanity and of civilisation."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

An anniversary funeral service was celebrated on Saturday at the Russian chapel, in the Rue de Berry, Paris, for the repose of the soul of the Emperor Nicholas.

A piece of doggerel (writes a Paris correspondent of the *Athenæum*) which has of late made as much noise in Paris as "Villikins and his Dinah" did of yore in London—namely, the "*Sire de Francoisey*"—bids fair to be transformed, by accident, into a public song. Some weeks ago, the French Emperor and Empress were present at the Odéon Theatre. Louis Napoleon retired for a few minutes to the *foyer*, whereupon certain wags began to chant, at first in a low voice, "*Corbleu, Madame, n'avez-vous pas un mari?*" Others took it up, and the same words were soon repeated all through the theatre, to the intense disgust of the Court. Police—secret and avowed—were, however, soon at work, and the disturbance was suppressed, but not before a new meaning was given to these unmeaning words. The consequence is, that no one can hum the air now without being looked upon as a suspicious character; and the song and the pieces written on the same theme are being gradually withdrawn from all the theatres—for it is impossible to prevent some one joining in the chorus *con expression*.

Several Frenchmen have been massacred in Madagascar by the troops of the Queen of that barbarous state. Others have been made prisoners, and some pieces of cannon have been captured. The French assert that all that part of Madagascar in which the massacre took place belongs to France. Measures will no doubt be taken to vindicate the French flag.

A French journal published in the Mauritius states that on the day fixed for signing the petition to the Government for the re-establishment of the French language in official and judicial documents, a crowd of colonists thronged the Hall of Commerce with enthusiasm to sign their names.

We are assured (says the *Constitutionnel*) that the widow of Admiral Bruat has been designated for the high position of governess to the expected infant of France, and that Madame de Brancion, widow of the Colonel killed before Sebastopol, is to be sub-governess.

The Emperor has just given his sanction to the draught of a bill for advancing 100,000,000*fr.* to agriculturists, to be employed in draining; and it has been sent to the Council of State to be examined, in order to be submitted to the Legislative Body.

Among the persons present at the service held at the Russian chapel in Paris on Saturday, the anniversary of the death of the Emperor Nicholas, were the grand equerry of the French Imperial household; the first aide-de-camp to Prince Jerome; Princess Mathilde, in full mourning; Count Hatzfeld, and all the *attaches* of the Prussian embassy; Baron Seebach; M. de Werther, Minister of Wurtemberg, and Baron de Bourgoing, French senator, and formerly representative of France at the Russian court. The Princess Mathilde was led into the chapel by Baron

Seebach, and conducted to her carriage, at the close of the service, by Count Orloff.

The correctional tribunal of Grenoble has just tried several political prisoners who were arrested in December last on a charge of belonging to a secret society and distributing seditious writings. On the 3rd of December, a weaver, named Pierre Roux, was arrested by some custom-house officers at Massieu, near Saint Geoire. A great many seditious writings were found upon him, as well as letters, which afforded a clue to some of his confederates. In consequence of this discovery, a prosecution was instituted against eighteen individuals residing at Voiron, Pont de Beauvoison, Saint Geoire, and Lyons. Six of those who have escaped were condemned in default of appearance; of the twelve others, five were acquitted, and the rest were convicted and sentenced to light terms of imprisonment, varying from one to six months.

The budget laid before the Corps Législatif shows receipts exceeding by 19,220,000 francs and expenditure exceeding by 96,770,636 francs the same items in the budget of last year. The excess of receipts is estimated at 15,417,348 francs. In the *exposé*, it is said that it does not become strong governments or wise financiers to build their hopes of the future too high. The surplus may appear small in view of the credits constantly demanded, but the Government hopes to be able to restrict supplementary credits in future.

It is confidently stated that the Grand Master of the Ceremonies has just drawn up the programme of the ceremonial to be observed at the birth and provisional baptism (*ondoyement*) of the children of the Emperor. The "auspicious event" is expected in a few days. The Empress has already retired to her chambers. It is said that the Pope will visit Paris to christen the infant.

AUSTRIA.

When Count Nicholas Esterhazy was on his death-bed, his son, Count Paul Esterhazy, who was concerned in the Hungarian War of Independence, asked for leave to visit him, but was refused. After his death, he requested to be allowed to attend his funeral. This was granted; but he was told that he could only be allowed to remain in Vienna for forty-eight hours. Governments, like individuals, can never forgive those they have injured.

An appendix to the Concordat, which has been long talked about, has at length been published in the *Vienna Church Gazette*. It is elucidatory of the various articles of the Concordat, and is addressed by the Archbishop of Vienna to Cardinal Viale Preti, the Papal internuncio at the Austrian capital. The comment on the Ninth Article gives the strictest interpretation to the laws against the liberty of the press. "Literary audacity" is to be "curbed," because, in most of the countries of Europe, the people "are suffering under a deeply-rooted internal malady," namely, free thought. The Church must treat this malady "as a wise physician would do;" and the police are therefore to aid in keeping out dangerous books sent from foreign countries.

Austria is surely henceforth to be the head-quarters of priestcraft, and therefore of disbelief. *Voss's Gazette* has just published a remarkable document—a general order by the commander-in-chief of the Austrian army, giving directions for the observance of the fasts of the Church by the troops of the empire. This innovation is another result of the Concordat. It is said to be the intention of the Austrian Government to introduce the use of certificates of confession into the army, and each officer will have to show that he has confessed at least once in six weeks.

PRUSSIA.

An astonishing instance of detection of a criminal by scientific aid is mentioned by the *Times* Berlin correspondent, who writes:—"Professor Ehrenberg's microscope, which did such good service in procuring undeniable proof of the Simonides' fraud, has been made use of again, to detect the thief that stole a barrel of specie, which had been purloined on one of the railways. One of a number of barrels, that should all have contained coin, was found on arrival at its destination to have been emptied of its precious contents, and refilled with sand. On Professor Ehrenberg being consulted, he sent for samples of sand from all the stations along the different lines of railway that the specie had passed, and by means of his microscope identified the station from which the interpolated sand must have been taken. The station once fixed upon, it was not difficult to hit upon the culprit in the small number of *employés* on duty there."

The left side of the Prussian Lower Chamber recently proposed the following motion:—"That the House of Deputies resolves to express to his Majesty's Government the expectation that it will take steps to procure thorough relief and satisfaction for the long enduring and just grievances, more particularly of the eastern frontier provinces, in connexion with the Russian prohibitory fiscal regulations and the Russian frontier system of exclusion; and that a state of things may be brought about, with some prospect of duration, which shall not, like the present, stand in

direct opposition to the existing treaties and the exigencies of traffic and intercourse between the two countries." At the suggestion of the Minister of Commerce, the motion was referred to the Committee of Trades and Manufactures.

Berlin has been the scene of a curious chivalric spectacle. About a fortnight ago, according to the *Times* correspondent, "an equestrian entertainment, consisting of a carousel and a quadrille, executed by the highest members of the aristocracy here, with the young Prince of Prussia at their head, came off in the presence of the King, Queen, Royal Family, and Court. The first half of the entertainment consisted of the well-known mediæval amusements of carrying off rings at the lances' point, throwing javelins at targets, and cutting or thrusting at Turks' heads with swords while riding at a hand canter. These sports were executed by two divisions of cavaliers, distinguished each by separate colours, and who were dressed in the French costume of the time of Louis XIII. The second half of the entertainment contained the quadrille, ridden by the aforementioned cavaliers and eight ladies of the nobility, attired in the costume of the same period." The entertainment, which was for a charitable purpose, was to be repeated.

DENMARK.

The *Flensburger Zeitung* states that on the 2nd ult. the Danish Government proposed to the various representatives assembled at the Sound Dues Conference to abolish them on receiving payment of \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000 thalers, to be defrayed by the various States interested according to a table drawn up by the Government. This proposal was accepted at once by the Russian representative, Tengoborski, without any reserve, although Russia's share would amount to about one-third of the whole. It is represented that this project met with so much favour with the representatives assembled as to lead to the expectation of its being adopted by the various Governments.

A note delivered by Baron Brunow to the Danish Minister Von Bille, at the time that the protocol settling the succession to the Danish Crown was signed in London in 1852, has recently been laid on table of the English Parliament. The Emperor of Russia had, in a protocol drawn up at Warsaw in the previous year, resigned for himself and his issue, in favour of Prince Christian of Glücksburg, as presumptive heir to the throne of Denmark, all the rights to the reversion of the Danish Crown, accruing to himself as representative of the elder line of the House of Holstein Gottorp; and, in the note above alluded to, the Emperor reserves these rights to himself and his male issue in case the direct male issue of Prince Christian should become extinct.

The opening of the session of the Supreme Council of the kingdom of Denmark took place at Copenhagen on the 1st inst., with the usual ceremony.

ITALY.

Some questions were asked in the Sardinian Chamber of deputies by M. Deviry of the Minister of the Interior, with respect to an alleged outbreak among the Anglo-Italian Legion. M. Ratazzi, the Minister, replied that the affair was of the slightest kind; but M. Deviry, who belongs to the extreme Right, which has always opposed the Russian war, returned to the attack, and asked when the Anglo-Italian Legion was to be removed, and whether Sardinia had become an English colony. The Minister denied that the English have any jurisdiction in Sardinia, even within their own barracks.

The Marquis Gualtieri, a Roman subject by birth, but Piedmontese by naturalisation, well known in the literary world by his works on contemporary Italian history, is now in Rome. On his arrival, he was waited upon by a bevy of police agents, who gave him warning to leave the city in twenty-four hours, but the spirited reply of the Piedmontese envoy, who declared that he would take down his arms and flag if such a measure were carried out, has procured for the Marquis permission to prolong his sojourn without further molestation in the Eternal City.—*Daily News Roman Correspondent*.

A letter lately received from Florence by Rossini announces the death of Doeller, the pianist, by consumption. The deceased, who was only forty years of age, was married to a Russian lady.

The negotiations relative to the Italian railways came to a close at Vienna on the 29th ult. The state has ceded them to a company, of which MM. Rothschild, Blount, Laing, and Talbot are members. Baron de Rothschild gave a grand dinner to-day, at which the Ministers, Baron de Bruck, Baron de Bach, and Chevalier de Toggenbourg were present."

SPAIN.

Some disturbances have occurred at Malaga; but they have been suppressed.

RUSSIA.

According to intelligence from St. Petersburg, the retirement of Count Nesselrode from public affairs will take place immediately after the conclusion of peace. Various persons are named as likely to succeed the venerable statesman, amongst whom are

M. Meyendorff, Baron de Brunnow, and Prince Gortschakoff.

TURKEY.

The Imperial firman, granting equal rights to all the subjects of the Porte, whatever may be their religion, has been published. The document was read in the Council-hall of the palace on the 21st ult. A great crowd assembled outside the building, among whom, when the ceremony was over, copies of the firman were distributed in Turkish. It will be translated into all the languages of the Empire, and distributed through the provinces. The decree states that Europeans will have a right to possess landed property; that, as regards civil rights, there will be a complete equality between Mussulmans and Christians. Any denomination of a nature to express the superiority of one race over another is expressly forbidden, both in public documents as in private conventions. The patriarchs are to be named for life. The clergy will receive a fixed stipend, and the Church property of each denomination will be managed by an assembly composed of persons of that religion. There will be mixed tribunals. Education will be free, but under the surveillance of mixed commissions. Other reforms are announced, as, for instance, the right granted to provincial and communal councils to take the initiative in grants for public works; as also the establishment of banks, in order to regularise the monetary system of the empire.

A meeting of medical men belonging to all the nations now at Constantinople has been held in that capital. The idea originated in Scutari hospital, and the chief object is to compare notes as to the relative excellences and defects of the hospital systems of England, France, Sardinia, and Turkey. A resolution was passed at the meeting, to the effect that the members should assemble twice a month; and a committee was appointed to draw up the statutes of a "Permanent Medical Society of all Nations."

The Sultan has sent a hundred pounds to an English seaman who lost his arm from the accidental discharge of a gun, while assisting at the embarkation of Turkish troops last April.

The Princess Dadian, of Mingrelia, who alleges that her palace was ransacked by Omar Pacha, has sent two of her attendants to Constantinople, that her case may be brought before the notice of the Sultan. If her claims for reparation are not heeded by the Porte, she purposes to bring them before the English Government.

General Kmety has received his firman as Ferik or General of Division. The document is drawn up in most flattering terms, and states that the Sultan confers upon him this rank for his bravery displayed in the defence of Kars, especially at the Russian attack of the 29th of September last.

John Ghika, a nephew of the Prince of Wallachia, and hitherto Kaimakam of the Prince Governor of Samos, has, in consequence of the services rendered in the Islands of the Archipelago during the insurrection in Epirus and Thessaly, been appointed Prince of Samos, instead of Callimachi, who goes as ambassador to Vienna, or more probably to Paris.

The money panic continues at Constantinople, the fluctuations in exchange being of the most sudden and vehement character. In consequence of this perplexing condition of affairs, the idea of a commercial bank, exercising some degree of control over the rate of exchange, has been propounded, and is received with favour.

Shocks of earthquake have been felt in Smyrna and Asia Minor. Violent hurricanes have occurred at Varna and Constantinople. Seventeen minarets have been blown down, and most of the vessels at anchor in the Bosphorus have received damage, and several have foundered.

A riot between the Mahometans and the Jews has occurred at Constantinople, arising out of a popular superstition. It is believed that, about this time of year, the Jews always slaughter a child not belonging to their own faith, and the Mahometans generally discover or fancy that a child is missed. This was the case a few days ago; in consequence of which, the Jews were attacked and ill-used. They threw themselves for protection on the French and English ambassadors; and the child was afterwards discovered.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Prince Ghika, of Moldavia has published a rescript addressed to the Administrative Council on the subject of the freedom of the press. He uses these remarkable expressions, which might be commended to the consideration of many greater sovereigns:—"A free press offering the only means of forming public opinion, and being more especially needful to a country which has chosen the path of progress, able also often to instruct the Government itself as to the wants of the nation, I entreat my administrative Council to give its immediate and serious consideration to this subject, and to prepare a bill which may be submitted without delay to the general Divan."

IRELAND.

THE IRISH JUDICIAL BENCH.—The High Sheriff and Grand Jury of the county of Longford have sent addresses to the three judges, Pennefather, Torrens, and Lefroy, whose alleged incapacity for their office on account of age and infirmities, was brought before the notice of the House of Commons by Sir John Shelley. The object of these address was to sympathise with the judges and to express undiminished confidence in their intellectual powers.

THE TIPPERARY BANK.—The wide-spread ruin which must inevitably ensue from the collapse of this Bank continues to be the one absorbing topic of conversation in Ireland. Mr. James Sadleir, the suicide's brother, is greatly pitied, as he has been completely beggared. All the shareholders in the bank, moreover, are liable to an utter annihilation of their worldly fortunes. Under the Joint-Stock Act, each shareholder will not only lose the amount of his individual share, but will be made liable, to an unlimited extent, for the debts of the concern. Even those who have retired from the bank—unless they have done so for three years—are still liable. Messrs. John Massey, Thomas Dwyer, and William Chadwick, who are professionally employed for a large body of the creditors, have issued a circular, calling a meeting of depositors and creditors, to consider what steps shall be taken by the general body of the creditors. In reference to this circular, Messrs. Morrogh and Kennedy, solicitors, have published a statement of the reason why they caused a petition to be presented to the Court of Chancery. They write:—"Our object is simply to place the banking company under the operation of the Winding-up Acts, which afford remedies applicable to the English shareholders, as well as those resident in Ireland, the former constituting the majority; and the orders of the Irish Court of Chancery being capable of enforcement by the English Court to compel payment of calls sufficient in amount to discharge all obligations of the bank, just as if made directly by the latter Court." One of the Masters in Chancery will have the exclusive management of the winding-up of the affair. The *Dublin Evening Mail*—a bitter opponent of the late Sir Robert Peel—gives that statesman great credit for his foresight in setting a limit to banks of issue in Ireland: except for which Sadleir would probably have issued notes to any extent he desired, and would thus have caused even greater ruin than that which has really ensued. The Master of the Rolls (Ireland) has declared that the Tipperary Bank shall be wound up and dissolved. His Honour, who said that the fraud was of a character so gigantic that no living being had ever seen the like, read extracts from the report issued by the bank to the shareholders at a meeting held on the 1st of February, 1856, in which it was stated that the assets of the company were equal to £100,000, whereas it appeared to him that those assets would not exceed £35,000; that Mr. James Sadleir, the sole manager and director, had permitted his brother, the late John Sadleir, to overdraw £200,000, by which the bank had become a defaulter to the amount of £400,000, while at that very period, on the 1st of February last, Mr. James Sadleir declared the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., and a bonus of 3 per cent. to the shareholders, carrying over £3,000 and upwards to the reserved fund, which was represented to be £17,000, and further representing the bank to be in a flourishing state.

SEIZURE OF A RAILWAY UNDER EXECUTION.—It appears from the Cork papers that a seizure of the plant of the Cork and Bandon Railway, at both termini of the line, has been made by the city and county high sheriffs, under two executions for different amounts, one of which was for more than £3,000 at the suit of an English firm. The taking possession was merely formal, the sheriffs being satisfied with a receipt of an inventory of the property.

MURDER.—A Mr. Callaghan, the owner of some landed property at Ballinruane, has been murdered while returning at night to his house. His skull was smashed to pieces, and positively pounded into a hollow in the earth on which he was lying. It is alleged that he had recently ejected some of the occupying tenants, and had introduced a Scotch steward.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE accounts from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday show great general steadiness in all departments of trade. At Manchester the extent of business has been moderate, but stocks do not accumulate, and prices are consequently well maintained. The Birmingham advices describe no alteration either in the iron trade or the other occupations of the district. At Nottingham, although the animation has not been quite so great as in the previous week, an excellent business has been transacted, and the chief complaint is of a scarcity of hands. In the woollen markets there has been firmness, with a tendency to improvement; and in the Irish linen trade the transactions have been large at full prices,

the demand for labour being greater than the supply. —*Times.*

THE LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.—Mr. Robert Keating, M.P., and Mr. James Rhodes, have resigned their seats in the direction of the London and County Bank, and Mr. J. W. Burmester has been appointed a trustee in the place of Mr. Rhodes.

THANET UNION INDUSTRIAL FARM.

WE are enabled to publish the annual balance sheet of the Isle of Thanet Union Industrial Farm.

Abstract of Garden Account (the produce of Twelve Acres), for the year ending November, 1855.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Stock brought forward	190	12	0			
Balance of Implements	10	0	0			
				200	12	0
Pigs bought	48	11	1½			
Food for ditto	148	7	3			
Rent, Tithes, and Rates	33	14	6			
Tradesmen's Bills	6	8	6			
Sundry Seeds	3	14	7			
Plants	2	2	10			
Sundries	3	1	9½			
				246	0	7
Ten per cent. on Piggeries	7	0	0			
Grains from House	3	4	0			
House Manure	5	0	0			
Coal	3	0	0			
Straw	8	0	0			
				26	4	0
Balance				105	15	1½
				£578	11	8½

Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Pigs Sold	258	2	9			
Potatoes	42	17	3			
Green Peas	2	16	0			
Parsnips	0	3	0			
Cabbages	2	18	6½			
Onions	1	0	6			
				307	18	0½
Cabbages Consumed	16	4	0			
Potatoes	62	0	0			
Parsnips	10	10	0			
Onions	6	3	0			
Turnips	1	2	6			
Broad Beans	1	14	0			
French Beans	2	2	0			
Green Peas	2	2	8			
				101	18	2
Valuation by Messrs. Manser and Dadds	154	15	6			
Balance of Implements	14	0	0			
				168	15	6
				£578	11	8½

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance, November, 1854				13	17	4
Received on Garden Account	304	6	0½			
Due on ditto	3	12	0			
				307	18	0½
Other receipts				5	4	2½
				£326	19	7

Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Paid on Garden Account	246	0	7			
" to Treasurer	40	0	0			
" other Payments	8	13	8			
" Balance, Nov., 1855	28	13	4			
" due on Garden Account	3	12	0			
				326	19	7

We having valued the Stock and Crops in hand, and examined the foregoing Accounts, certify that it is correct.

WILLIAM MANSEY.
JOHN DADD.

An error in last year's balance-sheet makes the present apparently not so favourable; but the real difference is inconsiderable. The actual balance in money is of small moment in comparison with the advantage of keeping idle hands employed, checking the tendency to resort to the union through mere idleness, and teaching those who are dependent upon it how to become independent. The good effects are peculiarly visible in the boys, who, in favourable weather, pass an hour or two of industrial farm-training daily. The consequence is, that when they are put out into the world, they know how to handle a spade, understand something about the rotation of crops, and a few other things connected with agriculture and floriculture. No fewer than seventy boys have been trained and sent out into the world during the six years that the schoolmaster has been in office. We are informed that all these boys are now doing well, as soldiers, sailors, clerks, shopboys, &c. Tradesmen and employers prefer a Union boy to others born among the poorer classes of the district, because they are better educated.

We are glad to state that the guardians of the Thanet Union fully appreciate the valuable services of their schoolmaster, Mr. H. G. Holloway, and have

elected him Governor, on the retirement of Mr. E. Wootton. The retiring governor has held the situation for sixteen years, and has during that time won the esteem and regard of the ratepayers, the guardians, and the poor who had been dependent upon the Union. He withdraws to cultivate a farm which he has purchased near Dover.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

NURSES AT NAVAL HOSPITALS.—An Admiralty order just promulgated directs a considerable increase in the pay of nurses in the naval hospitals. It is to be hoped that a better class of attendants on the sick will thus be attained.

WRECKS ON THE WELSH COAST.—An immense quantity of wreck has been washed up along the shores of the Welch coast, a great portion of which has been recognised as forming part of the vessels recently lost with lamentable sacrifice of life. In the Bay of Cardigan a large amount of timber has been picked up, and it is feared that during the late heavy weather more vessels were lost than were reported, as several have been missed. The bodies of those lost in the Catharine Jenkins have been recovered. No doubt is entertained as to the fate of the crew of the French ship *Buono*, lost at Porthcawl, as bodies, no doubt forming part of the crew, have been washed ashore.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen and Prince Albert, last Saturday, visited the National Gallery in company with the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice. On her return to Buckingham-palace, the Queen received forty-three of the Guards who have come home wounded from the Crimea. The men, after the reception, were regaled in the lower dining-hall. The King of the Belgians is expected on a visit to the Queen, to be present at the confirmation of his god-daughter, the Princess Royal.

WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS TO PRODUCE THE BODY OF A CHILD SUPPOSED TO BE DETAINED IN A NUNNERY.—On Tuesday last Mr. Cook Evans instructed by Mr. Clarke, of Bedford-row, applied to Mr. Justice Crompton, at chambers, for a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of Mary King, the mother of Mary Ann King, who it was supposed was detained in the Norwood Nunnery. The affidavit of the mother (who is a Roman Catholic) stated that when her husband died in 1850 she placed her child in the Nunnery at Norwood for two years; after which there was an intimation of her being sent abroad, to which the mother strongly objected. A request was then made to allow the child to remain six months longer, to which the mother consented. The child after that saw her mother always in the presence of a nun; and at length, when the mother began to express her determination to take her child home, she was only allowed to see her child through a lattice work or grating. Finally, the mother, was refused permission to see her daughter at all. At the latter end of last year the mother met one of the priests, and asked him concerning her daughter, and the priest said that her daughter had been sent to France some months since. The mother applied to a magistrate, who could not assist her. She was then recommended to apply to her attorney, Mr. Clarke, who went with her to the convent and demanded her daughter. The nuns replied that she was not there, but had been sent to France twelve months previously. Mr. Evans urged that if this *habeas corpus* was not effectual the law of this country was a complete blank to the mother, and to any parent under similar circumstances. His Lordship granted the writ, which he made returnable at his chambers on Monday next.

ENCLOSURE OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH.—A special meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works was held yesterday morning at the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Mr. J. Thwaites in the chair, to receive deputations from the vestries of Hampstead, Marylebone, and St. Pancras, "On the subject of the adoption of measures for securing Hampstead Heath for the recreation of the public," in consequence of the bill now before Parliament, to give Sir Thomas Marion Wilson, Bart., power to enclose and build on this Heath. The memorial from Hampstead urged upon the board the necessity of their speedily interfering in this matter, and adopting measures for the purchase of the ground in question. The cost of the three hundred and ten acres was estimated at £100,000, and the memorial suggested that the approaches to the heath should be improved. It also enforced the necessity of an application to Parliament by this board, in accordance with the clause in the Metropolitan Board of Works Act. Applications had been made to Government on this question; and on the last occasion the deputation was told to wait and lay their case before this board, which was then in contemplation of being formed. The deputation from St. Pancras concurred in the recommendations mentioned in the Hampstead memorial, and added that the expense should be defrayed by a general rate on the inhabitants of the metropolis. The deputation

from Marylebone also concurred in the prayer of the Hampstead memorial, and approved of the suggestion of the deputation of Marylebone with regard to providing the money necessary to secure Hampstead Heath for the public. The deputation then retired.

THE BEDFORD-ROW MURDER.—Weston, the murderer of Mr. Waugh, is, by the decision of the Home-office, to be condemned to penal servitude for life. The jury, it will be remembered, found him guilty of the murder, but also found that he was "predisposed to insanity."

SUICIDE OF A LARGE BRICKMAKER.—Mr. William Rhodes, an extensive brickmaker, has committed suicide, after suffering severely from mental depression. An inquest has terminated in the usual verdict of temporary insanity.

SIR GEORGE GREY'S POLICE BILL.—The court of Common Council, on the advice of its Consolidated Committee, has resolved to petition the Government against the Home Secretary's Police Bill, on the ground of its centralising tendency.

RUTLAND ELECTION.—The Hon. G. H. Heathcote, son of the retiring member, now a peer, was on Tuesday elected at Oakham, without opposition, to represent the county of Rutland.

THE UNITY BANK.—The subscribers of the Unity Bank have completed the requisite payment of 50 per cent. on its capital of £500,000, and it is stated that, immediately on the receipt of its charter from the Board of Trade, which is expected in the course of the present month, the Bank will commence operations.—*Times' City Article, Wednesday.*

THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—The shareholders of the Eastern Counties Company at their meeting on the evening of Friday week, adopted the report so far as relates to the rate of distribution, and, with regard to the election of directors, a poll has been demanded. The discussion throughout was of a turbulent character, a strong feeling being exhibited against a continuance of the late management.

THE NATIONAL REFORMATORY UNION.—A meeting of this society—the object of which is to extend and encourage the present movement in favour of the reformation of criminals—was held last Saturday afternoon. Several members of Parliament and persons of high station were present; the report was adopted; a deputation was appointed to wait on Prince Albert, to request his co-operation; and a motion was carried, appointing a sub-committee, for the consideration of the two bills with relation to Scotch and Irish reformatories now before Parliament.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 1. LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT. HOUSE OF LORDS.

THEIR Lordships sat only for a short time, and merely advanced one or two Bills a stage. In the early part of the evening a Royal Commission was held and the royal assent given to two Money Bills.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ROAD THROUGH ST. JAMES'S-PARK.

Sir B. HALL brought up the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the question of a road through St. James's-park. It stated that they rejected the plan which proposed that the road should pass through the park; as well as another which passed through part of the Green-park; and they recommended a road passing from Pall-mall, by Marlborough-house, and continuing along the roadway in the Mall in the park, and thence to Buckingham-gate; they recommended a foot-bridge to be thrown over the water in St. James's-park; that the Duke of York's column and the steps be removed, and an opening for carriages from Trafalgar-square into the Mall be made.

SHAVING ON SUNDAY.

In answer to Mr. MURROUGH, Sir G. GREY said he had inquired into the case of Joseph Wolstoneham who was fined for shaving a man on a Sunday at Oldham; but he had no power to remit the fine; that the person on whom it was inflicted had not complained, and that it was an arrangement among the barbers of Oldham not to shave on Sundays, and it was at their instance that the present offender was brought before the magistrates.

METROPOLIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE protested against the bill brought

in by the Attorney-General to amend a provision of the Metropolis Local Management bill of last session, but he was stopped by the Speaker on the ground that the bill was one of the orders of the day and ought not to be discussed. He, however, persisted, and urged that the amendment bill would neutralise the intention under which the original bill was passed. He hoped it would not be brought on late that evening, and begged that it might be postponed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the bill was only intended to make clear doubts raised on the operation of the Bill relating to vestries, and to prevent heavy litigation which was impending over the parishes of the metropolis.

THE GRAVES OF THE BRITISH OFFICERS IN THE CRIMEA.

Sir J. FERGUSSON inquired whether a pledge would be taken from Russia not to disturb the graves and monuments of the British officers and soldiers in the Crimea, in the event of the Allied Armies evacuating their present position.

Lord PALMERSTON said the subject would be attended to in the negotiations, and he thought there could be no difficulty in getting an assurance from the Russian Government, that the graves in question would be respected. He paid a tribute to the generous conduct of the Russians during the war, and especially alluded to their conduct after the victory at Kars.

Sir DE LACY EVANS pointed out that the population of the Crimea had been ruined by the war, and that certain portions of ground should be set aside and guarded and a rent-charge paid for it, with a view to preserving the graves in question.

THE APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

On going into Committee of Supply, Mr. BOWYER rose to bring the question of the condition of the Appellate Jurisdiction of the House of Lords.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates.

The Estimates occupied the House till one o'clock. The other orders were quickly disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past one.

THE TURKISH REFORMS.

We learn (says a letter from Vienna in the *Post Gazette* of Frankfurt) that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has presented a note from the English Government, asking the Porte to allow, as a guarantee for the promised reforms, the occupation by English troops, for an indefinite period, of Varna, Gallipoli, and Candia. It was thought at Constantinople that, if this question be discussed at Paris, Russia will oppose it. Reinforcements are no longer directed on Kamiesch, but on Maslak. Marshal Pelissier has been summoned to Paris.

THE BALTIC.

Two Russian war-steamer, accompanied by three gun-boats, have got out of Sweaborg by breaking the ice. These ships have appeared in the Baltic.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT (YESTERDAY).

Frederick Quennell, a supernumerary at the Surrey Theatre, was tried for a murderous assault, within the building, of William Hurcum, a dresser and assistant. He was found guilty; and, though recommended to mercy by the jury on account of some provocation which they "believed" he had undergone (though none was specified), he was condemned to ten months' imprisonment, the last week to be in solitary confinement.

James Sydenham, a wheelwright, has been acquitted of a charge of killing a little boy eleven years of age. They were at the Surrey Theatre; and the man, in order to induce the boy to sit down instead of standing on a bench, pinched him in a delicate part of his person. The child died from peritonitis; but the medical man could not say that he might not have died without the injury.

BOSTON ELECTION.—Mr. Ingram has been returned for Boston. He supports Lord Palmerston.

THE LATE FIRE AT COVENT-GARDEN.—Prince Arthur visited the ruins of the theatre yesterday, and, say the penny-a-liners, exclaimed "How dreadful!" It is hard to say which is the most child-like—the exclamation or the chronicle of it. Of the two, the first was certainly the more natural. The Duke of Cambridge also visited the ruins.—Mr. Hingston, treasurer to Mr. Anderson during his late management will have a benefit at the Lyceum Theatre, on Tuesday next. The members of the Covent-garden company will perform, and an address written by Mr. Robert Brough will be delivered. The courageous conduct of Mr. Hingston at the fire deserves all reward.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION OF GENERAL OFFICERS.—The board of general officers formed to inquire into the Crimean report of Sir John McNeill and Co Tulloch, will hold its meetings in the Great Hall the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

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. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest. ERRATUM.—In our last number, in "Sadleir our Witness," for "James Sadleir," read "John Sadleir." ERRATUM.—In the "Review of the Week," for "Sir William Heathcote," read "Sir Gilbert John Heathcote."

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 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.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

ONE of the most difficult of the questions developed by the Russian war is that which involves the political settlement of the Danubian Principalities. The idea of Statesmen is to create from the territories of Moldavia and Wallachia a separate, but not, strictly, an independent State which, by forming the debateable ground of Austrian and Russian interests, shall act as a breakwater to the Turkish Empire. Austria and Russia have long contended for supremacy on the Danube, the possession of which, by Russia, would exclude Austria from the East, and the possession of which, by Austria, would fix the limit of Russian encroachments. But neither of the rival powers is friendly to the Ottoman Empire; by both has that Empire been attacked and enfeebled; to both, her mouldering decrepitude offers a prospect of political and commercial gain. The problem is, then, to confer on the bordering provinces of the Danube such a constitution and such guarantees as shall be honourable to the Porte, which has Imperial claims, just to the Moldavians and Wallachians, who have national and natural rights, satisfactory to Russia and Austria, which have conflicting interests, and appropriate for the solution of the great European difficulty which has called the Plenipotentiaries to Paris.

This is not a case in which the rights of the disputants admit of positive definition, or in which any of the interests avowed can be literally acknowledged. In point of equity, the first claim is that of the people themselves who inhabit those valuable provinces. They are four millions in number, industrious, pacific, attached to the Christian faith, qualified in many respects for political franchises. As the flower of the Roumanian race, the descendants of TRAJAN'S legions, they stand full in the light of history; and though, wedged in between three great military empires, they have not been able to preserve their independence—they have lost only what it was impossible to keep. They have no Alps or Caucasus to fortify their national liberties; their territory is a rich plain, bordered by one of the largest rivers in Europe, attractive to ambition, with open valleys forming outlets to the armies of the great monarchies around. Since the repeal of the Corn Laws by Great Britain, these Principalities have acquired unparalleled importance as feeders of the trade in grain; but the policy of Russia has been

exerted systematically, and in defiance of international law, to diminish their exports, to repress the culture of the land, to isolate the people, and thus to confer a factitious prosperity on Taganrog and Odessa. Therefore England has a double interest in securing the integrity of the Danubian provinces,—a political interest, involving the safety of the Turkish empire, a commercial interest involving the general freedom of trade.

Superficially, it is easy to assert the maxim that, all nations having a right to independence, the Roumanians should be endowed with a separate political existence; but from this it would merely result, that the States would be torn in pieces, between the conflicting ambition of Russia and Austria. The only method by which they can be attached to the political system of Europe, without being merged into the Austrian or Russian dominions, would be by preserving a link between their government and that of Turkey. We assume, of course, that for some years Turkey will have Turkish rulers. When that phase has disappeared, the Principalities might be incorporated in an Eastern Federation. But, dealing with *de facto* elements, the war, which was undertaken in support of Ottoman independence, could not be concluded by an act of violence upon the Ottoman empire. We can conceive, therefore, no better means of securing the new Danubian frontier, than by constituting Moldavia and Wallachia separate or united States, and restoring the relations that originally existed between them and the Porte. It was through the gradual decomposition of those ties that the Russian protectorate encroached, that the Hospodars were corrupted, that the Danube fell under an alien sway.

These relations date, in the case of Wallachia, from the year 1392, and in the case of Moldavia from the year 1513. The two Constitutions differed only in points of detail,—the one being imposed by compulsion, the other accepted as an act of grace. That which was compulsory formed the precedent, stipulating that the Prince should retain the right of peace and war, life and death; that his territories should be inviolate; that the Ottoman Government should not claim the extradition of Christian refugees; that Wallachians and Moldavians emigrating into provinces of the Turkish empire should be exempt from the Haratch, or capitation tax; that the Christian princes should be elected by the Metropolitan and the Boyards; that they should render tribute to the SULTAN, who, in return, should be their supreme protector.

The principle of this relation was—imperial supremacy on the one hand, domestic independence on the other. So long as the people elected their own princes so long the states flourished; but when, through Russian and Austrian machinations, the elective system became extinct, and the Phanariote nominations supplanted it, the principedom of Wallachia or the principedom of Moldavia became a saleable dignity, and the highest bidders at Constantinople raised their nominee to the vicarious throne. Between Russian opulence and Turkish cupidity, only one result was possible, and this is the practice which the Councillors of the Porte, even before the declaration of an armistice, recommended to the Plenipotentiaries. They propose to restore the ancient constitution of the Danubian states, so far modified that the Metropolitans and Boyards should elect three candidates, one of whom should be adopted by the SULTAN. This would be nothing more or less than to open a mart of principedoms, in which if the highest purchaser happened to be an agent from St. Petersburg, his candidate would obtain the investiture. But is the war to end

by entrusting to the incorrigible cupidity of Turkish officials the safeguards of the Turkish empire?

Even this scheme, however, would be preferable to the inane device of inviting some tenpenny bastard of a German royal house to seat himself upon a Danubian throne. We do not want another "little kingdom" patched up from the ruins of Turkey. The idea has been favoured by a corrupt section in the Principalities; but we have reason to think it has been positively rejected by the Western Powers. Some of the Ionian Greeks have also countenanced it, adding an invitation to the scion of royal Belgium to hold himself in readiness for the reversion of an empire. But these are infatuations not shared by statesmen. The frontier of the Danube and the independence of Moldavia and Wallachia were, in former times, secured by liberal constitutions attached to the central government of the Porte, and we see no better solution of the existing difficulty than the re-establishment of a system which, while it lasted, satisfied the provinces, and protected the empire.

FOURTEEN RUSSIAN TREATIES.

RUSSIA has concluded fourteen important treaties since the commencement of the century. If, by a fifteenth, signed at Paris, she renounces a strip of territory between the Dnieper and the Danube, it will be her first territorial concession within fifty years. An act of political abdication, in reality, contradicts the historical policy of that Empire. In former wars, when Turkey was a great power, she twice succeeded in extorting the submission of her ambitious neighbour,—at Faltis, in 1711, when the CZARS surrendered Taganrog and Azoff, and at Belgrade, in 1739, when they conceded the neutrality of the Sea of Azoff, and the independence of the two Kabardas. But, since that period, Russia has invariably gained by a peace. She has made two treaties with Sweden,—one in 1809, at Fredericksham, by which Finland and the Aland Islands were acquired—another under a clause in the General Settlement at Vienna, by which these acquisitions were confirmed, in addition to large conquests in Lapland.

The course of her diplomacy in Poland is familiar to all historical students. At Tilsit she acquired the province of Bialystok, at Vienna the investiture of the Polish crown, and five separate territories, successively conquered.

With the Ottoman Empire she has concluded seven treaties; some negotiated with Turkish plenipotentiaries, others imposed on the Porte as absolute decrees. By the first, in 1801-2, she detached Mingrelia, Georgia, and Imeritia from the feudatory territories of the Empire; by the second, at Bucharest, she acquired Bessarabia, part of Moldavia, and the borders of the Pruth, which she is required, at the Paris Conference, to surrender. Under this Convention, also, she eradicated the military supremacy of the Turks in Servia, brought the navigation of the Danube under her own control, and laid the basis of a mischievous influence in the Moldavian and Wallachian Principalities. All these privileges were ratified by the Treaty of Vienna, and by that of Akerman in 1826 they were extended. Russia seized upon two of the Danubian islets, established a formal protectorate in the Principalities, and asserted a political participation in the affairs of Servia.

In 1829, the treaty of Adrianople secured to Russia the mouths of the Danube, with large territories in the Black Sea, and in Asia riveted her influence upon the Christian populations, extended her frontier on the Pruth, and con-

solidated the results of her intrigues in Greece. At Unkiar-Skelessi, in 1838, Turkey almost engaged to become, in the event of war in Eastern Europe or Western Asia, the tributary of Russia, accepted her protection, excluded her own Mohammedan subjects from the Principalities, ceded additional territories in Asia, and paid an immense indemnity. The closing of the Dardanelles, in 1841, was her last act of submission before the war of 1853. This war, if it be now concluded by a treaty at Paris, will have had, in one sense, at least, an unparalleled result. Turkey will have surrendered no territories to Russia; Russia will have gained nothing from Turkey. But Turkey will have been drawn still further down the slope of her long decline, and will, in future, be a dependent and powerless supplement to the diplomatic organisation of Europe.

The relations between Persia and Russia, as modified by successive treaties, have been in the nature of simple concessions on one side, and conquests on the other. By the Convention of 1814 (confirmed in 1815), Russia acquired all the territory between the Caucasus and the Araxes, with the domination of the Caspian, and by that of Turco-Man-chai the provinces of Eriyan and Nakshivan, besides an indemnity of two millions sterling. With China Russia has, during the century, concluded one important treaty—that of 1853—by which the exclusive navigation of the Amoor was conceded to her, with an immense tract of country, including the gold-bearing slopes of the Zablouni, between that river and the Zablouni, or Stanivoi ranges.

Are we, then, really to witness a receding movement on the part of Russia? Will she in future direct her energies to the development of her internal resources, and the consolidation of her vast dominion, instead of seeking new conquests across weak frontiers? It may be that the policy of the Emperor ALEXANDER II. is inspired by motives dissimilar from those of the Emperor NICHOLAS, but a Russian Czar must be true to the traditions, and to the national tendencies of the Russian empire, or he creates only an hiatus, his reign is neutral, and the concentrated power of his race will, upon his death or deposition, operate by the same process as before upon the territories of surrounding nations. For ourselves, we do not believe that the war, which has been interrupted by the general momentum of Europe in favour of peace, has been so decisive in its effects, as to close one great historical period, and to open another with new characteristics and tendencies. The military development of Russia is not yet complete; her naval development has only begun, and will have been irreparably impaired, if the disarmament of the Euxine fortresses, and of the Aland isles is insisted upon, in perpetuity. Sweden on the side of the Baltic, Turkey on the side of the Mediterranean, China on the side of the Pacific, shut her out from the important seaboard, which have been the historical objects of her aggressions. Persia and the states of central Asia close the military road to India, the independent nations of Tartary intervene between her boundaries and the richest provinces of China.

Has this political and diplomatic war, with local, limited, transient objects, extinguished that principle of conquest by which Russia has prospered, and which has made her the bugbear of Europe? It has not; neither the principle of conquest, nor any other principle, has been kept in view.

ARMY REFORM DEBATES.

GENERAL EVANS invited the House of Commons, on Tuesday, to debate on the sale and purchase of Commissions in the British Army.

He moved for an inquiry by a Select Committee of the House; there was a pretty general conviction that inquiry, at least, can no longer be evaded, and the gallant mover consented to adopt the suggestion of the Government, that a Royal Commission should be appointed to pursue the investigation instead of a Committee. We quite concur in that decision. Committees of the House of Commons are very good for some things, but a fairly appointed Commission will do the work in hand much better than a Committee.

The maintainers of the existing system cannot congratulate themselves on the issue of the debate. Say what they will, the appointment of a Commission is a popular concession forced from the Government by public opinion. On the side of rational views of promotion were to be found, not only the veteran GENERAL who led the debate, but the aristocratic representatives of Liberalism and young Toryism—Lord GODERICH and Lord STANLEY. That is, of itself, a sign which the powers that be will do well not to disregard. On the other hand, the defenders of the system as it is, were Mr. FREDERICK PEEL, from whom we might have desired better things; Colonel LINDSAY, the champion of the exclusive privileges of the Guards, and the author of the famous *Peter Grievous Guards' Memorial*, and Colonel NORTH, who is a well-intentioned nobody. Then again, although he advanced some considerations in opposition to arguments used by the reformers, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT did not, like Mr. PEEL, go the whole hog for "the system," neither did Mr. PEEL's chief, the noble Premier. Both admitted that inquiry would be useful; both admitted that abstractedly the system is indefensible; both contended that it has its advantages as well as disadvantages; and both pointed to the expense of abolition—treating the expense, however, as a matter that should not deter the House one moment in abolishing the system, if that measure were wise and expedient. Let us have inquiry by all means; and let us hope, with Lord STANLEY, that the result of the inquiry will be to extinguish the system of purchase in the army in five years.

Some points in the debate offer matter for comment. Mr. PEEL, with that agreeable facility which characterises his discourses, challenged his opponents to point out the abuses of the system. Why, the very existence of such a system is a gigantic abuse. Is it no abuse that persons can buy a vested right in the public service? Is it no abuse that wealth can command what efficiency, long service, unusual talents cannot command—promotion? A wise Government would so organise its army as to offer every inducement to able men; would seek out and seize upon them in every class and every corner of the empire. A wise Government would say—"Come unto me, all you that are able and willing, whether you have money or have none, and I will take the best of you;" not "Come unto me all you, that have a passing caprice and wealth to satisfy that caprice, and I will permit you to buy what I deny to merit." That some men are admitted who cannot furnish cash is only the forced homage which a corrupt system pays to good sense and sound principle; it affords no valid plea for the system. The damning fact is, that public places are legally bought and sold, and the "dishonour to England," as General EVANS called it, is that men in office not only practice but defend the system under which such acts can be perpetrated.

Again, Mr. PEEL tells us that—it shows the reduced state of the opponents of army reform, when Mr. PEEL is the great champion of the *status quo*—the son of ROBERT PEEL tells us that if we abolished the system of buying places

of public trust, and adopted a system of combined selection and seniority, no Government would escape the charge of favouritism. But the champion of the right to buy and sell public offices forgets that we have favouritism now in full blossom, combined with a disgraceful traffic. He forgets that the reformers propose to take precautions against favouritism, stiff and rigid precautions—severe tests and practical examinations. It is alleged by the reformers that the sale and purchase of Commissions prevents a high standard of education in the army. And what is the reply? That it need not prevent the application of the most rigorous system. Need not! But it *has*. Not one supporter of the existing system of traffic in Commissions dares to say that one of the main obstacles to the improvement of army education has not been the sale and purchase of Commissions. And the reason is plain. The ruling powers require that the army should be officered by men from certain classes. Those men, in a great degree, enter the army as "birds of passage"—we owe the phrase to Mr. HERBERT—they do not intend to make the army a life profession, and it would not answer their purpose to submit to severe study in order to fit them for commanding her MAJESTY's troops for a few years. This class, for whom the system is maintained, desire an easy mode of admission, and an easy mode of exit. They find it in the purchase system. Their whole game would be spoilt if the service were made what it should be—a severe and honourable labour—a profession for life.

The fact is, the whole system will not bear the light of day. We want admission by merit, and promotion by merit. We want a solid basis for our army—adequate military instruction for every officer who accepts a Commission. But so long as the sale and purchase system exists, so long we shall not have that security for a good army which is so imperatively required.

WOMEN AND LAW REFORM.

LORD PALMERSTON and Sir GEORGE GREY have, in the most distinct manner, given their adhesion to the principle which we stated last week as the only means for the settlement of the Sunday question, and they have applied the principle to a cognate measure. The purpose of the proposed amendment in Sir WILLIAM CLAY's bill for the Abolition of Church Rates, is to transfer the settlement of the question from the Ecclesiastical Courts, the Courts of Common Pleas, the House of Lords and Parliament, to the parishes. The parishes are told that they shall themselves determine whether or not they will have church-rates levied amongst them; and in each parish the adverse decision, if it be sustained with sufficient pertinacity, is to be final. It will be perceived how completely this enactment establishes the position which we laid down last week, that the laws of this country are the embodiment of customs already adopted by the will of the people,—that the liberties of the English people have in all cases been taken first, and registered afterwards in what we are pleased to call "Charters."

The very same principle applies to the observance of the Sabbath, and we may refer to Lord PALMERSTON and Sir GEORGE GREY as inferentially and morally confirming the advice that we gave last week. Let the people arrange such modes of observing the Sabbath as they please for themselves, and a discreet House of Commons will, at the proper day declare it to be law that the people shall observe the Sabbath in the mode that the people have dictated.

The same principle applies to all the soci-

relations of life, where a sufficient force of numbers, and a sufficient weight of concurrent opinions can be brought to bear. The principle applies particularly to that question which is somewhat absurdly called "the rights of woman." We know no rights of woman that are separated from the rights of man. There is no injury inflicted upon the one that does not recoil upon the other. If the Turk keeps woman in subject slavery, the Turk himself becomes a degenerate slave. The brightest days in the history of ISLAM were those when the Saracen of Spain was a model of chivalry, when ABD-ER-RAHMAN imprisoned the contumacious fair behind a wall of loose gold ingots, from which she could release herself by appropriating the precious bricks. The laws of ISLAM might give to the Saracen King the right of coercing the lady's will, but a higher law deprived the Prince of the power; and in obedience to that higher law, he rendered himself a greater, a stronger, and a happier man. That principle of social vitality holds good at the present day, and will hold good as long as plants grow and men breathe. The law holds good most especially in the vitality of all relations that exist between man and woman. The man who can absolutely and literally carry out the rule to demand nothing and yield everything, shall exercise a sway such as no despot can attain. It is remarkable that in commerce alone has the sound principle of governing been freely developed, and that an absolute trust in the free working of the natural convictions, affections, and necessities of educated men, has been permitted to bring forth the fullest results of civilisation.

At present we have to deal with a chaotic state of opinion, where antiquated prejudice mingles with the crudest aspiration. We have ladies and gentlemen pressing upon Parliament petitions framed in every conceivable spirit; we have reformers demanding the laws of the millennium, while our highest authorities are declaring themselves unable to grapple with the absurdest relics of the middle ages. We have already related the case of TALBOT *versus* TALBOT. One of the most respectable judges on the Irish bench had given a judgment based, as we believe, upon misconception; he took up the allegations in lieu of the evidence, and delivered judgment on the case asserted instead of the case proved—that is, on a case *not* before him. Resting on the high character, the learning, and probity of the judge, the other judges have declared it impossible to reopen the question; and judicial courtesies close the door against justice. In the natural order of things, the husband ought to have proceeded to the House of Lords for the purpose of civilly confirming and settling the divorce which he had obtained ecclesiastically: he had suspended that ulterior stage, and no appeal on behalf of the wife seemed to be possible. Here was a distinct grievance, and the friends of the lady went to the House of Commons, the proper resort in all grievances of the people. The very appeal spontaneously taken up by Mr. JOHN GEORGE PHILLMORE was treated as a scandal. It was an interference of the Commons with the judges, they cried. It was, however, really an appeal to the Commons for making good a defect in the state of our law. It happens, luckily, that the husband does proceed in the House of Lords, and we shall, therefore, have a higher appeal. Justice is rendered to the one party only through the accident that the opposing party is willing to make the appeal. This is in itself a crying wrong, and an illustration of the infamous state of the law.

The state of the law does but mark the state of public opinion, and the state of public opinion is disgraceful, because the public which

has an opinion on the subject, of one kind or other, indulges the vices of cowardice, hypocrisy, and procrastination. If our matrimonial law, as it now exists, has been designed in perfect wisdom, Lord CAMPBELL is right; we ought to have new enactments in order to punish people who depart from it in the least degree. Gretna Green is, as that learned Scotch-English-Irish Lord-Chancellor Chief-Justice declares, an abomination. The English people looks solemn and shakes its head, as if nodding the opinion that Lord CAMPBELL is right; but as to its *customs*—let us look around, from Gretna Green to the Consistory Court, and ask what *they* are? There is every variety of laxity under the veil of hypocrisy. "The rights of woman!" Why, there can be nothing but the *wrongs* of woman, and of man, where profligacy, veiled in the cowl of hypocrisy, dispenses statutes which give licence under cover of prohibition. It is not Parliament that denies the rights of woman, but men themselves, women themselves.

The practical question at the present day is, whether the public as a body is prepared to render justice to the component parts of itself as individuals. We have had many cases of the grossest injustice for which, chivalry apart, the simple spirit of equity ought to make us demand redress. It still is the law that the woman accused of matrimonial infidelity has no effectual position before the tribunal; it still is the law that the fault which is alleged against the woman, can in very few instances be alleged against the husband: the English love of fairness has not yet settled that point. We published the other day a petition signed by several ladies, showing how women are debarred from equal rights over their own property: mere tradesmanlike probity ought to make us call for a redress of that grievance. In many States of the American Union the consent of the wife is required before the husband can part with family property, even though it come through himself—marriage being recognised there as giving more than a one-sided community of interest. If a girl is deceived, the only redress is through some fiction, by which it is pretended that her father or somebody else "loses her services." Society has settled that a husband may marry his sister-in-law after the death of his wife, but Society has neglected to make Parliament register that law. The jurisdiction in matrimonial cases is still reposed in those ecclesiastical courts that have become a joke, a scandal, and a disgrace to the country. There is abundance of interest in these questions, plenty of latent public opinion, numbers enough to influence a Parliamentary vote, if those who have these reforms at heart would only speak out and come together. But they live in terror of that conservatrix of all abuses—"Mrs. GRUNDY!"

OXFORD MANICHAËISM.

OXFORD will not tolerate a Christianity that is reconciled to human understanding, or to the instincts implanted in us by the Author of our being. The intellectual head of the Church which calls itself "of England," revolts from any new light that would convert it and its dogmas to a consistent Christianity. Oxford has just made a demonstration—has performed a studied "mystery" before the world, for the express purpose of setting itself right. We have already mentioned the really great and beautiful idea thrown out by Mr. JOWETT, which so completely reconciled a fundamental doctrine of the Church of England to the broadest principles of religion, to the doctrines of other sects, and to the Catholic and Eternal Church of Humanity. Through the Atonement, argued Mr. JOWETT, God is not reconciled to humanity by the satisfaction of

revenge, as some feigned heathen deity might be; and even man can forgive a debt. In the sacrifice of Jesus perishing for the attestation of a truth, man is reconciled to God. "God is unchangeable; it is we who are reconciled to Him, not He to us." There is no difficulty in understanding this interpretation: it is consistent with all of truth which limited human nature is permitted to know; and so far as that particular doctrine is concerned, the new construction removed every barrier between the Church of England and the Universal Church. It necessarily offended those whose idea of religious truth lies in the unintelligibility of doctrines, and the exclusiveness of forms. The accusers were found; J. D. MACBRIDE and C. P. GOLIGHTLY recorded an appeal to "Mr. VICE-CHANCELLOR," saying, "These passages appear to us to contain doctrines contrary to that of the Church of England, as set forth in her Articles of Religion and Book of Common Prayer." Mr. VICE-CHANCELLOR at once put BENJAMIN JOWETT to the test, by calling upon him to sign the Thirty-nine Articles over again. He signed them. It does not appear to have occurred to J. D. MACBRIDE and C. P. GOLIGHTLY, that if this plain and simple understanding of the Atonement were contrary to the Thirty-nine Articles and the Prayer Book, it was so much the worse for the Thirty-nine and the Book; but it seems there are means of reconciling this, the desiderated Fortieth Article, to the others, since the author of the Fortieth can again affix his signature to the Thirty-nine. It is not for us to understand how the feat was accomplished; the process is reconditely effected *animo imponentis*. Sufficient for us the fact, that an intelligible, natural, and religious view of the Atonement has found its expression within the Church of England. A great fact, we say; but Oxford will not tolerate the reconciliation.

If Mr. JOWETT had refused to sign the Thirty-nine Articles, the Pharisees that reside on the junction of the Thames and Isis would probably have made him a new sacrifice for the sake of truth; but as he disappointed them of that opportunity, they were forced to take a different course. Wanted, a Champion; and one was found, in Dr. EDWARD MEYRICK GOULBURN, Head Master of Rugby School, Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of OXFORD. He mounted the ecclesiastical rostrum, struck his apostolic fist on the pulpit (drum ecclesiastic), and made it resound again with the true rataplan of Church parade. On the first Sunday in Lent he preached before the University of Oxford his sermon "On the Goodness and Severity of God as manifested in the Atonement;" and the counterblast is published "by request of the VICE-CHANCELLOR." Here, then, is the manifestation of Oxford against BENJAMIN JOWETT.

"We must," says Dr. GOULBURN, "ascertain that we are rooted and grounded in the 'principles of the doctrine of CHRIST,' for assuredly unsoundness of the groundwork would vitiate the whole structure of our religious belief. We must be careful to accept, with the utmost simplicity, the intimations of the Holy Scripture. We are children,—natural instincts, and even our so-called moral sense, are no safe guides; childish notions and puerile instincts as little help us to understand the doctrine of the Vicarious sacrifice, as the little child of an Alpine region can understand the severity of the father that makes him walk at a distance on the ice to disperse the weight, and buries him in the snow, to shelter him from the night cold. Nay, it is part of God's dealings with us, to try us by our moral sense. He would have us firmly believe, that He is love, goodness, wisdom, holiness, justice, truth. Believe, I say, and *not see*. To the Patriarch ABRAHAM He put the ques-

tion,—‘When my testimony diverges from what seems to you righteous, which will you follow, me or your moral sense?’ And in ABRAHAM’S case the command was only a trial, to probe the depths of the Patriarch’s heart, never designed to be executed. The origin of the Atonement is to be sought in the righteous wrath of God against sin; for sin strikes a blow at the authority of God, and so at the order of the universe. The more perfect the character, the more doth it *abhor* anything that is evil. Holiness would banish sinners for ever from his presence, by an antipathy deeply seated in his nature. A representative of the whole human race is constituted, upon whom went forth the whole curse of God. It was not a sweet savour offering for acceptance, but as a burnt offering for expiation, and the wrath and curse of God visited the sin bearer with a death specifically different from every other death the world has ever witnessed,—more insupportable; for when the light of God’s countenance was withdrawn from Him, *all was withdrawn.* *Non noster hic sermo.**

We need scarcely notice the shallow presumptions which crowd our abridged citations. Dr. GOULBURN forgets that the instincts which he contemns are given to us by the Divine Author, whose purpose in the creation Dr. GOULBURN undertakes to explain, as if he had been there at the time. He forgets that the child has positive knowledge of his father’s consistency; and that where his knowledge fails, his *instincts* teach him loving trust and obedience. Who told him that it is part of God’s dealings to try us by our moral sense; who that we must believe and not see, when the millions of things that we see go on, and we ourselves, go on, whether we believe or not? Who taught him that it is necessary for the All-seeing to try the faith which is in the heart? Who taught him that antipathy is a Divine attribute or that “abhorrence”—the rising of the hairs upon a skin contracted by cold or fear,—is possible to a Divine nature? Who that sin or anything else can strike a blow at the authority of God, or disturb the order of the universe; which, so far as we can see, can understand, believe, or conceive, is never for one instant stricken, arrested, or disturbed? Dr. GOULBURN revels in paradox, works himself up into a dogmatic frenzy, and borrowing the theory of Jewish sacrifice, undertakes to explain the doctrines of the new dispensation in a fierce and sanguinary jargon, as wild as Delphic rhapsodies, but coarser and meaner.

There is indeed one argument into which abhorrence positively forbids our entering; it is the argument that unless the subject of this sermon were more than a martyr in the intolerable agony of the suffering endured, he was something less than a martyr; for we are told of “shrinking,” “dread,” “anguish of mind” unknown to the martyrs of the Church, to men, to feeble women, or even to SOCRATES! There is the gross suggestion of a contrast here, which is hazarded in the very insolence of dogmatism.

And this is the picture which Oxford paints of *The Martyr*; this is the Oxford interpretation of the Atonement! We will not characterise it. All who can apprehend its hideous meaning, where the red light comes through the dark cloud of mystic nonsense, must be driven to take refuge in the mild and simple light, which BENJAMIN JOWETT has thrown upon the subject, and in which the believer

* The Sermon is published in London by JOHN HENRY and JAMES PARKER; we could wish that every one of our readers should procure it, and study it for himself. We have greatly abridged the passages quoted; we have, however, used none but Dr. Goulburn’s words, and we believe that we have not warped his meaning.

even of the Church of England, can walk reconciled to the Creation and to its Divine government.

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON.

AN HISTORICAL STUDY.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—To realise the future in the instant—to see an event as it passes in the same aspect which it will wear some twenty years hence, is a thing notoriously difficult. Nevertheless, an attempt of this sort is generally amusing, and may be instructive. I was present in the House of Lords on the first night of the Wensleydale Peerage debate, and so struck was I with the whole scene, that I have been tempted to set it forth as an historical study. Some future historian may perhaps write thus:—

About this time a number of the *London Gazette* appeared announcing that her Majesty had conferred upon Sir James Parke, one of the most distinguished judges on the Bench, the dignity of Baron Wensleydale for the term of his natural life. Hitherto the peerage had been hereditary. Forthwith the Press teemed with arguments in favour of the innovation of life-peers, and against it. Parliament had scarcely assembled when the leaders of Opposition denounced the proposed change, and predicted the destruction of the Constitution. At length notice of a motion on the subject was given, and a thousand conjectures as to the result of that motion distracted the town.

Accordingly, on Thursday, the 8th of February, 1856, the House of Lords presented a scene as striking as it was instructive. The substantial question was, whether it was legal and constitutional for the Queen to create life-Peers, who should sit and vote in Parliament. The Lords were alarmed; the public were interested; the galleries and the bar of the House were crowded with spectators. The occasion was no common occasion, for it might be the opening of a conflict between prerogative and privilege.

To see the venerable Lyndhurst, four-score and upward—the wreck of one of the handsomest men in his time—led in tottering and half-blind to that seat amongst the hereditary Peers of England which he had won by his transcendent but prostituted abilities, rise in his place, and for nearly two hours, without a single memorandum, sustain a learned and elaborate argument in defence of his order, with the same delightful voice, the same unflinching eloquence, and the same persuasive perspicuity with which he had charmed that House some thirty years ago, was a spectacle which those who witnessed it will not easily forget. Nor was this the only memorable incident in that debate in which the Lords put forth all their strength to repel this attack made upon a wealthy hereditary order by the intrusion of life-Peers, however illustrious. Of a truth the champions were strangely marshalled. There stood Edward Sugden—the precocious child of the Truefitt of his time—once a barrister’s clerk, now the Coke of his day, eager in defence of his long-desired, but late-acquired hereditary dignity, side by side with Edward Geoffrey, fourteenth Earl of Derby, who, in his vehement passion to maintain the purity and the dignity of his order, not only ennobled the blood of the long-neglected Sugden, but adorned the ranks of the Peerage with all the amphibious scions of his house. There, on the benches opposite to his early friend and political associate, Lansdowne—that aged and consistent Whig—stood the fantastic Henry Brougham, his tongue once the denouncer of kings, the trumpet of revolution, the idol of his countrymen, now more sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. There stood plain John Campbell, some fifty years ago a stranger in London, the friendless son of a Scotch Presbyterian minister, who, by sturdy perseverance and solid ability, at length achieved the descent from the Gallery of the Reporters to the steps of the Throne—revealing by his every look and gesture the struggling story of his early life, but yet speaking on behalf of hereditary nobility with all the weight of the Lord Chief Justice of England—side by side with George Douglas Campbell, the eighth Duke, Marquis and Earl of Argyll, and with Henry George Grey, Earl Grey, the representative of an ancient and illustrious house—the champions of the new creation. To see the noblemen of yesterday clamorous for hereditary honours, and the noblemen of ancient lineage willing to admit into their ranks Peers for life, may to some men seem strange. But, in truth, the thing is admirably natural. Had I the pen of the Preacher I might lament over human vanity; had I the pen of

Swift, I might anatomise human weakness. To the wise man my reflections would be tedious, to the dull man useless. Therefore, let the curtain fall. * * * C.

AMENDED STATUTES.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Oxford is laughing in her sleeve at the public, who think she is becoming liberal.

Will it be believed that in the amended statutes of Corpus, published last week, it is laid down that the college shall contain “two Acolytes, or at least such as have the *first clerical tonsure*?” That besides, every fellow shall not only declare his conformity to the Church of England, but that any time after his election he may be tried ‘for heresy’ by the senior members of the college, who may deprive him of his fellowship. But he may appeal; and to whom does the reader think? To the Bishop of Winchester; and to no other. That is to say, a High Church majority among the fellows, if secure of a High Church bishop, may glut their personal or religious spite against a Reforming, Low, or Broad Churchman, and deprive him of his income without possibility of redress.

In Exeter’s amended statutes we find the following (Stat. iii. art. i.):—“No one may be elected a fellow except members of the Church of England or of some Church in communion with it.” “After all,” the Wesleyan may say, “this is fair enough.” Not so fast, my good sir; you don’t belong to any Church at all; you have no bishops, no apostolical succession. The sons of our “erring sister” of Rome, or of Holy Russia, these, though not all we could wish, we would receive and cherish; but a profane vulgar of middle-class schismatics, to come between the wind and our orthodox gentility—we have not quite come to that yet.

Moreover, “If any fellow shall cease to be a member of the Church of England, or of some Church in communion with it, it shall be lawful for the visitor to proceed to the deprivation of such fellow.” Now this visitor is the Bishop of Exeter. Whoever disbelieves in baptismal regeneration is considered by that prelate to be no member of the Church of England. How on such a point this worthy can unite the bullying tone of the schoolboy with the pedantry of the schoolmaster, your readers know; yet in the Gorham case an appeal lay against him to the Privy Council. Now, whatever moderation he may have thought it prudent to exhibit will not be needed; for Oxford proposes to settle her own matters at once and secretly, and not to trouble the public with the wearisome details of a public trial.

One more extract, from another college. “If it become known to the rector (of Lincoln) and to the majority of the fellows, that any fellow has maliciously and contumaciously favoured any heretical opinion in public or private, he shall be removed from our college for ever, unless within six days he submits himself to the rector and humbly undergoes correction.”

Sir, *odium theologicum* is a plant that needs little cultivation. Yet these “amended statutes” are most skilfully preparing the field and the soil, where it may excel, as it has hitherto excelled, the rankest and most prolific growths of England. The worst of the Oxford Statutes were rapidly becoming obsolete. By pruning some of the most harmless, the rest will sprout with renewed and most pernicious strength. The fact is, Oxford has throughout grossly abused the patience of a country tolerant of her follies, because fond of her antiquities. For the last two centuries she has been the one fatal obstruction to the enlargement of the Church, and the nationalising of education. When open defiance of Reform would avail no longer, she has seen the policy of bawling to the storm, of spontaneously amending her statutes, and of securing privately a firm footing for future aggression and annoyance. But if the splendid revenues of Oxford are ever to be national, and if every earnest and independent thinker is not to be a prey to the blind instincts and zealous pedantry of Oxford Common Rooms, let Mr. Heywood call the attention of Parliament to the *London Gazette* of Feb. 9th, containing the “amended statutes,” the first fruits of Oxford Reform. I am, Sir,

Oxford, Feb. 22. Your obedient servant,
OXONIENSIS.

ANOTHER EMPEROR.—The world counts one Emperor more. Kass, brother-in-law of one of the petty kings of Abyssinia, after dethroning his relative, has assumed the Imperial crown, under the name of Theodore I.

AUSTRALIA.—Trade, according to the last account from Australia, was in a more flourishing condition than it had been; and the reports from the gold fields are highly satisfactory, the yield being large, and the miners in a prosperous condition. The new constitution has been proclaimed at Melbourne. Sir Charles Hotham, in his speech on the opening of the Legislative Council, said he believed the colony would be nearly free from debt by the end of the year.

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*.

"NOTHING is easier than criticism." A more popular or more foolish saying it is not easy to find. The currency of the fallacy is secured by the obviousness of the fact that men find it easy to criticise. But this no more proves criticism to be easy, than the abundance of bad painters, bad sculptors, bad architects, bad musicians, and detestable poets, proves Art to be easy. No one doubts the facility with which bad criticism may be produced; but good criticism is as rare, perhaps even rarer, than good art.

La critique est aisée, l'art est difficile,

said DESTOUCHES, in a neat epigram which has been incessantly quoted; and quoted even by Frenchmen as having been said by BOILEAU; though if the reader will turn to the comedy of *Le Glorieux*, he will find the line there, with many other happy lines: among them, this also usually attributed to BOILEAU—

Chassez le naturel, il revient au galop

(how superior to the *naturam expellas furcā tamen usque recurret*, which is miserably weak)!

To return to Criticism, which LONGINUS—

Who was himself the great sublime he drew—

(he wasn't, but the line is a good one) declares to be the "last result of abundant experience," and which every one who reflects awhile will see to be a very rare and admirable result, we cannot wonder if its reputation has been tarnished somewhat, and itself pronounced a thing easy, futile, and impertinent, seeing on the one hand that bad specimens have been abundant, and on the other that bad artists have had an interest in decrying it. When some one in the presence of SOPHIE ARNOULD said, "*Aujourd'hui l'esprit court les rues*," the witty creature retorted, "*C'est un bruit que les sots font courir*." When we hear, as we often hear, that "Criticism is easy, art difficult," we are tempted to exclaim, "that is an opinion which bad artists promulgate." It is natural that the criticised should think meanly of the critic, unless the critic is complaisant. But consider what an union of faculties good criticism demands: it must understand clearly and feel keenly; it must be almost as sensitive to beauty as the artist, and must be able to explain what the artist is able only to feel. A great critic is a marvel; a good critic is rarer than a good artist; bad critics are indeed no rarity, but the bad artists outnumber them. Does any one suppose that a RUSKIN, for example, is more easily produced than a whole body of R.A.'s? Will any one maintain that Germany has not produced more great names in art than in criticism, and that a LESSING and a WINCKELMANN are not rarer products than a CORNELIUS, a SCHWANTHALER, a HUBNER, or a KAULBACH? We are not setting criticism above art, nor even in any degree on a level with it. We are not greatly impressed with the value of criticism, even when most admirable. We point simply to the fact that it is rare, and not easy.

In truth criticism, even of a mediocre kind, is not very abundant; abundant, indeed, are the essays and reviews 'about and about' a book, picture, statue, or opera; but judgments thereon formed after thorough examination, and pronounced with clear honest calmness, are naturally rare. Journals cannot pretend to deliver such judgments. Even supposing we, the journalists, were gifted with the requisite knowledge and the requisite faculties, the limits of a journal, and the necessary haste of journalism, would prevent our judging every work according to fixed principles; and the broad impartialities of evidence. We are but "tasters" for the public; our criticisms are but "printed talk." If we can say what we have to say honestly, and let it stand for no more than the opinion of one man, our office is performed. Nor are writers in Magazines and Quarterlies much better. They have indeed the requisite leisure and the requisite space, but they seldom occupy the one or fill the other with real criticism. It is easier to write an essay. It is easier to write about a subject. The case is seduction, and criticism is seldom attempted.

This *plaidoyer* in favour of criticism suggests an excuse for the shortcomings which we foresee in our notice of the Magazines this month. Perhaps the reader thinks our monthly task of magazine-reviewing is an easy one. Strange error! Easy? Why, over and above the inherent difficulties in all criticism, there are other extraneous difficulties worth mentioning. The Magazines have to be read; and that is not easy, as any one will vouch who tries. Then the multiplicity of subjects, and the exiguity of our limits would bewilder and oppress the most confident mind. We have but one resource. When a man's correspondence becomes unmanageable he adopts the simple plan of not answering letters; and the majority of letters then answer themselves. We shall adopt this plan, and instead of criticising, simply note here and there an article which suggests a comment.

In *Frazer*, for example, there is a curious paper on "The Caxtons and *Tristram Shandy*," curious, as showing with minute detail how closely BUTLER has imitated the manner, characters, and incidents of STERNE (which, indeed, most readers were fully conscious of in a general way, but which this paper proves to be far greater than we imagined), and almost as curious in the supposition with which the writer starts, that "few of the

present generation, we dare say, have ever perused *Tristram Shandy*;" a supposition which actually leads him to give a biographical sketch of STERNE by way of instructing an ignorant public. In what hermitage can this writer have lived that he should fall into such gratuitous suppositions as this?

In *Blackwood* there is an account of MONTEIL, the author of *l'Histoire des Français des Divers états*, which is extremely interesting, partly for the glimpse it gives us of MONTEIL, and partly for the description of his history which we have often seen noticed, but which this article, by giving us a distinct idea of what the book is, has made us anxious to read. Here is an example of "literary tasting" and its service. Before spending money and patience on a history, one is glad to know what manner of book it is; and there are books of a certain kind which are always worth their cost, no matter how poor the mere literature may be.

In *Putnam's Monthly* we were, not unnaturally, attracted by an article on the *Life of Goethe*, it being instructive to see what our Transatlantic friend have to say on that subject. The writer has a profound admiration for GOETHE, and a slightly mitigated contempt for the biographer, whose 'shallowness' he thus discriminatingly rebukes:—

The critical parts of it we cannot estimate very highly. Mr. Lewes's principle of art are so superficial, founded as they are on the shallowest of all philosophies when applied to the deeper problems of art, that his judgments of Goethe's work are not always worthy. Their more obvious rhetorical qualities he feels and appreciates; but their interior significance, their real artistic value, he often misses. Cherishing a kind of phobia, as every Positivist must, against everything that does not lie on the surface as plain as the nose on your face, and having adopted, at the outset, that stupid commonplace of some of the Germans, that Goethe was a Realist, while Schiller was an Idealist, he flurries and flounders before the Wilhelm Meister and the Faust, like a frail coasting shallop suddenly driven far to sea. He persists, too, in trying to measure the vast billowy water with the line and lead that may have served him so well among his native creeks and inlets.

And subsequently:—

Without dwelling, however, upon the mere literary excellence of Goethe's performances, or even attempting a general characterisation of his literary genius, I proceed to explain why he is called so emphatically the artist of his age. It is the more important because his biographer, true to the behests of an incompetent philosophy, seems to ignore this as part of the matter altogether, and stands dumbfounded in the presence of the pervading symbolism of Goethe's writing. A work of art, as well as a product of nature, is to him a simple fact, having relations to other facts, but no inward spiritual meaning. He is, therefore, perpetually quarrelling with what he terms the mysticism of Goethe (although he has already pronounced him a great realist), and is pained at the obvious lapse of his faculties in the latter parts of the Meister and the Faust. But this "mysticism" is as much a part of his being as his clearness of vision, or his serene wisdom, and demands as much the nicest study on the part of his critics.

And that our readers may not lose the benefit of the profound insight which this critic has himself attained we conclude with a passage which follows the description of the second part of *Faust*:—

This is, of course, the very meagerest outline of Goethe's richly varied magnificent representation—like a single thread drawn from a tissue of cloth of gold—and yet we venture to say, that it will not fall upon the reader with a stronger sense of the impotence of the conclusion than the original does, amid all its splendid accessories of music and picture. For everybody must feel, how much soever he may be impressed by the miraculous vigour and variety of the poem, that it nowhere strikes the highest key; that it nowhere utters the demiurgic word; and that the mass and beautiful world it builds up in the realm of thought is, after all, a bubble world, destined to no continuous life, as in gorgeous sunset we see innumerable coloured lights dart and flash among the gold and silver-edged clouds, but we not behold the sun. Glimpses there are of the great open secret of destiny, that high doctrine of spontaneous labour for the good of others, in that immortal line—

"Das Ewig-Weibliche zieht uns hinan;"

but the author has not surrendered himself fully and joyously to its divine inspiration. Neither he nor his age felt, though it might have seen, nor does age feel while it sees, what was proclaimed eighteen hundred years ago, that of the heart are the issues of life; that goodness is greater than truth; that action is better than culture; that wisdom is only wisdom in so far as it is a manifestation of love.

We are sure Mr. LEWES will share the critic's regret that GOETHE "now utters the demiurgic word" (whatever that may be—perhaps the *κοῦρὸς* of the Eleusinian mysteries as practised in America?) and we trust that LEWES will at once discard his incompetent philosophy in favour of demiurgic depth. The only difficulty which strikes us is geometric, namely, how, in that case, will he correlate the Infinite?

AFTER DARK.

After Dark. By Wilkie Collins, author of *Basil*, *Hide and Seek*, &c. Two volumes. Smith, Elder and Co.

After Dark is not, as many may suppose from the title, a novel representing scenes of life which shun the daylight—a series of pictures representing haunts and ways of the night-birds whose existence is the scandal of civilisation—but a series of stories told by an Artist to his wife, when the day is done, the children are in bed. The stories, with one exception, have all appeared in print, and having been much admired, Mr. Collins very naturally thought of republishing them in some convenient form. But judging the luckless attempts almost uniformly made to frame a series of stories connected narrative, it would seem that next to the rarity of a new invention in the shape of a story, is the rarity of a new and acceptable invention in the shape of a fiction which shall introduce a series of stories. Instead of an extra charm, an additional interest, the canvas is usually a necessary impertinence, a screen of opaque verbiage. Mr. Wilkie Collins has happy in his choice of a thread whereon to string the pearls. Without coming the main difficulty, without making us forget that the thread is a

thread, he has so contrived it that we feel an independent interest in it, and read it almost as eagerly as the stories themselves. A poor wandering portrait painter is afflicted with inflammation of the eyes which prevents his working; his family is thus reduced to destitution; and in the very depths of their helplessness the idea occurs to his wife that if he would only dictate to her, 'after dark,' the various strange stories he has heard from some of his 'sitters,' an interesting work might be produced, which would bring them money enough to keep the wolf from the door until his eyesight is recovered. This is told in the pages of the wife's diary. The prologues to each story give us glimpses of the various sitters, and are the pretexts for some happy description and humorous sketching.

The first story is quite perfect in its way. It is the "Terribly Strange Bed," which will be read with a breath-suspended interest, due as much to the direct and forcible telling as to the nature of the story itself. The second story, "The Stolen Letter," is also one which will not let you move till it is finished, but which labours under the disadvantage of being a reminiscence of Edgar Poe's "Purloined Letter," with a slight reminiscence of the "Golden Beetle;" although the characters and incidents are different, the principle of construction is the same in both Poe's and Mr. Collins' stories.

The third story, "Sister Rose," reads as if it had originally been a drama, and subsequently turned into a narrative. If this be so, the author has not sufficiently attended to the great distinction between dramatic and narrative exposition. He has crowded the story with incidents and 'situations'—some of them very powerful, without attending to the necessary preparation and development of character and motives. The sudden change in the moral character of Lomaque is very like the conversions of the stage, and very unlike reality.

The "Lady of Glenwith Grange" is so well told, and the interest so prepared, that we feel lamentably disappointed on coming to so feeble and commonplace an ending.

"Gabriel's Marriage," on the contrary, is masterly, in conception, in detail, and in working out. The scenery, the characters, the incidents, the language, all aid in the vivid presentation of an intensely interesting story. It is the best story in the work and the finest we have read for many a long day. The last story, "The Yellow Mask," is also very thrilling, and up to the final chapters told with perfect art. But, towards the close, invention flags. The incident of Nanina overhearing Brigida and the Priest confess their crime is as stale as it is unreal; and a much finer unravelling of the mystery had already been indicated when the sculptor first perceives that a cast has been taken of his bust: had this clue been followed a more striking dénouement might have been found.

Mr. Collins possesses a rare faculty: *l'art de conter*. No man living better tells a story; but there is one fault into which his very excellence leads him, and which is worth his attention. He is so intent, so concentrated, that he is forgetful of the great art and charm of 'relief.' Fixing his mind upon the construction of his story, and, in his intent eagerness, disregarding whatever does not help him to the thorough working out of his plan, he avoids the common error of story-tellers, namely, the superfluous descriptions, unnecessary dialogues, and interrupting incidents. But while never superfluous, he is generally too uniform. A little more play of light and shade would make both light and shade more effective. His stories remind us of Alfieri's dramas. Shakespeare, though a more dangerous model, and often himself prodigally superfluous, is in his finest plays the true model of relief—as of every other art.

SOUTHEY'S LETTERS.

Selections from the Letters of Robert Southey. Edited by his Son-in-law, John Wood Warter, B.D. In 4 vols. Vols 1 and 2. Longmans.

AMONG the misfortunes of celebrated men must be reckoned the misfortune of having sons, sons-in-law, brothers, or cousins, who have neither the talent which justifies their assuming the office of biographer, nor the sagacity to perceive that a modest relinquishment of their claims in favour of some one who could do justice to the life of their illustrious relative, would be greatly for their own benefit and their relative's fame. Southey's *Life* might have been a work of lasting interest had some skilful editor undertaken to arrange its materials, as Tom Taylor did for the *Life* of Haydon. Southey's *Letters* might have served to fill a corner in our gossiping literary history, had they been entrusted to the judgment of some one who could form an opinion on what should and what should not appear. But entrusted to Mr. John Wood Warter, we feel constrained to say that they will form one of the most useless and unreadable works which ever tempted the patience of a public. Mr. John Wood Warter, as he appears in these volumes, is a singularly foolish and incompetent person. He cannot write, and cannot even be dull and unassuming, but insists upon being assuming as well as dull. Read this sample of ostentatious and unnecessary information, from the preface:—

For the few foot-notes I am responsible, and they are as few as possible, not being myself a convert to the custom of overlaying an author with unnecessary disquisitions, or be-Germanised Excursuses, albeit long ago not unread in German literature of all sorts, especially theological; and from my long residence in Copenhagen, as Chaplain to the Embassy, not unversed in Danish and Swedish lore, and in the exquisitely curious Icelandic Sagas.

Now who on earth cares whether Mr. John Wood Warter is read or "unread in German literature of all sorts," or that he resided in Copenhagen, and there became "not unversed in Danish and Swedish lore?" Why does he thrust this upon our notice? Is it to justify his supremely foolish note on Southey's desire for a "wishing cap," which induces him to inform the reader that the *Tarnkappe* is a mantle rendering the wearer invisible (here follows a citation from the *Nibelungen*): the reader not at all needing to have 'wishing-cap' explained, because every child is familiar with *Fortunatus*, and if needing an explanation, not finding it in the *Tarnkappe*. We will give one more specimen of the editor, and then leave him to the laughter of his readers. He prints some letters written in French, and appends this note:—

These, and other letters of the same sort, are printed to show the playfulness of Southey's disposition. The French is like the French he used to talk on his travels. He talked it boldly, and shrugged his shoulders *à la merveille*. I have not altered one grammatical error,—the specimen is complete.

The letters are poor enough in matter for any one but such an editor to have rejected them on that account; and their French is ludicrous enough in all respects, but we should be curious to see what would have been the "corrections." Mr. John Wood Warter would have made, because in the single phrase he has jauntily thrown into the note just quoted, the French is as queer as any in Southey's letters.

Of Southey's letters here printed not a third deserve to see the light. A poorer letter writer we cannot name. He travelled, and his letters are as dull from Lisbon as from Bristol; he saw strange and illustrious people, and his accounts of them are not more graphic than a penny-a-liner would furnish. He is prodigal of dreary verse, meant to be humorous, and of feeble jokes, which may have exhilarated his son-in-law, whose humour probably is supplied by Danish and Swedish lore, but which British readers will receive with stolid gravity. The only interest in the letters is the occasional glimpse into the literary life of the period, nothing surpasses, in our estimate, the single line about Wordsworth going to the Marchioness of Stafford's rout "in powder, and with a cocked hat under his arm." Think of that, Spirits of Rydal and Windermere!

Southey's critical opinions are amusing—e.g., "Kotzebue seems to me of unsurpassed and unsurpassable genius." There are also some pleasant passages about himself; many betokening a solid and colossal opinion of his genius; many, also, betokening the kind and simple nature of the man. Here is a quotable passage:—

There are three classes of people in whose society I find pleasure—those in whom I meet with similarity of opinion, those who from a similarity of feeling tolerate difference of opinion, and those to whom long acquaintance has attached me, who neither think nor feel with me, but who have the same recollections and can talk of other times and other scenes. Accustomed to seclusion, or to the company of those who know me, and to whom I can out with every thought as it rises, without the danger of being judged by a solitary expression, I am uncomfortable amongst strangers. A man loses many privileges when he is known to the world. Go where I will, my name has gone before me, and strangers either receive me with expectations that I cannot gratify, or with evil prepossessions that I cannot remove. It is only in a stage-coach that I am on an equal footing with my companions, and it is there that I talk the most and leave them in the best humour with me.

What will mothers say to this?

I had a daughter Edith hatched last night; for she came into the world with not much more preparation than a chicken, and no more beauty than a young dodo. Edith went to sleep at four after dinner, rose uneasy at half after five, retired to her room at half after eight, and before ten she and her child were two. They are doing well, thank God, but the young one is very, very ugly; so ugly that, if I did not remember tales of my own deformity, how both mother and grandmother cried out against me, notwithstanding my present pulchritude, I should verily think the Edithling would look better in a bottle than on a white sheet. She may mend, and in about three months I may begin to like her, and by-and-by I suppose shall love her; but it shall be with a reasonable love, that will hang loosely upon me, like all second loves. *Make you no comment upon this.*

One of the most curious character-sketches in the volumes is this of Hartley Coleridge as a child:—

I am perfectly astonished at him; and his father has the same sentiment of wonder and the same forefeeling that it is a prodigious and an unnatural intellect,—and that he will not live to be a man. There is more, Danvers, in the old woman's saying, "he is too clever to live," than appears to a common observer. Diseases which ultimately destroy, in their early stages quicken and kindle the intellect like opium. It seems as if death looked out the most promising plants in this great nursery, to plant them in a better soil. The boy's great delight is to get his father to talk metaphysics to him,—few men understand him so perfectly;—and then his own incidental sayings are quite wonderful. "The pity is,"—said he one day to his father, who was expressing some wonder that he was not so pleased as he expected with riding in a wheelbarrow,—"the pity is that I've always thinking of my thoughts." The child's imagination is equally surprising; he invents the wildest tales you ever heard,—a history of the Kings of England, who are to be. "How do you know that this is to come to pass, Hartley?" "Why you know it must be something, or it would not be in my head;" and so, because it had not been, did Moses conclude it must be, and away he prophesies of his King Thomas the Third. Then he has a tale of a monstrous beast called the Rarbezze Kallaton, whose skeleton is on the outside of his flesh; and he goes on with the oddest and most original inventions, till he sometimes actually terrifies himself, and says, "I've afraid of my own thoughts." It may seem like superstition, but I have a feeling that such an intellect can never reach maturity. The springs are of too exquisite workmanship to last long.

Again:—

It is not easy to conceive, what is perfectly true, that he is totally destitute of anything like modesty, yet without the slightest tinge of impudence in his nature. His religion makes one of the most humorous parts of his character. "I'm a boy of a very religious turn," he says; for he always talks of himself, and examines his own character, just as if he was speaking of another person, and as impartially. Every night he makes an extempore prayer aloud; but it is always in bed, and not till he is comfortable there and got into the mood. When he is ready he touches Mrs. Wilson, who sleeps with him, and says, "Now listen!" and off he sets like a preacher. If he has been behaving amiss, away he goes for the Bible, and looks out for something appropriate to his case in the Psalms or the Book of Job. The other day, after he had been in a violent passion, he chose out a chapter against wrath. "Ah! that suits me!" The Bible also is resorted to whenever he ails anything, or else the Prayer-book.

THE DUTCH REPUBLIC.

The Rise of the Dutch Republic. A History. By John Lothrop Motley. 3 vols. John Chapman.

THE Dutch had not been recognised as an independent nation before they undertook the conquest of insular Asia. While the Spanish Crown still claimed them as subjects, the Spanish fleets were eclipsed, and while the empire of Spain was shaken in the West, that of Holland began to rise in the East. In the remote Archipelago of Asia, to which the courage and the genius of William the Silent pointed, as the last refuge of the Hollanders from the alternative of despair, Houtman and his successors created a circle of rich colonies that Spain and England envied, and these adventurers pursued their enterprises in the Indian waters before the conflict at home had

ceased, before Leyden had been restored, or the traces of blood and fire had been obliterated in Haarlem. But the spirit of the people was not displayed in Asia alone, though their native borders were, for half a century, menaced by the Spanish arms, though, after thirty years of terror, they had to endure fifty years of insecurity. When Mr. Motley writes the second half of his narrative, it will be less dramatic than the first, but it will not be less instructive. It will exhibit the restoration of an exhausted country, a nation in which not a family had escaped the general sorrow, preparing the prosperity of a happier generation—building new cities, founding new colonies, establishing a powerful navy, giving to the low and narrow provinces of Holland and Zealand European rank and historical renown, creating the spice trade by sea, and, unhappily, perpetrating in the East crimes of as deep a dye as it had avenged in the West.

Mr. Motley has searched the whole range of historical documents necessary to the composition of his work. He has, in no place, spared himself the labour of minute and critical authentication. In a warm and varied style, deepened occasionally by the use of strong lights and shadows, he narrates the epic story of the victory obtained over the empire of Charles the Fifth by the fortitude of the small Netherlands nation, driven by oppression almost to frenzy, but never to despair. It was the law of the Riparian Franks, that when a free woman married a slave, she was to be presented with a distaff and sword. If she chose the distaff she was condemned to perpetual bondage; if she chose the sword, she was to strike her husband dead, and claim her liberty. Thus the Hollanders, thriving in their servitude, had to choose between the fair cities that had enriched them, and the freedom that had been alienated by Spain. They preferred to be free, and, for years, gave up their industry and their wealth, and struggled for independence in the midst of unutterable calamities.

The History of Terror would be a ghastly but an instructive book. It should present a comparative view of the epochs in which rulers have sought to paralyse opposition by cruelty. Among these, the epoch of the Inquisition in Holland would be one of the most appalling, exhibiting cities devastated until neither life nor chastity remain, men torn to shreds by engines of torture, women set apart in hundreds to adorn the final triumph of the siege, and then to perish in agonies of shame and affliction: children scourged to death for having learned heterodoxy in monosyllables, the labours of ages destroyed, and cultivated lands given back to the sea, to promote the glory of a Church, and to feed the pride of a king. On the other side, the Hollanders inflicted upon themselves worse than inquisitorial agonies for the sake of free thought and free speech; and, to resist an imperial tax, taxed themselves to tenfold its amount. This heroic conflict is described in all its variations by Mr. Motley, who has drawn upon a number of independent sources; the elephantine folios of Bor, twenty-eight Dutch, Flemish, Spanish, and Italian chronicles, the reports of the Venetian ambassadors, the correspondence of the Orange Nassau family, the documentary outlines of the Hague, Brussels, and Dresden, and the unpublished histories of Pontus Payen, Renon de France, and Pasquier de la Barre. With these full but conflicting records under his hand, he has constructed a systematic and copious history, abounding in merits and defects, in graces, conceits, and frivolities. Thus, some of his chapters are headed severally, "A Mortal Combat and Fatal Triumph," "The First Whirlwind," "Blood Shed and Spared," "Prudent Philip," "A Tenth Penny and a Model Murder," "The Antwerp Fury ripens the Ghent Concord," "The Under Side of the Cards," "The Outlaw's Return," "Sterile Conferences and Teeming Intrigues," and "Watchful William." These are puerilities. It is well for Mr. Motley that his book is composed with more judgment than his "Table of Contents." This picture of the massacre of Antwerp is effective:—

In front of the famous Exchange, where in peaceful hours, five thousand merchants met daily to arrange the commercial affairs of Christendom, there was a determined rally, a savage slaughter. The citizens and faithful Germans, in this broader space, made a stand against their pursuers. The tessellated marble pavement, the graceful cloister-like arcades, ran red with blood. The ill-armed burghers faced their enemies clad in complete panoply, but they could only die for their homes. The massacre at this point was enormous, the resistance at last overcome.

Meantime, the Spanish cavalry had cleft its way through the city. On the side farthest removed from the castle, along the Horse-market, opposite the New-town, the states dragoons and the light horse of Beveren had been posted, and the flying masses of pursuers and pursued swept at last through this outer circle. Champagne was already there. He essayed, as his last hope, to rally the cavalry for a final stand; but the effort was fruitless. Already seized by the panic, they had attempted to rush from the city through the gate of Eker. It was locked; they then turned and fled towards the Red-gate, where they were met face to face by Don Pedro Tassis, who charged upon them with his dragoons. Retreat seemed hopeless. A horseman in complete armour, with lance in rest, was seen to leap from the parapet of the outer wall into the moat below, whence, still on horseback, he escaped with life. Few were so fortunate. The confused mob of fugitives and conquerors, Spaniards, Walloons, Germans, burghers, struggling, shouting, striking, cursing, dying, swayed hither and thither like a stormy sea. Along the spacious Horse-market the fugitives fled onward towards the quays. Many fell beneath the swords of the Spaniards, numbers were trodden to death by the hoofs of horses, still greater multitudes were hunted into the Scheld. Champagne, who had thought it possible, even at the last moment, to make a stand in the New-town, and to fortify the Palace of the Hansa, saw himself deserted. With great daring and presence of mind he effected his escape to the fleet of the Prince of Orange in the river. The Marquis of Havré, of whom no deeds of valour on that eventful day have been recorded, was equally successful. The unlucky Oberstein, attempting to leap into a boat, missed his footing, and oppressed by the weight of his armour, was drowned.

Meantime, while the short November day was fast declining, the combat still raged in the interior of the city. Various currents of conflict, forcing their separate way through many streets, had at last mingled in the Grande Place. Around this irregular, not very spacious square, stood the gorgeous Hotel de Ville, and the tall, many-storied, fantastically-gabled, richly-decorated palaces of the guilds. Here a long struggle took place. It was terminated for a time by the cavalry of Vargas, who, arriving through the street of Saint Joris, accompanied by the traitor Van Rode, charged decisively into the mêlée. The masses were broken, but multitudes of armed men found refuge in the buildings, and every house became a fortress. From every window and balcony a hot fire was poured

into the square, as, pent in a corner, the burghers stood at last at bay. It was difficult to carry the houses by storm, but they were soon set on fire. A large number of sutlers and other varlets had accompanied the Spaniards from the citadel, bringing torches and kindling materials for the express purpose of firing the town. With great dexterity, these means were now applied, and in a brief interval, the City-hall, and other edifices on the square were in flames. The conflagration fled with rapidity, house after house, street after street, taking fire. Nearly a thousand buildings, in the most splendid and wealthy quarter of the city, were soon in a blaze, and multitudes of human beings were burned with them. In the City-hall many were consumed, while others leaped from the windows to renew the combat below. The many tortuous streets which led down a slight descent from the rear of the Town-house to the quays were all one vast conflagration. On the other side, the magnificent cathedral, separated from the Grande Place by a single row of buildings, was lighted up, but not attacked by the flames. The tall spire cast its gigantic shadow across the last desperate conflict. In the street called the Canal au Sucre, immediately behind the Town-house, there was a fierce struggle, a horrible massacre. A crowd of burghers, grave magistrates, and such of the German soldiers as remained alive, still confronted the ferocious Spaniards. There, amid the flaming desolation, Goswin Verreyck, the heroic margrave of the city, fought with the energy of hatred and despair. The burgomaster, Van der Meere, lay dead at his feet; senators, soldiers, citizens, fell fast around him, and he sank at last upon a heap of slain. With him effectual resistance ended. The remaining combatants were butchered, or were slowly forced downward to perish in the Scheld. Women, children, old men, were killed in countless numbers, and still, through all this havoc, directly over the heads of the struggling throng, suspended in mid-air above the din and smoke of the conflict, there sounded, every half-quarter of every hour, as if in gentle mockery, from the belfry of the cathedral, the tender and melodious chimes.

Mr. Motley possesses the faculty of description and the faculty of narration; but his style is enfeebled by amplification. It is inveterately voluminous, it overflows the subject; it beats in froth upon the Zealand coasts, and breaks over the dykes, as though it were the German Ocean. By sharpening his diction, Mr. Motley will gain a qualification as an historical writer, in which he is at present deficient. The breadth and freedom of panoramic painting are not inconsistent with that "copious brevity," at which Gibbon aimed. Mr. Motley, because the surface is large, scatters the details, and, at times, amasses pages of unimportant miscellanea. But, it would be unjust to confound a tendency with a habit. His practice is to write with care and point, though, where he floats upon declamation, it is in stirring episodes, where declamation is least required. Allowing for venial defects, however, the work possesses historical and literary characteristics, which entitle it to more than an ephemeral reputation.

PINE-CONES FROM ITALY.

Pinocchi.

London: John W. Parker and Son.

"PINOCCHI"—pine-cones—is the quaint title of an anonymous volume of poems recently transmitted to us. The flood of Parnassian raving which reaches our critical table, in the shape of small books of verse, is so overwhelming in bulk, and generally so weak in its elements, that it is our habit, as the reader knows, to reduce the inundation by taking up great bucketsfull at a time, or (to change the metaphor) to spit a score or two of sky-larks on one barb, and serve them up daintily roasted for the reader's intellectual supper. But the volume now in our hands, though not encouraging us to hope that any great addition to the poetical stock is about to be made, possesses sufficient claims on attention to justify us in abstracting ourselves for a few minutes from the throng of troubadours, to give a little separate attention to this particular singer. We should judge the author of "Pinocchi" to be but a young man; at least, we hope so, for he has the faults of a young writer, together with a young writer's beauties. Power, as yet unconscious of its own tendencies, degree, or limitation; aspiration towards the true and beautiful, not yet educated into an art, nor practised to the extent of acquired mastery; a pervading sense of poetry, still imperfect in expression, still seeking for that confident utterance which can only come after many and painful trials; may be found within the pages of the anonymous volume lying on our table. It is the first lisp in numbers; but it is a lisp that has a music in it, and which speaks hopefully of future efforts. The author will no doubt himself perceive that he has many faults to amend. He has yet to acquire an independent style; he has yet to learn the virtues of self-control and condensation; he has yet to discover that unusual words (somewhat after the manner of Mr. Bailey in his "Mystic") are not necessarily poetry, and are generally destructive, in their cumbrous weight, of that delicate aroma; he has yet to find out that a too-great frequency of compounded words (eloquent modes of expression when used sparingly) is most fatiguing to the ear, and gives his verses an appearance of congestion, as when a printer crams too many words into one line of type, and does not leave sufficient space between each to render the sense clear. But these are faults which time will probably mend; and in the meanwhile, as we have said, a sense of poetry pervades the pages.

The author, we should conjecture from several of the poems, resides, or has resided, in Italy. The murmur of an Italian music haunts his lines; the smell of Italian pine-woods is blown over his pages; Italian scenery and Italian art shine with an exotic flush at every turn; and we feel the hot, odorous languor and dreamy silence of southern noons. The opening poems, descriptive of the haunts of the monstrous Tiberius in the island of Capri, are among the best in the volume. The crumbling ruins and sickly, drooping vegetation on the rocks, are touched with "a fine horror," and made to suggest a dreary consciousness of the stain of guilt that clings about the famous island of goats. But we prefer to quote, as a more manageable specimen, a short poem with a melodious Italian burden in praise of the country:—

A STROPHE FROM CAPRI.

ANTISTROPHE FROM NAPLES.

"O! quanto è bella la campagna!"
So, scouring up and down the Pergola,
Warbled a fair child, with flax streaming hair
And lilied cheek—in sooth she was most fair;
Her mouth flamed as the poppy's ruddy crown;
Her eyes were blue as bugloss midst white down.

And ever as she sang she skipped with glee,
Joking in luskish health and liberty.
"O! quanto è bella la campagna!"

For here the milk is good, the air is pure,
And primroses through years of Spring endure;
Here trails the vine, here hangs the sweet-grained fig,
Here powdery sucklers with red gourds wax big,
Here plumey pinks I gather of the best,
Here dart green lizards, here bees have no rest.
"O! quanto è bella la campagna!"

Lift me within the arch and hold me there,
For I can gaze without a thought or care.
How plunge the swallows in the myrtled rock!
How snow the myrtles where the swallows flock!
How float the lily-ships upon the deep!
Like white moths on a blue sword-blade they creep.
"O! quanto è bella la campagna!"

The sun, so fair, so liquid bright he's sped,
Seemed to drop gold-dust slowly on my head.
The waves so calm, so azure-rich their dye,
Seem but a darker fragment of the sky;
Madonna mia! we will loudly sing,
Till from our pergola afar doth ring.
"O! quanto è bella la campagna!"

Not such the gaiety, though such the song,
Of a poor child that dragged its limbs along,
Wasted and ragged on the foul curb-stones,
Where busy Naples echoes with the groans
Of tottering jades; where narrow streets are rife
With sulphur-dust and dirt, and wheeling strife,—
"Ahi me! quanto è bella la campagna!"

Here, every breath I draw is thick and hot,
Here the sun blisters me with painful spot;
I swoon with sickly vapours, and am lost
Between the frequent wheels, or roughly tost
In the wild crowd;—there, all is quickening bloom,
Sunshine, and cool, and olives' grateful gloom.
"Ahi me! quanto è bella la campagna!"

God pity me, that I must linger here,—
I cannot eat,—yet starving am, I fear!
Oh that some fair sea-sprite who loved me well
Would waft me o'er to Capri in a shell!
But what to me the flowers or leaflets shene?—
I must be dead to rest me in the green!
"Ahi me! quanto è bella la campagna!"

Yet not the less our child sang loud and free,—
What glossy egg-plums nestle on the tree!
What golden javelins the reapers hold!
What silken roses deepen fold on fold,
What starry blossoms by each path are spread,
Purple and lilac, ivory-white, blood-red.
"O! quanto è bella la campagna!"

And Nature kissed her lightly on the mouth;
For all are not so grateful;—their's the drouth
And peevish murmur—nor can they esteem
Deep draughts of sunshine, summer's vivid dream!
But let us swell the child-entoned lay,
And chant the memories of dull towns away,—
"O! quanto è bella la campagna!"

The author already possesses elegance: let him seek for strength.

THE DECAY OF NATIONS.

The Moral and Intellectual Diversity of Races, with Particular Reference to their Respective Influence in the Civil and Political History of Mankind. From the French of Count de Gobineau. With an Analytical Introduction by H. Hotz. Tubner.

THE subject of the Count de Gobineau's work is one which can only be discussed within vague limits, and upon uncertain data. Investigations of such a nature can have little more than a negative result. In this instance, the French writer and his American editor are successful in discrediting a number of old theories; but when they propose a new axiom, it is a paradox. The main object of a somewhat desultory argument is to discover by what process, and under what law, nations and empires inevitably decay. The Count de Gobineau affirms that it is by the exhaustion of the "ethnic" principle,—by the corruption or obliteration of the original nationality.

It was the doctrine of certain ancient philosophers that states and civilisations perished through luxury, effeminacy, misgovernment, immorality, and fanaticism. The Count de Gobineau argues in opposition to this theory—that the Aztec empire, which was the type of organised fanaticism, fell, not because it was fanatical, but before the arms of Cortez; that Greek, Roman, and Persian luxury did not surpass the luxury of England, France, and Russia; that Pisa, Genoa, and Venice were not ruined by enervation; that immorality could not have destroyed Rome since Rome never was moral; that no antique monarchy was more virtuous in its flourishing age than at its fall; and that Paris, in the height of its glory, is a dissolute city. This reasoning is very incomplete and inconclusive. First, nothing can be assumed from the actual prosperity of France or England, because England or France may be ruined within a hundred years. When an European army subjugated Mexico, it is by no means probable that the empire was at its highest point of opulence or power, and one step further, in logical sequence, deprives the Count de Gobineau's reasoning of all its weight. He says the Mexicans were conquered by Cortez. But why were they conquered by Cortez? It was not in every age of Grecian history that Cheronæa would have been a defeat, or in every age of Roman history that the Goths could have entered the Capitol. When the Italian republics declined, it was through the extinction of the military spirit, through jealousy eclipsing patriotism, through a sordid devotion to riches, and a still more sordid devotion to peace. From this paradox, the Count de Gobineau advances to another—that good government

is not essential to the prosperous existence of a community. His preliminary argument is one of astounding simplicity. The government of the Thirty Tyrants, he says, was bad. Athens shook off that bad government and flourished; therefore bad government is not a destructive influence. But what if Athens had submitted to the Thirty Tyrants?—if France had yielded passively to the domination of England? Spain, the writer proceeds, endured centuries of oppression, yet resisted the arms of Bonaparte, which is a mere fallacy, since it did not resist Bonaparte, who was expelled by English armies; and since, under ignominiously weak and corrupt governors, Spain has fallen to the lowest condition of degeneracy and decay.

From controversy the Count de Gobineau proceeds to theory. A nation is degenerate, he says, when the blood of its founders no longer flows in its veins, but has been gradually deteriorated by successive foreign admixtures. It being impossible to ascertain who were the "founders" of the Hindu, the Chinese, the Greek, or Roman races, and it being equally impossible to deny that the English, French, and Italian races are mixed, we do not see how far the argument is to be carried. National purity, in this sense, would be best preserved by isolation, the effects of which are illustrated by the condition of China and Japan. The Chinese have made no progress for five hundred years, and have retrograded in political and military power. The Japanese are protected, not by their own forces, but by the jealousy of European nations. The Hindus, who have transmitted their blood for twenty centuries through undeviating channels, have been repeatedly conquered, and seem to have lost the initiative faculty. Purity of race is to be found in the Guinea negro, the black tribes of the Indian islands, the aborigines of Australia, the North American Indians; it is not found in Malays, before whose natural strength the curly-haired nation has invariably succumbed.

We concur with the Count de Gobineau in the belief that the accidents of soil and climate have exercised only a limited influence on the character of nations and the destiny of empires. Of course maritime populations naturally produce a race of navigators; the inhabitants of arable valleys adopt agriculture by instinct; the tribes that roam over the Tartar pastures prize their flocks and herds above all other possessions; mountainous territories have nursed liberty; exposed plains have been easily conquered; but the extremes of prosperity and poverty have existed in the valley of the Nile; Italy has been at times free, at times enslaved; there was nothing in the position of Rome to ensure its political eminence, nothing in the Tiber to indicate it as the centre of a vast range of commercial enterprise. From these examples the Count de Gobineau derives a legitimate conclusion; but they were too obvious to escape so enthusiastic an inquirer. Unfortunately, however, his enthusiasm is in a tenfold ratio to his judgment. What will it be supposed does he adduce in corroboration of his opinion that it is futile to bestow upon any nation institutions not suggested by its own genius? Nothing more than the miserable parody of constitutionalism in the Sandwich Islands—the Republic of Dominica, the Empire of Hayti, as if the imperial Mumbo-Jumbo of Hayti, or a black imposture in the purple and ermine of George the Third, furnished political and historical illustrations.

In his consideration of uncultivated tribes, the Count de Gobineau, assuming the intellectual parity of races, and the permanence of that parity, does not appear to have extended his researches very far. It is scarcely accurate to place the Samoyedes, the Fidas, and the Pelagian negroes on one level, and the Mongul Tartars, the Quichuas, and the Azuaras of Peru on another. The points of dissimilitude and of positive disparity are numerous and distinct. The Kaffirs of southern, and the Dahomans of western Africa present strong contrasts of tendencies and manners; there is no barbaric Kaffir kingdom, centralised, decorated with a grotesque royalty, and systematised, like that of Dahomey. Nor would it be safe to suggest a circumstantial analogy between the Chinese, the populations of ancient Italy, the early Romans, and the German tribes, or an intellectual lineage connecting the Hindus with the Egyptians and the natives of the Assyrian Empire. The discrepancies between the Assyrian and Egyptian forms of thought are sufficiently evident to disjoint any parallel that might be sought between those two races, and the dim ancestry of the Hindus. We doubt whether the Hindus did not arrive at a stage of material civilisation—creating a "comfortable" system of domestic life—as perfect as that of China. Certainly, they invented appliances of social luxury far superior to the angular mechanics of the Chinese. It is true that national unity has been preserved in a high degree in China, where, from the architecture of a palace, to the lacquering of a tea-caddy, or the decoration of a coffin, one form is incessantly repeated. It is to the same extent true that in China concrete ignorance does not prevail in any class; but if scholastic rudiments are the testimonies of civilisation, Germany stands far in advance of England; and if mechanical superiority be the standard, the Malay, as Count de Gobineau remarks, who weaves a brilliant dress, constructs a light canoe, paints it gaily, and launches it in quest of plunder, is as a human being higher than the mild, pacific and innocent South Sea Islander.

The volume is interesting and suggestive, but too shallow and paradoxical to be accepted as a contribution to historical philosophy.

LIFE IN BRAZIL.

Life in Brazil; or, The Land of the Cocoa and the Palm. By T. Ewbank. Sampson Low.

EXCEPTING a few chapters, this book might be entitled "A Manual of Church Ceremonies in Brazil." Where it is not a Penance, it is a Carnival. Nor is Mr. Ewbank at fault when he promises to describe "Life in Brazil," and describes, for the most part, sacred interiors, altars, vestments, processions, rites, fasts, feasts, and the zodiac of Catholic anniversaries. To be a Brazilian is to be immersed in ecclesiastical affairs, to find saints, crosses, and carvings, not only in the market places, but in rural seclusions, and the passes of the mountains; to see in every street, and at all hours of the day, the flutter of priestly robes, and hear, in the light and in the darkness, Latin chaunts and the roll of organ music. Mr. Ewbank, consequently, professing to depict the manners of Brazil, could not fail to bring into the foreground a crowd of ecclesiastics, bright masses of church-plate, flower-wreathed chapels, and youthful nuns, with all the anecdotes that appertain, customarily, to those Christian vestals. But, though these matters fill a large

portion of his book, they do not fill all; Mr. Ewbank is too good a traveller not to observe and to describe other aspects of Brazilian life, as well as the gorgeous natural scenery of the coast and interior. One of his chapters is particularly original. It is a study in colours—a chromatic view of the ocean, with all the lights and shades, and changes noted from hour to hour. The Brazilians seem to have caught from the variegations of their landscapes a singular fondness for colour. They bury youths and virgins in blue, yellow, and scarlet coffins, and often dress the dead in white, green, and gold-coloured silk. Their houses are stuccoed, and sometimes painted in pink, red, and amber panels, with gilt cornices and borders.

Mr. Ewbank was in Brazil when the Imperial Budget for 1847-48 appeared. The lists of officials and pensioners suggested to him a chapter on Brazilian names. The results are sufficiently curious. Among "primitive patronymics," we find Angelica Dead Branch, Amelia Quiet, Imogen Pilchard, Clara of the Frying Pans, Flora Scourge of the House, Claudine Little Fin, Good Shepherdess of the Coast of Navarre, Joaquim the Sucking Pig of Almeida, Marie of the Olive Tree Beautiful, Isabella of the Great Beard, Barbara of the Doorbolt, Innocencia the Torch of Arruda. Others are combinations of primitive surnames: Mary of the Partridge and Brook, Maurel of the Sucking Pig and Banner, Barbara of the Latch and Spider, Anne Woe to Alençon. Still more fantastic are—Purification and Male Partridge, Purity and the Sparrow-Hawk, Cross-bowman of the Saints. Mr. Ewbank found a wine-merchant named Sylvan Milk, Simon of Nazareth, a gunsmith, Michael, Archangel of Miranda, a paper-hanger, Augustus Caesar Orange, a custom-house clerk, and Antonio José of the Holy Plough Tail Handle, a secretary. In the Theatre the box-keeper was called John Arango of the Holy Spirit, a scene-shifter, Joseph of the Nativity, one of the actors, A Flaw from a Broken Pot. Certain fathers of the Church, having eccentric appellations, have thought fit to change them, as did Sergius, surnamed *Os Porci*. Señor Sucking-Pig, however, is not yet ashamed of his patronymic.

From Mr. Ewbank's volume an idea may be gained of the social aspects of Brazil half-way in the nineteenth century. The report is not encouraging.

A NEW BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.

The English Cyclopædia. Conducted by Charles Knight. Biography: Part I. Bradbury and Evans.

Two divisions of Mr. Knight's admirable Cyclopædia—those comprising Natural History and Geography—being now finished, a third is here entered upon; and we have before us the First Part of a new Biographical Dictionary, which, when completed, will form a perfect work in itself, and will present a large body of information on the personal history of distinguished men, brought down almost to the day of publication. Glancing over the instalment just put forth, we find much to commend—many evidences that the writing is solid, and the editorship generally careful with respect to essentials. All living men of any degree of celebrity are included in this collection, and the very freshest incidents in their lives are not forgotten; so that the Cyclopædia almost keeps pace with the newspaper. For instance, in the sketch of the present Russian Emperor, Alexander, we have a brief mention of his visit to the Crimea during last November; an event which, but a few weeks ago, we were chronicling in our news columns in the form of Latest Intelligence from the Seat of War. The memoirs are written with a reasonable fulness of detail, combined with conciseness of expression; and the reader will perceive that Mr. Knight goes upon a system of liberal inclusiveness when we inform him that the present part contains a sketch of Mr. Harrison Ainsworth.

There is one point, however, about which we are disposed to quarrel. A large proportion of the biographical history of mankind consists in certain vicious exhibitions of our nature, the knowledge of which it is right to keep from the very young, but which cannot and need not be muffled up from the eyes of adults. Now, a Cyclopædia is not issued for the benefit of little boys and girls; and an ultra prudery becomes absurd. But upon some such principle it would seem that the Biographical portion of the "English Cyclopædia" is to be conducted. Witness the life of the infamous Pope Alexander VI., Roderic Borgia; whose immoralities are delicately skimmed over. This is a mistake—a mistake which will have the effect of turning History, with its grand and terrible lessons, into mere family reading. We trust that Mr. Knight and his colleagues will reconsider the point.

The Arts.

"THE FIRST PRINTER."

Who was really "the first printer" is as vexed a question as that of who "wrote HOMER." FAUST of Gutenberg is generally credited with the invention; but it is no more certain that he has a fair claim to it than that he dealt in diablerie with MERPHISTOPHELES. Haarlem, in Holland, claims the honour for a son of hers, one LAURENCE COSTAR, who (according to the story devoutly believed in and passionately asserted by the Dutch, though denied by the Germans) was cheated of his idea by JOHN FAUST of Gutenberg, a fellow-worker. Flying to Mentz, with the secret and the first rough wooden types in his possession, the thief, according to the Dutch story, set up a press, obtained the sunshine of imperial favour, and became recognised as "the first practiser of the noble art of printing." If such be really the facts, the tale is certainly fit to be ranked among the tragedies of history; but, though there are many reasons for believing it, we must always recollect that it has never been proved. We are therefore inclined to question the fairness of making the story the subject of a drama, as Mr. TOM TAYLOR and Mr. CHARLES READE have done at the PRINCESS'S THEATRE, and of stamping JOHN of Gutenberg with the odium of a most execrable piece of villainy, as confidently as if there were no two opinions on the question of his guilt. It must be admitted, however, that the subject, dramatically considered, is excellent, and that an effective play has been produced. Weaving into the main story, the fortunes of the Countess JACQUELINE of Holland, in connexion with the rebellion which she endeavoured to excite against the rule of the Duke of Burgundy, the dramatists have presented a lively picture of the period. Aided by her humble friend, Margaret, daughter of

the burgomaster of Haarlem, the Countess (disguised as a boy) induces Costar (performed by Mr. KEAN) to copy an insurrectionary placard. Costar, inspired by his love of Margaret (Miss HEATH), undertakes, by means of his new and secret art, to post twenty copies within an hour; and while he is absent, in order to put the copies on the walls, John of Gutenberg (Mr. RYDER), who is also in love with Margaret, induces her and Jacqueline (Miss MURRAY), to believe he has gone to betray them. They fly; and John, having abstracted the types and broken the presses, flies too. But the really betrayed person is Costar, whom Gutenberg has caused to be arrested for treason; and, with this accumulation of misery on the head of the artist, the second act concludes. In the third act, Gutenberg is holding a festival on his inauguration as chief of the guild of printers; but Costar, rendered prematurely old by four years of imprisonment, comes accidentally to his enemy's house in a state of mendicancy. Meeting with John, he brands him with his crime, and, though not successful in establishing his claim to his own invention, obtains the hand of Margaret, and rests satisfied with love and obscurity. Such is the conclusion of the drama—a conclusion boldly repugnant to the popular theory of "poetical justice."

The play was successful, though not overwhelmingly so. The vigorous acting of Mr. KEAN during the whole of the second act, and the striking termination of the act itself, produced loud and long applause; but the good temper of the audience was somewhat balked by Mr. KEAN's refusal to present himself after the second act, though vehemently called for; and the climax of the play was felt to be unsatisfactory. The part of Costar is peculiarly fitted for Mr. KEAN, being in the best or most intellectual style of melodrama, with opportunities for strong gusts of passion, and a prevailing picturesqueness. His grief when he finds that he has been robbed was strikingly and touchingly delineated. Mr. RYDER, as the villain of the piece, had abundant opportunities for rant; and it is therefore to his credit to say that he did not avail himself of them. Mr. FRANK MATTHEWS, in the character of the senile burgomaster, was adroit, as usual, but failed to give any speciality to a rather weak part; and Mr. FISHER did the best he could, but not very successfully, with a heavy jester who utters bad jokes. Miss HEATH and Miss MURRAY, as the ladies, do not call for much notice: their acting offered no features for objection, but—possibly owing to the slightness of the parts—lacked vigour and interest.

The first act of the drama moves slowly; but the second and third are well wrought-up and well written. Praise must also be given to the scenery and dresses, which are very picturesque.

BENTLEY'S STANDARD NOVELS.—The recent sale of the copyrights of the collection of the works known as *Bentley's Standard Novels*, has afforded Messrs. Routledge an opportunity of carrying out their scheme for issuing the best productions of modern writers at a cheap rate. The Bulwer novels will therefore be immediately followed by a succession of fictions by Captain Marryat, J. Fennimore Cooper, Albert Smith, G. R. Gleig, Ingoldsby, Maxwell, Mrs. Gore, Lady Scott, and Thomas Hood. The sale realised nearly £7,000. Thus, for One Shilling and Eighteenpence, the public will be enabled to purchase works which were originally published at a Guinea and a Guinea-and-a-half, and which, until now, have been thought cheap at half-a-crown or three-and-sixpence.

ENGLISH WANT OF SELF-RESPECT.—It is an Insularity well worth general consideration and correction, that the English people are wanting in self-respect. It would be difficult to bear higher testimony to the merits of the English aristocracy than they themselves afford in not being very arrogant or intolerant, with so large a public always ready to abase themselves before titles. On all occasions, public and private, where the opportunity is afforded, this readiness is to be observed. So long as it obtains so widely, it is impossible that we should be justly appreciated and comprehended, by those who have the greatest part in ruling us. And thus it happens that now we are facetiously pooh-poohed by our Premier in the English capital, now the accredited representatives of our arts and sciences are disdainfully slighted by our Ambassador in the French capital, and we wonder to find ourselves in such curious and disadvantageous comparison with the people of other countries. Those people may, through many causes, be less fortunate and less free; but, they have more social self-respect: and that self-respect must, through all their changes, be deferred to, and will assert itself. We apprehend that few persons are disposed to contend that Rank does not receive its due share of homage on the continent of Europe; but, between the homage it receives there, and the homage it receives in our island, there is an immense difference. Half-a-dozen dukes and lords, at an English county ball, or public dinner, or any tolerably miscellaneous gathering, are painful and disagreeable company; not because they have any disposition unduly to exalt themselves, or are generally otherwise than cultivated and polite gentlemen, but, because too many of us are prone to twist ourselves out of shape before them, into contortions of servility and adulation. Elsewhere, Self-respect usually steps in to prevent this; there is much less toadying and tuft-hunting; and the intercourse between the two orders is infinitely more agreeable to both, and far more edifying to both.—"INSULARITIES." *Household Words*.

THE COURT NEWSMAN.—Not one of our Insularities is so astonishing in the eyes of an intelligent foreigner, as the Court Newsmen. He is one of the absurd little obstructions perpetually in the way of our being understood abroad. The quiet greatness and independence of the national character seems so irreconcilable with its having any satisfaction in the dull slipslop about the slopes and the gardens, and about the Prince Consort's going a-hunting and coming back to lunch, and about Mr. Gibbs and the ponies, and about the Royal Highnesses on horseback and the Royal infants taking carriage exercise, and about the slopes and the gardens again, and the Prince Consort again, and Mr. Gibbs and the ponies again, and the Royal Highnesses on horseback again, and the Royal infants taking carriage exercise again, and so on for every day in the week and every week in the year, that in questions of importance the English as a people, really miss their just recognition. Similar small beer is chronicled with the greatest care about the nobility in their country-houses. It is in vain to represent that the English people don't care about these insignificant details, and don't want them; that aggravates the misunderstanding. If they don't want them, why do they have them? If they feel the effect of them to be ridiculous, why do they consent to be made ridiculous? If they can't help it, why, then the bewildered foreigner submits that he was right at first; and that it is not the English people that is the power, but Lord Aberdeen, or Lord Palmerston, or Lord Aldborough, or Lord Knowswhom.—"INSULARITIES." *Household Words*.

CHARTISM AND THE WAR.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Paris, offers the following sensible hints to the working classes in the present crisis:—"It is a piece of oracularism common to liberal-minded flunkeys, that democracy is a good subsoil, fertilising the roots of our institutions, but that it is also a fermenting compost of impurities that should not be permitted to permeate unfiltered through the superior strata. We have no fears, say these gentlemen, that a vigorous shoot of democracy should here and there tear up our parterres, but we do dread the rank weeds that grow up with it. They point to Chartism as an illustration, in these latter days, of a moderate and healthy enough manifestation of democracy being choked mainly by the filth it had itself turned up. They will confess that the "six points" are debateable questions, and that probably any comprehensive reform bill would embrace their leading principles; but they recalc with triumph the loyal pæans of the nation when Chartism, as it disclosed itself in '48, was trampled out by a handful of special constables.

Flunkeyism is right in these remarks, so far as they go. Democracy does suffer more from its friends than its enemies; its best efforts and ambitions are clogged by the foulness of that substratum of society—the means of letting light and air into which is the grand problem it proposes to resolve.

Chartism has again barely shown itself above ground, and already one of the parasites certain to be its destruction has discovered itself. This is nothing more nor less than that blind political sentiment common to impulsive and ignorant people who feel vaguely the justice of their claims and principles in the abstract, but have no distinctly defined views, nor the least calculation as to the available means of attaining them. Impatient of slow and sure approaches, they endeavour at once to overcome all resistance by a *coup de main*.

Such is the characteristic, we must presume, of the sentiment which prompts young Chartist orators at St. Martin's Hall to talk of impeaching a minister for making a dishonourable peace, or to press him, at this juncture of all others, to engage Europe in a war of "nationalities." On the folly of such a policy, patent to any one of sense, it is not my present object to dwell. I would only ask our young artisans and democrats—the errors even of whom I believe to be born of generous impulses—to turn their attention to the late speech of the President of the Board of Trade on the Law of Partnership, rather than at the present moment to continental politics. In that speech they will discover, perhaps, a new political microcosm unfolded to them. In the power of association they may find an engine for their purposes more potent than an artillery of brute force. Science that has sapped the foundations of the Church is now tapping at the palace gates, "*æquo pulsat pede*." Into sober truths of political economy must Chartism, Socialism, and all other political theories, eventually be resolved."

OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.—The annual meeting of the Manchester Botanical Society was held on Monday at the Manchester Town-hall, Mr. James Watts, the Mayor, presiding. Mr. James Heywood, M.P., moved "That the society's gardens at Old Trafford should be open to the proprietors and subscribers from half past two, P.M., until dusk every Sunday." The motion was seconded by Mr. R. N. Phillips, and opposed by the Rev. J. Bardsley, Professor Williamson, and others. A poll resulted in 293 votes for and 362 against the motion. As the motion would require by the rules a majority of two-thirds of the votes, it was consequently lost by a greater majority than the numbers would indicate. At the first meeting at which the motion was made, some years ago, only three persons supported it; but last year there was a majority for the opening, though not the majority of two-thirds, required by the rules.

THE HEALTH OF MR. BRIGHT, M.P.—In a letter to the chairman of his election committee, Mr. Bright writes on the 3rd:—"The truth of the matter is this: For fifteen years I have worked, chiefly in public affairs, with very little relaxation, and now I discover that the brain has had too much exercise and the body too little. I have been to London twice since the opening of the session, but have found myself quite unable to attend the House of Commons. My medical advisers strongly urge me to give up all attention to business for three months, and to spend the time in seeking relief in a continental journey. I need not tell you how unwilling I am to abandon, even for a short time, the performance of my duties in Parliament; but necessity has no law, and so I submit to what I cannot avoid."

THE PARISH OF ST. PANCRAS.—An official letter from the secretary to the Commissioners of Lunacy, and a report by Mr. Gaskell, one of the Commissioners, have been transmitted to the parish authorities of St. Pancras, calling attention to the filthy and disgusting condition of the lunatic wards, and suggesting certain

remedies. A letter in the *Times* from Henry James, "inmate of St. Pancras workhouse," confirms the account of the pestilential state of the various wards described in the official report of which we gave an abstract last week.

MARRIED WOMEN REVERSIONARY INTEREST BILL.—A bill, brought in by Messrs. Malins and Mullings, enacts that henceforth it shall be lawful for a married woman to dispose of future or reversionary interests in any personal estate whatever as fully and effectually as she could do if she were a *feme sole*, and to release her rights to a settlement out of any personal estate in possession. Every deed executed by a married woman is to be acknowledged by her in the manner required by the Fines and Recoveries Act. The powers of disposition given by this Act will not interfere with any other powers reserved to married ladies independently of this Act, nor will they enable them to dispose of any interest in a personal estate settled on them by any marriage agreement. The Act does not extend to Scotland.

SELECT COMMITTEES.—The select committee appointed to consider the Civil Service Superannuation Fund, has met and received evidence from Sir Charles Trevelyan, who spoke emphatically against the injustice of taking arbitrarily a sum of money from the pockets of all civil servants for the benefit of the superannuated.—At the meeting of the select committee to consider the plans for the proposed communication between Pall-mall and Westminster, several schemes were suggested by various witnesses; one for pulling down the Duke of York's column, removing the steps, making a slope down into the park, and carrying on the road to Storey's Gate. The plan of making a road through the Park has since been given up, and it is proposed to carry Pall Mall through into the Green Park.

DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF DARTRY CASTLE.—The greater part of this building, the seat of Lord Cremorne, has recently been burnt down. The flames broke out about eleven o'clock in the morning, when every exertion was made to extinguish them, and it was at one time thought that the fire was entirely put out. Unfortunately, however, this proved to be a mistake, for about five in the evening flames were again seen bursting through some of the windows of the castle, and the conflagration continued to rage, in spite of the active assistance of the multitude that collected on the spot, until it had nearly consumed the whole building. The oldest part of the edifice, however, was saved, as was likewise all the furniture and works of art, excepting those in the room where the fire originated. The disaster is supposed to have been caused by the airing of the rooms in expectation of Lord Cremorne's arrival. Dartry Castle is for the most part a very new building, and upwards of £40,000 were laid out in its erection. It was only insured for £10,000.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.
BYLANDT.—On the 1st inst., at Cumberland House, Tunbridge-wells, la Comtesse A. de Bylandt: a son.
PAGET.—On Saturday, the 1st inst., at 42, Grosvenor-place, the Lady Alfred Paget: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.
HERRICK-BIGGS.—On the 21st ult., at St. Saviour's Church, Jersey, Capt. Benj. Bousfield Herrick, R.M. Light Infantry, third son of Capt. W. H. Herrick, R.N., of Ship-pool, county Cork, to Caroline, youngest daughter of the late Henry Biggs, Captain 60th Royal Rifles.
LEMON-GEORGE.—On the 1st inst., at St. Pancras, New-road, London, James Plomer Lemon, Esq., of Red-jardin House, Cornwall, to Henrietta, daughter of the late Capt. Geo. George, R.N., of Brompton.—At the same time, Henry Augustus George, Esq., of Ashprington, Devon, to Mary Fyacke, eldest daughter of the late James Lemon, Esq., of Germoe, Cornwall.
MAVROGORDATO-RALLI.—On Saturday, the 1st inst., by the Rev. the Archimandrite N. Morino, at the Greek Church, London, Emmanuel Antonio, eldest son of A. E. Mavrogordato, Esq., of Leicester-terrace, to Despina, daughter of E. Ralli, Esq., Hyde park-square.

DEATHS.
ANDERSON.—On the 29th ult., at his residence, 7, Harley-street, Sir James E. Anderson, M.D.
DATHAN.—On the 2nd inst., at the house of his son-in-law, Mr. C. Ellis, of Bedford-street, Covent-garden, Commander J. H. Dathan, R.N., in his 91st year. The deceased was the oldest officer in H.M.S.
PATTERSON.—On the 2nd inst., John Duggan Patterson, Esq., of the General Register Office, Somerset House, and late an Inspector of the General Board of Health, aged 50.
RANKEN.—Killed at Sebastopol, by an accidental explosion, on the 28th ult., Major George Ranken, Royal Engineers, aged 27, deeply lamented.
ROYDS.—On the 25th ult., George Royds, Esq., of Otters-pool, Herts, aged 38, killed by falling from a carriage, of which the horses were running away.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM BENNETT, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, vauqueller—CHARLES PARIS POOLE, Lawrence-lane, warehouseman—JOHN YOUNG, Surrey-street, Strand, ale merchant—SAMSON BRAZIER, Twyford, brick maker—CHARLES HYACINTH JOSEPH OUYLTS, Gullum-street, merchant—JOHN HIRSHOCK, Brook-street, Holborn, boot manufacturer—THOMAS HILL, City-road, licensed victualler—CHARLES EDWARD BIRD, Old Broad-street, merchant—WILLIAM HOMER, Birmingham, publican—THOMAS JONES, Shrewsbury, draper—ROBERT NEWTON, Birmingham, baker—HENRY BRIDGES, Birmingham, button manufacturer—JAMES BAKER, jun., Exeter, linen draper—THOMAS WARREN KNIGHT, Taunton, grocer—ROBERT WHEAT, Huddersfield, woollen merchant—WILLIAM SMITH, Bradford, Yorkshire,

grocer—DAVID KAY, Liverpool, flour dealer—JOHN TRAVIS and THOMAS PURDEN KERSHAW, Prestwich-cum-Oldham, Lancashire, cotton spinners—HENRY, JOHN, and JAMES SMITHIES, Blackburn, ironfounders—WILLIAM MCCORMICK, Manchester, builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. MURRAY, Glasgow, manufacturer—J. SPENCE, Edinburgh—R. PATON, Glasgow, cabinetmaker—A. NICOL, Findhorn, Elgin, merchant—R. PATERSON, Bothwell, Lanarkshire, grocer—J. and G. B. WILKIE, Glasgow, accountants—G. BANKS, Edinburgh, boot and shoe maker.

Friday, March 7.

BANKRUPTS.—THOMAS COOPER, Wootton, Isle of Wight, farmer and brickmaker—BUXTON KENRICK, Frampton, Lincolnshire, shipowner—JAMES BARKER, Brixton, builder—NEWBY ATKINSON, Louth, Lincolnshire, miller—GEORGE BARKER, Henry-street, Kennington-lane, Surrey, contractor—GEORGE PENNELL, Stoke-upon-Trent, grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—ROBERT COCHNEAN, Murraygate, Dundee, druggist—ROBERT MITCHELL, Nether Inver, Aberdeenshire, surgeon.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

London, Friday Evening, March 7, 1856.
The Conferences—which still continue in Paris without any result being known—cast a weight over the Consols and Shares Market. There is no business doing, and so long as money is so scarce, or the Bull amount so enormous, there can be no increase. Every soul has made up his mind that we shall have peace, and all go in for the rise. Any little accident leading to a breaking off of the Conferences would be ruinous both here and in Paris; the panic would be so frightful that ordinary Stocks and Shares would be unsaleable.

All the week the Consols Market has been showing weakness. Shares continue firm, but without any particular advance, and but little business doing. Turkish Six per Cent. Stock has been fairly 96½ during the week, but closes a little lower to-day. In East Indian and Great Western of Canada Shares there have been a few bargains; Eastern Counties lower. Colonel Wynne's report on the rotten state of the timber sleepers of the Norfolk line is ominous of some harm before long. Great Western Stock keeps amazingly high, between 60 and 61; as also London and South Western.

In the Foreign Share Market, Luxembourgs, Ardennes, Sambré, and Meuse, Dutch Rhenish have met with attention.

In Joint-Stock Banks there is not much movement, and they are hardly as good as they were.—Mines all flat. Some inquiries after the United Mexican; the report by West Indian mail being favourable.

Consols close 91½, 91¼. The price for Continuation is now ½ per cent !!

Aberdeen, 26, 7; Bristol and Exeter, 87, 9; Caledonian, 57½, 8; Chester and Holyhead, 12½, 13; East Anglian, 12½, 13; Eastern Counties, 9½, 10; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 56, 8; Great Northern, 92, 3; Ditto, A stock, 78, 80; Ditto B stock, 119, 12; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 103, 5; Great Western, 60½, 11; Lancaster and Carlisle, 73, 6; Ditto, Thirds, 6½, 7½ pm; Ditto, new Thirds, 6, 7 pm; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 83½, 4; London and Blackwall, 71, 4; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 100, 100; London and North Western, 99½, 100; Ditto South Ditto, 92½, 3½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, —; Metropolitan, 4, 4 dis; Midland, 69½, 70½; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 41, 3; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 11, 13; North British, 30½, 31½; North Eastern (Berwick), 76, 7; Ditto Extension, 6½, 6 dis; Ditto, Great North Eastern purchase, 4½, 3½ dis; Ditto, Leeds, 15½, 16; Ditto, York, 52, 3; North Staffordshire, 6½, 3 dis; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 24, 6; Scottish Central, 104, 106; Scottish Midland, 74, 6; South Devon, 12½, 13½; South Eastern (Dover), 66, 7; South Wales, 71, 3; Vale of Neath, 18, 19; West Cornwall, 61, 7½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 78, 8; Ardennes, —; Eastern of France, Paris and Strasbourg, 38, 4; East India, 21½, 22; Ditto Extension, —; Grand Trunk of Canada, 12½, 11½ dis; Great Indian Peninsula, 20½, 1; Luxembourgs, 5½, 4; Great Western of Canada, 26½, 6; North of France, 35, 4; Paris and Lyons, 49½, 50; Paris and Orleans, 50, 52; Sambré and Meuse, 9½, 10; Western and N.W. of France, 34, 5; Agua Fria, —; Australian, 1, 2; Brazil Imperial, 13, 2½; Cocas, 12, 2½; St. John del Key, 26, 8.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, March 7, 1856.
The wheat trade has exhibited no sign of improvement since our last report. Although the home and foreign supplies continue very moderate, the demand during the week has been unusually limited, and prices have declined.—Barley, Oats, and Flour, have also met with a dull sale at reduced rates.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock	214	215	215	215	215	215
3 per Cent. Reduced	91½	92½	92½	92½	91½	91½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
Consols for Account	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
New 3 per Cent. An.	92½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92½
New 2½ per Cent.	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½
Long Ans. 1860	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
India Stock	224½	225	225	225	225	225
Ditto Bonds, £1000	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ditto, under £1000	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ex Bills, £1000	2 dis.	par.	1 pm.	par.	1 dis.	1 dis.
Ditto, £500	1 pm.	1 pm.	1 pm.	1 pm.	1 dis.	1 dis.
Ditto, Small	2 dis.	1 dis.	2 dis.	1 dis.	1 dis.	1 dis.

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	103	Portuguese 5 per Cents.	102½
Huano Ayres 6 p. Cents	58	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents	102½
Chilian 6 per Cents	102½	Russian 4½ per Cents	94
Chilian 3 per Cents	69	Spanish	44
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65	Spanish Committee Cert. of Coup, not fun.	90½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	96	Turkish 6 per Cents	90½
Equador Bonds	21	Turkish New, 4 ditto	10½
Mexican Account	81	Venezuela, 1½ per Cents.	10½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	81		
Portuguese 4 per Cents.			

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.— Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN. MONDAY, and during the week, will be presented the new comedy, entitled *STILL WATERS RUN DEEP* (as performed before the Queen at Windsor Castle). Characters by Mr. A. Wigan, Mr. G. Vining, Mr. Emery, and Mrs. A. Wigan. To conclude with the new Fairy Extravaganza, *THE DISCREET PRINCESS*; or, *THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS*. Principal characters by Mr. Emery, Miss Marston, Miss F. Ternan, Miss Julia St. George, Miss Stephens, Miss Maskell, and Mr. F. Robson.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

EXETER HALL.

EVENING CONCERT IN BEHALF OF THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.

MR. MITCHELL respectfully announces that Mr. and Madame GOLDSCHMIDT will give an EVENING CONCERT OF SACRED and MISCELLANEOUS MUSIC, with full band and chorus, at EXETER HALL, on TUESDAY next, March 11, the proceeds of which will be presented to the NIGHTINGALE FUND. Programme: Part I. Symphony (G. minor)—Mozart. Hymn for Soprano, Chorus, and Organ, "Hear my Prayer, O God," Madame Jenny Goldschmidt—Mendelssohn's Barthelemy. Air, "A te di tanti affanni" (Davidde Penitente). Mr. Swift—Mozart. Choral Fantasia, Pianoforte, Orchestra and Chorus; Pianoforte, Mr. Otto Goldschmidt—Beethoven. The 130th Psalm, and other Passages of Scripture paraphrased with the introduction of Martin Luther's Corale, "Aus tiefer Noth," for Soprano Solo, Chorus, and Orchestra. Introduction, Air, "From the deep I cry," Madame Jenny Goldschmidt; Chorus, Martin Luther's Corale, "From depths of woe I cry to thee;" Interlude—Chorus, "See all the lilies;" Duett, "From Thee are grace and mercy sought," Madame Jenny Goldschmidt and Mr. Swift; Chorus, "Then let thy soul await;" Arioso, "Though all the night," Madame Jenny Goldschmidt; Chorus, "Then in the Lord Hope," (first time of performance)—Mr. Otto Goldschmidt. Part II. Overture to Shakspeare's play of the "Tempest"—Benedict. Aria with Chorus, "Squallida veste e bruna" (Il Turco in Italia), Madame Jenny Goldschmidt—Rossini. Concertstuck, for pianoforte with orchestral accompaniment, pianoforte, Mr. Otto Goldschmidt—C. M. v. Weber. Trio, for Soprano and Two Klavars, "Horst Du" (Camp of Silesia), Flutes, Messrs. R. Sidney Pratten and Remusat, Madame Jenny Goldschmidt—Meyerbeer. Part Song, "When the west with evening glows"—Mendelssohn. Finale, "Alziam gli evviva" (Buryanthe), Soprano part, Madame Jenny Goldschmidt; Madame Weiss, Mr. Swift, and Signor F. Lablache—C. M. v. Weber. March and Chorus from "The Ruins of Athens"—Beethoven. Conductor, M. Benedict. Doors open at Seven; to commence at Eight o'clock precisely. On this occasion the seats throughout the Hall will be numbered and reserved, price One Guinea each. Applications for tickets received by Mr. Mitchell, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT LIND.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH.

EXETER HALL, March 18th.

MR. MITCHELL respectfully announces that the ORATORIO OF THE MESSIAH will be given for the Second and Last Time, at EXETER HALL, on TUESDAY EVENING, March 18th. Principal Soprano part by Madame JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT, it being her last appearance in London until the month of May next. The Chorus and Orchestra will consist of more than Six Hundred Performers. Conductor, M. Benedict. Prices of admission: Stalls (Numbered and Reserved), One Guinea; Unreserved Seats (body of the Hall), 10s. 6d.; West Gallery, 10s. 6d.; Area (under West Gallery), 7s. The tickets will be appropriated according to the order of application; no more will be issued than the room can conveniently accommodate. Doors open at Seven. To commence at Eight o'clock precisely. Correct books of the Oratorio are given with the tickets.

Application for Tickets to be made at Mr. MITCHELL'S, Royal Library, 33, OLD BOND-STREET.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open, for gentlemen only, from 10 till 10. Containing upwards of 1,000 models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men, &c. Lectures are delivered at 12, 3, and 5 morning, and half-past 7 evening, by Dr. Sexton, F.R.C.S., and at half-past 8, by Dr. Kahn. Admission, 1s.

BLAIR'S GOUT and RHEUMATIC PILLS. This preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind, for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance—but now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life; that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

Sold by PROUT and HARSANT, 299, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.

Price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT. WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep.

A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer.

Mr. JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c., for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 10s. Postage, 6d.

Manufactured by J. White, 228, Piccadilly, London.

THE COMMISSION TEA COMPANY HAVE the pleasure to announce that they are now SELLING NEW SEASON'S TEAS, which are of better quality and lower price than for two years past.

The BEST 3s. 4d. BLACK TEA in LONDON—recommended.

VERY CHOICE SOUCHONG, per lb. 4s.—highly recommended.

The BEST MOCHA COFFEE, per lb. 1s. 6d.—highly recommended.

Families and all large consumers are respectfully requested to COMPARE the 3s. 4d. BLACK TEA with any they purchase at 3s. 10d., and their 4s. very choice SOUCHONG with TEA at any price.

The COMPANY pack TEAS in POUND PACKETS, 7lbs., 14lbs., and 20lbs. Canisters without charge; and forward £3 value, carriage paid.

For the convenience of their customers, they supply Sugars and Colonial Produce at a small per centage on import prices.

Monthly Price Circular free on application.

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EXTRACTS FROM SELECT MEDICAL OPINIONS:—

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Professor at the University of London, &c. &c.

"It was fitting that the author of the best analysis and investigations into the properties of this Oil should himself be the purveyor of this important medicine. I am satisfied that for medicinal purposes no finer Oil can be procured."

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Medical Officer of Health to the City of London, &c. &c.

"The Oil corresponds in all its characters with that named 'Huile Brune,' and described as the best variety in the masterly treatise of Dr. de Jongh. From my investigations, I have no doubt of its being a pure and unadulterated article."

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Chief Analyst of the Sanitary Commission of the Lancet, &c. &c.

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Dr. de Jongh's sole British Consignees; in the country by many respectable Chemists.

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

CAUTION.—Each bottle is sealed with a stamped metallic capsule, and bears beneath the pink outside wrapper a label with Dr. de Jongh's stamp and signature. All Oils offered as Dr. de Jongh's, or as of the same kind, without such marks, are fraudulent impositions.

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A.R. will warrant it not to irritate the flesh in the smallest degree, and the hair to be entirely destroyed.—Sold in bottles, at 3s. 6d., 5s. 6d., and 10s. 6d.; or applied at the Hair Dyeing Establishment as above. Forwarded for stamps, free by post, eight extra.

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The fame of these wonderful Pills is sounded throughout every part of the habitable Globe, for their peculiar properties in curing bad digestion, disordered stomachs, liver complaints, headache, and dimness of sight; as likewise for restoring strength and vigour to the weak, and those of debilitated constitutions. In warm climates they are invaluable, as testified by the immense sales in the East Indies, where the natives of different castes take very little of any other medicine than these extraordinary Pills.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the World, at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stampa, Constantinople; A. Guilley, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

In the High Court of Chancery.

TRIESEMAR.—On the 29th of May, 1855,

An Injunction was granted by the High Court of Chancery, and on the 11th of June following was made perpetual, against Joseph Franklin and others, to restrain them, under a penalty of £1,000, from imitating this medicine,

which is protected by Royal Letters Patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris, and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna.

Trielesmar, No. 1, is a remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhoea, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, &c., and its effects are efficacious in youth, manhood, and old age; and to those persons who are prevented entering the married state from the results of early errors it is invaluable.

Trielesmar, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which capnavi and cubets have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population.

Trielesmar, No. 3, is the great Continental remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately the English physician treats with mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove.

Trielesmar, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may be used on the toilet table without their use being suspected.—Trielesmar, Nos. 1, 2, 3, are sold in tin cases, price 11s.; or four cases in one for 33s., which saves 11s.; and in 25 cases, whereby there is a saving of 112s.; divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpean, Lallemand, Roux, &c. To be had wholesale and retail in London, of Johnson, 68, Cornhill; Hannay and Co., 63, Oxford-street; and Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; R. H. Ingham, druggist, 46, Market-street, Manchester; H. Bradbury, bookseller, Deansgate, Bolton; J. Priestly, chemist, 52, Lord-street, Liverpool; Powell, bookseller, 15, Westmoreland-street, Dublin; Winnall, bookseller, High-street, Birmingham.

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The Barley also makes a delicious Custard Pudding, and is an excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c.

The Patentees publish one only of the numerous testimonials they have received from eminent medical professors, relying more confidently on the intrinsic quality of the articles, of which one trial will not fail to convince the most fastidious of their purity and excellence.

(Copy.)

"Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital, February 19, 1855.

"I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of barley and groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food."

(Signed) A. S. TAYLOR.

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Table Forks "	40s.	50s.	56s.	56s.
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Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

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The increased and increasing use of gas in private houses has induced **WILLIAM S. BURTON** to collect from the various manufacturers in Metal and Glass all that is new and choice in Brackets, Pendants, and Chandeliers, adapted to offices, passages, and dwelling-rooms, as well as to have some designed expressly for him; these are **ON SHOW** over his **SIXTEEN LARGE ROOMS**, and present, for novelty, variety, and purity of taste, an unequalled assortment. They are marked in plain figures, at prices proportionate with those which have tended to make his Ironmongery Establishment the largest and most remarkable in the kingdom—viz., from 12s. 6d. (two lights) to £16. 16s.

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