

of the Edmund Salloway, 302 Strand.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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VOL. VII. No. 351.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1856.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED... FIVEPENCE.
Stamped..... Sixpence.

Review of the Week.

THE blow has failed, and King FERDINAND still lives. While he was reviewing the troops on the feast of the Madonna Immaculata, a soldier in the ranks struck at him with his bayonet, but ineffectually, and the assassin was either arrested or killed on the spot, for the accounts differ. The manner in which the intelligence has been received shows how worthless is the King in the eyes of the world. There is a standing horror of assassination, partly technical and formal as well as real. It is forgotten that in these cases the man who is struck at is himself an assassin, only on a much larger scale than the individual who strikes at him. It is forgotten that while he invades the peace of families and of communities, and causes unoffending citizens to be surrounded by a brutal soldiery whom the spies have led to their duty, he, coward-like, surrounds himself with guards, and strikes from behind a shield. The cowardice and the cruelty are on the side of the tyrant whose last remaining responsibility on earth is his responsibility to the tyrannicide. The tyrant constitutes himself an outlaw under the code of common chivalry, common justice, and common humanity. These circumstances, however, are usually forgotten, especially if the tyrant be in other respects a man at all of a respectable order. As it is, no regret is expressed, except, perhaps, some slight regret of an official kind, or a regret at the calculation that the attempt, failing, may prove an impediment rather than an impulse to the Liberal cause in Italy.

We doubt, however, whether it will do so. It has been asserted that the act had no connexion with the revolt in Sicily, or with any discontent among the king's subjects. *Credat DISRAELI.* It may be so; but it is a curious fact, which has already been mentioned, that last week there was a report in London of an attempt made to assassinate the King of NAPLES. Certainly the attack had no connexion with the agitation for constitutional reform, and it is barely possible, and we doubt even whether it will have any effect as an obstruction to that movement. The true merits of the case are too well known. It would be a blessing for Italy, under any circumstances, if King FERDINAND were to cease; only the worst of it is, that this process of individual execution would subject the country to a renewal of Ferdi-

nandism under some other prince of the wretched crew.

The accounts of this event with no sequel, stultifies the course taken by the Western Powers in Naples. Where was the use of the demonstration, where was the effect of the 'warning,' if it is to end in this anti-climax?

All we can say about Sicily is, that the insurrection is *not* suppressed. That seems to be the most probable report; and if it is not suppressed while the Neapolitan Government strives to make the world believe that it is, then we infer that King BONAPARTE must be afraid in the midst of his defences.

If Russia does not make out a better case for herself in her newly published Note, she makes out a bad case for the plenipotentiaries of the other powers. The object of the Circular appears to have been at once to press the reassembling of the Conference, and to urge the reasons why the Bolgrad point in particular should be reopened; and Russia has at least shown that the 20th Article of the Treaty, being inconsistent with the facts or the state of the country, could scarcely be carried out. She proves that the plenipotentiaries of the other Powers lost themselves in the endeavour to settle the boundary of a country whose conformation they did not understand. We are assured by the Memorandum that there are not two Bolgrads. The confusion of the Western diplomatists is much as if some Russian plenipotentiary had conceived the idea that there was a place in England called "Grimsby Hull," situate where the old town of Hull is situate. In that case, upon reaching the ground, he would have found Grimsby where it is, upon the coast, and Hull more inland; and then he would have claimed to take Grimsby Hull, like "Bolgrad Tabac," as the landmark intended when Grimsby was named. But the Russians, who saw how the other plenipotentiaries were confounding the topography of the place, stood by without correcting them, only taking advantage of their ignorance to strengthen the choice of Bolgrad as a boundary mark; while the Western plenipotentiaries assented to the Russian request for Bolgrad, under the belief that it is situated at the point where they now find Tabac. This is the mode in which the Russians explain the present difficulty. It does not exonerate them from the charge of being knaves, but appears to establish against the other plenipotentiaries the charge of being the opposite of knaves.

In order to reconcile the other Powers to the retention of Bolgrad as the boundary mark, the Russian Government offers to enter into pledges for keeping it disarmed either of fortifications or flotilla; but we all know the value of Russian contracts in this respect. According to the current description, the new Conference is nothing but the old Conference revived. It was to have been assembled after the completion of the boundary business; but on this insuperable difficulty, it has been called together to settle the dispute, or, more correctly, to do its work over again. There is an impression on this side of the Channel that the Conference will be restrained from considering any other points whatever,—even, for instance, the Government of the Principalities, to which the Russian Memorandum alludes. It will only declare what is the proper interpretation of Article 20. But that Article 20 may be as incapable of interpretation as it is of execution; in fact, it may have to be re-opened; and if it be reopened, possibly other questions may be introduced through the opening. On both sides there seems to be an impression that the question will be settled by a simple vote, and that Russia will be outvoted in the proportion of 5 to 2.

LOUIS NAPOLEON has been lecturing his prefects through M. BILLAULT. The governors of departments have not understood the principle of the Imperial Government, which is, to let the people manage their own affairs so long as they do not interfere with the Emperor's. That is, they may look after their own watching, lighting, and paving, so long as they leave public order to his Majesty, with the distribution of railways, regulations of joint-stock, &c. *Suum cuique!* Let the Mayor look after the Municipality; the Empire is the Emperor's; and Prefects who meddle too much in local affairs, and get the Emperor disliked, are not the servants with whom he is pleased. That is the drift of M. BILLAULT's Circular to the Prefects.

It looks as if our Government saw duties to perform abroad, and either lacked the capacity to shape out a course for itself, or the courage to follow that course; and there is something of the same kind at home. We have in divers directions movements of the people evincing the restless desire for certain public improvements, and yet those who profess to be our leaders are bawling about the mode of executing obvious works. The drainage, about which there is so much discussion, is the very simplest and lowest illustration of this

large necessity, obvious duty, and constant dilatory vacillation. This week the Board of Works has rescinded its old "B," motion and placed itself in the better position of "B," and there it stands. That is literally the amount of progress which has been made on the subject within the week, and it is more progress than we have witnessed for some time.

In the meanwhile, those who are learned in such subjects have been bringing forward various modes of doing the work; amongst them there is the plan for deodorizing the refuse of towns and saving it for agricultural purposes. This has been practised in Leicester with great advantage to the health of the town—a decrease from an average of 443 per quarter to 339 in the mortality, and an increase of 4000 in the population, during the last four years. There are objections to the plan, which is as yet imperfect in its application to agricultural purposes; but as to the healthiness and convenience, it appears to excel others; and although the Leicester illustration is principally mentioned, the plan has been tried in many other places, we know, with equal success. All this has been long ascertained; the great want is to make a choice of several plans, each one of which might serve.

It is the same with education. The necessity for cultivating the minds of the young, and furnishing them with the requisite amount of information to get through the world, is as clear as the necessity for cleansing our streets; the necessity is admitted by all parties of public men, with the exception of very few; but they keep on boggling about the means. This week we have a report of a meeting in Newark, to lay the foundation-stone of the Christ Church Schools; the Duke of Newcastle being the honorary mason—the Bishop of Lincoln consecrating the occasion by his presence. Both spoke of the necessity of establishing Church schools. The Bishop in particular called upon the public to prosecute that work as a means of counteracting the opinion in favour of separate education; an appeal which he accompanied by the admission that many men of eminence and of sound religious doctrine conscientiously believe that in our sect-divided country the large want for education can only be met by giving it irrespectively of creed, and therefore of any specific religious teaching. It is interesting to mark the growth of this particular opinion, and the admission of that growth from a prelate so conscientious, and yet so ardent on the other side, as Dr. JACKSON.

A counterblast comes from Dr. CULLEN, with a furious attack on the "godless Colleges" of Ireland, and on "the godless system of education" in the National schools. Not that he would surrender the State subsidy—oh no! He claims a subsidy from the State for the Roman Catholic children of Ireland; but he denounces "mixed education," and he would deprive the State, which pays, of any control over the education. His object is to place education entirely under the Roman Catholic Church, which would teach history, law, morals, and science, strictly according to the pattern authorized at Rome,—and we know that pattern well. The Ptolemaic system is the basis of its astronomy, it teaches a reverence to CÆSAR as a kind of god upon earth, and it perverts morals in inculcating a total submission to priestly dictation. Luckily, the Catholics of Ireland are not the Catholics of Rome; they are not prepared to assist men of the CULLEN stamp. On the contrary, the number of children sent to the National schools is constantly increasing, and now amounts to considerably more than half a million. The "godless" Colleges subsist; and the Roman Catholic college, which Dr. CULLEN endeavoured to get up, has proved a total failure even in the early stage of first collecting subscriptions.

The Bishop of London has done more for his own church by something which looks like a rebuff to church extension. In the chair, at the meeting of a Church Extension Society in Islington, he told the church extensionists that there is not much use in building churches unless they provide an open space in the building for the poor—for those very people whom they wish to bring within the ministrations of the national church. The words were simple, the style plain, but the precept has gone home straight to the hearts of many in the once national church.

The rising against the Income-tax swells and extends. Southwark, Aylesbury, Reading, Ply-

mouth, and other places, continue to join in the movement. Birmingham has put forward a remedy—a property-tax; calculating that on a very fair and by no means oppressive assessment of property, a tax of one halfpenny in the pound would realize fifteen millions per annum to the Exchequer, without the inquisition, the unequal pressure, the vexatious restraints, and the temptation to fraud which necessarily attend upon the present Income-tax, and which increase every year.

At the Southwark meeting one member was conspicuously absent. It was Sir CHARLES NAPIER, whose chief business in life appears just now to be the procuring of testimonials from the Grand Duke CONSTANTINE and other Russian authorities, in proof that he faithfully executed his duties as commander of the Baltic fleet. Whatever he may have done with respect to his own countrymen, CHARLEY has won the affection of the Grand Duke CONSTANTINE. Imagine NELSON writing a letter to the French Admiral, asking for testimonials to prove that he had only exercised a wise discretion in not taking the French fleet at Aboukir, and in not winning the battle of the Nile! Probably, if NELSON had been in a position to invite any such testimonial, the French Admiral would not have scrupled to address him "affectionately;" and according to the present documentary evidence, proudly published by Sir CHARLES this week, the British Premier would not have scrupled to add his testimonial to the discretion of the British Admiral in not rashly venturing between the French ships and the shore—a course evidently fraught with danger, and certain to end in the destruction of the British ships! Somehow or other, NELSON had the temerity to take that manifestly impossible and destructive course, and he had no occasion to seek testimonials from the commander on the other side.

Another little personal event, not uninteresting to us, is the explosion of the *Times* on the subject of JOHN ARROWSMITH. Mr. CUYLER, the president of the railway, and the British consul, Mr. E. MOLYNEUX, have both certified to the total fictitiousness of JOHN ARROWSMITH's report of "Railways and Revolvers in Georgia;" and they firmly state that women—we may add of all ages and conditions of life—habitually travel on the railway with as much safety as the lady with gems "rich and rare" wandered about Ireland. The *Times* has at last discovered that the man who told the story must bring some testimonials to his veracity, or his sanity. We believe that Mr. ARROWSMITH, whose respectability is not denied, imported that same story into Liverpool many years ago. But he did not get it into the *Times*.

One question we have to ask the great journal, perhaps without getting an answer. It is, who was that eminent person, competent to speak on American affairs, that gave the voucher for JOHN ARROWSMITH's respectability and credibility? The name of that distinguished gentleman would be very interesting. We only desire to send it over for affectionate welcome by America. Some say it is a gentleman closely connected with Liverpool, high in commerce and in Parliament, who has hitherto been regarded as an authority on American matters—almost an American.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON ON CHURCH EXTENSION. In consequence of the want of additional church accommodation in Islington, a society has recently been formed under the title of the Church Extension Society. This association, which proposes to build ten new churches in the district, was inaugurated at a public meeting, held in the Parochial Schoolrooms, Liverpool-road, on Monday night; and, it being known that Dr. Tait, the recently appointed Bishop of London, would take the chair, the room was crowded to suffocation. The Bishop, in his opening address, said that, when first requested to preside, he felt some anxiety, because the erection of ten new churches, at a cost of 50,000*l.*, in one parish, seemed to him too great a task for any hope of success; besides which, he thought—though he was far from denying the good which had been effected, in the metropolis and elsewhere, by church extension—that it was impossible to read the public papers without perceiving that there is a great deal of sense in the suggestion that the further building of churches had better be postponed for awhile. New churches might be erected, and yet the people might not go to them; so that it would be wrong to take the erection of places of worship as an evidence of the spread of the Gospel. "They should be very careful to use every means to bring the poor especially into the house of God, for no one who had paid the slightest attention to the subject could doubt for a moment that it was the upper and middle classes chiefly who formed the church-goers throughout the country

and that there was a vast mass of the population who were unfortunately estranged not only from the Church of England, but from the Gospel itself. He rejoiced to say that the Gospel of Christ was openly preached throughout the length and breadth of the land; but it was vain to conceal that both in our crowded cities and in our remote country districts there was a very numerous body, principally composed of the poor, who could not, and another numerous body who would not, enter the churches." His Lordship nevertheless thought that new churches really were wanted in Islington, and he had received the most satisfactory assurances as to the services, &c., in connexion with the proposed places of worship. "Not only was the present church accommodation made available to its fullest extent, but, such was the desire of the people for additional churches, that a cattle-shed had been actually used as a place of assembly, and the walls of a garden in the locality had been raised and covered in for the same purpose. (*Hear, hear.*) This had been effected by the instrumentality of the Home Mission, of whose exertions and object Bishop Blomfield entirely approved. He (the Bishop of London) rejoiced also to hear that Sunday gatherings were held in an omnibus-yard in the district, and had been attended, according to the report of the Rev. Mr. Thomas, with the happiest effects. Then, with respect to the necessity of increased church accommodation, it could not be better proved than by a reference to the report of the Home Mission, which stated that the mighty empire of France had but four cities, including its capital, of which the population was larger than this district of London; Belgium, Holland, Bohemia, Hungary, Denmark, Poland, and Turkey, but one; even the first-class powers of Austria and Prussia had no more; and Russia itself, the largest European empire, but two. Here there could not be less than 30,000 people living, from necessity, if not from choice, without the ordinances of religion; and it was further calculated that not fewer than 5000 children were growing up without education, and who, unless brought under Christian instruction and influence, would be the future bane and burden of society. (*Hear, hear.*) The population of the district, which at the commencement of this century was extremely small, had now swelled to the amount of 120,000 persons, whereas the increase of church accommodation had, comparatively speaking, been very slight."

Several other speakers addressed the meeting, and resolutions were carried in accordance with the object proposed. The list of subscriptions read in the room amounted to 529*l.*, and included a donation from the Bishop of London of 600*l.*

THE EAST INDIA COLLEGE AT HAILEYBURY.

The customary examination, for the term ending this December, of the students now being educated at Haileybury and destined for the Indian Civil Service, was held at the College there on Monday, in presence of Colonel Sykes, the Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, who presided on the occasion, and of several gentlemen connected with our East Indian possessions. The prizes having been distributed, the Chairman addressed the students, and, in the course of his remarks, observed:—"It is physically impossible that a solitary European officer, located in a district comprising scores, nay, hundreds, of square miles, should be cognizant of every abuse of authority by his native subordinates, the apathy of the people depriving him of aid, and even the sufferers themselves tacitly submitting because they consider that they are only the victims of immemorial custom. Torture, no doubt, does exist in India, and must be put down (*cheers*), and I warn you, gentlemen, that in any day of your official life, to your astonishment and indignation, you may have it attributed to you by the press of England that you are *particeps criminis* in an act of torture inflicted secretly by one of your subordinates. Here is one of the drawbacks of your official life; but it suggests the necessity for the most unremitting vigilance to prevent its occurrence. Another drawback in Indian official life is the danger to which functionaries are exposed by the facilities afforded for obtaining loans from native money-lenders, who are often only too ready to entangle the incautious European in their nets. Such loans from subordinates in the district in which the European official is exercising his authority are absolutely prohibited, and may entail the loss of the service to him."

REPRESENTATION OF GREENWICH.

A public meeting of the electors of the borough of Greenwich was held on Monday evening at the Lecture-hall, Greenwich, to adopt measures for the return of a Liberal member and a supporter of vote by ballot, in the room of Mr. Rolt, who has signified his intention of retiring from Parliament. A Mr. Bristow took the chair, and was supported by Mr. Chambers, M.P., Mr. Sergeant Parry, and Mr. Whitehurst, as a deputation from the Ballot Society; Alderman Wire, Mr. Nicholay, Mr. John Thwaites, chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works, &c. Resolutions in favour of the ballot having been carried, after some opposition, the meeting separated.

MR. WILLIAMS AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

At the invitation of Mr. Williams, M.P. for Lambeth, a number of his constituents met him on Wednesday evening at the Lecture-hall of the Literary Institution, Carter-street, Walworth, in order to hear from the hon. gentleman an account of his Parliamentary conduct

during the past session. Mr. Williams, on entering the hall, accompanied by many of his leading supporters, was received with loud cheering. He addressed the audience in a long speech, in which he reviewed the various votes he had given, and spoke in favour of retrenchment. A resolution was then carried, expressing the satisfaction of the meeting with Mr. Williams's public conduct. Mr. H. J. Slack afterwards moved, and Mr. G. Hill seconded, a resolution declaring that the expenditure of the country is wasteful and extravagant; and that if the Government could be forced by the pressure of public opinion to keep its accounts in an honest, intelligible manner, and cause them to be efficiently audited, a saving of many millions a year could be effected, and the income-tax might be entirely removed or very greatly diminished. The resolution was agreed to. On the motion of Mr. Green, a resolution was adopted expressing the opinion of the electors of Lambeth "that the ensuing session of Parliament will be a favourable time for the Ministers to introduce a bill for extending the elective franchise and the taking of votes by ballot, as well as for a general revision of the taxation of the country and an amendment of the existing commercial laws, which protect the criminal while they punish his victims."

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

ONE of the persons injured by the accident at the Denton station of the London and North Western Railway, the particulars of which we gave last week, has died. Esther Farrington, a girl of thirteen, is the sufferer; and an inquest has been held upon her body. William Henry Tyther, aged seventeen, the porter, said it was his duty to turn on the distance signal indicating danger, but he did not, being hurried by having a crate to carry to the train and two passengers to assist. Benjamin Worsley, driver of the first of the two engines, said, owing to the fog, he could not see the station signal till within sixty yards, when he reduced speed all he could by reversing the engine and putting on the break. When approaching the station, they were going at the rate of eight or ten miles per hour. The jury found a verdict of "Accidental death," but were of opinion that the company's staff at the Denton station was insufficient for the traffic, and that, in consequence, the distance signal was not properly attended to on the occasion of the accident.

Wilford Roger Newcome, a young man apprenticed to his brother, a chemist at Grantham, has perished miserably in the ice on a large pond on which he was skating. The ice broke, and Newcome fell in. After making several vain attempts to get out, he stood with his feet on the bottom and his head above the water for three-quarters of an hour, while his companions, a fellow apprentice and a friend, made ineffectual endeavours to release him, and then went a distance of a mile to get some ropes. A mounted groom was sent with them, and, as he approached, he heard the poor fellow say, "Oh, make haste!" Great difficulty was experienced in passing the ropes to him, and when at length they reached him, he could not grasp them, but only caught hold of one with his teeth. The groom advanced another step to try to throw the ropes over and entangle him for the purpose of drawing him out; but at that moment the poor fellow sank from exhaustion.

An event, of a somewhat singular and alarming nature, unattended, however, with any very serious result, occurred recently at Brussels, through the mischievous freak of some evil-minded person. An English equestrian company had just arrived in that city, and were exhibiting their performances one evening in the circus which they had pitched on the Grande Place. The circus was protected from the open air only by a large tarpaulin covering, attached by cords to the building; and while the horsemanship was going forward inside, this was suddenly observed to collapse, and directly afterwards it fell flat upon the whole company, burying performers and audience (amounting together to nearly three thousand persons), in one dense mass. Much confusion and terror ensued, but owing to the prompt exertions of some soldiers stationed in the building, who immediately drew their swords and commenced hacking the canvas, aided by several others who likewise cut it with their knives, the tent was completely destroyed, and the people were thus saved from suffocation. No one was severely injured. It was afterwards discovered that the exterior cords had been cut from the poles, which caused the catastrophe.

The inquest on the bodies of the men killed by the explosion on board the steamer *Parana* was concluded on Friday week at Southampton. The verdict was very elaborate, but the substance was, that the deceased met their deaths by the accidental bursting of the starboard forward boiler, during the trial of an experiment as to the superfluous heat in the up-take; that, by a great amount of caution, the accident might have been prevented; that the evidence proved that one safety valve applied to one boiler is not a sufficient protection to life and property; that it is questionable whether safety valves are constructed on sound and effective principles; that the safety valve of the boiler which caused the accident was insufficient in dimensions, and defective in principle; and, lastly, the jury declare their conviction that the Royal Mail Company and their officers ex-

bited great anxiety to obtain perfection in their machinery and to guard against accidents, in having their boilers and engines in good order.

A woman has been killed at Liverpool by a shop shutter being blown against her. A child which she was carrying in her arms was not hurt.

A very melancholy accident occurred on the 3rd inst. at Brosley, in Shropshire. Four collier boys, James Pope, aged sixteen, John Taylor, fifteen, John Yate, fourteen, and Charles Simmonds, thirteen, having come, as usual, after dinner, to their work, arranged themselves over the pit's mouth to make the descent of a shaft between two hundred and thirty and two hundred and forty feet deep. No sooner was the platform withdrawn than the machinery gave way, and the poor lads were precipitated from the top to the bottom. After a time, some of the men went down, and found that two of the boys were dead and two living. The latter were drawn up, and received with shouts of congratulation. They both died, however, in the course of a few hours. They were perfectly free from pain, and able to converse with their friends, and take gruel and tea with a relish. In answer to a question as to what was the sensation experienced in falling, one of them said he felt as if he was flying. They were all buried in the same grave on Sunday afternoon last, when the majority of a population of nearly 5000 persons was collected in the church and churchyard.

A 'GOOD SAMARITAN' INSTITUTION.

THERE is an institution in West-street, Smithfield, called 'The Samaritan,' which professes to relieve the destitute poor and to reclaim abandoned characters. A few days ago, a Mr. Potter waited on the Alderman at Guildhall, and stated that he believed no one was ever relieved there, and that the whole thing was an imposition. On Monday, Mr. Barber, the secretary, and Mr. Horsley, the solicitor of the association, appeared before Sir R. W. Carden, and indignantly denied these charges, asserting that the institution does great good, and adding that Sir Fitzroy Kelly is a warm supporter of it. It appeared that Mr. Barber, who describes himself as a merchant, rents the premises, and carries on his business in part of them, sub-letting the other part to the institution at 100*l.* a year, and also nominally receiving a second hundred pounds annually for his secretarieship, though for the last two years he has not had any part of that salary. Alderman Carden, having asked several questions, elicited the fact that the institution, though putting forward the Lord Mayor as President, had no authority from his Lordship for doing so; and the Alderman added that he knew that the present Lord Mayor had absolutely refused to give the sanction of his name, for what were doubtless good reasons. Mr. Barber attempted to justify himself by saying that the preceding Lord Mayor had been president, and that he had reason to believe the present Lord Mayor would be; but the Alderman refused to listen to this. In the course of his statements, Mr. Horsley, the solicitor, made some insinuations against Mr. Phillips, the master of the West London Union, hinting that he had caused a rev. gentleman connected with the Samaritan Institution to resign. To this Mr. Phillips retorted:—"Really, Mr. Horsley, if you persist in that statement, I shall be obliged to reply to it, that the Rev. Mr. Knott left the institution because his name was attached to accounts he never audited, and that there was no undue influence exercised over him in any way." Mr. Barber: "The Rev. Mr. Knott never was an auditor; he was only a member of the Finance Committee." Mr. Potter: "Since my former statement, Mr. Barber called on me, and said that, as I had done all I could to shut up his shop, he would do all he could to shut up mine." Mr. Barber: "What I said was this, that you had done all you could to close the institution, and that I would be the means of closing your shop, as I intend bringing an action against you in one of the superior courts." Two witnesses were then brought forward by Mr. Potter in support of his statement. These were a police inspector who lives opposite and the constable on the beat. The inspector said:—

"I have lived opposite from the commencement of the institution to the present time, and it is the general opinion of the neighbourhood that it is worse than useless. The greater number of persons who apply there daily go away without relief, and many who have been relieved, have been fed with food, which I have tasted, that is not fit to feed pigs with. I have remarked that shortly before Christmas in every year there has been great activity evinced in the institution, and immediately after Christmas such activity has entirely ceased, and I have drawn my own conclusions from it accordingly. I have had charges at the station-house against persons connected with that institution, arising out of disagreement among its promoters. On one occasion, Mr. Cochran charged Mr. Barber with an offence that I am not prepared now to mention. The successors charged their predecessors with secreting the goods supplied by the butcher and baker in other parts of the building than those in which they should have been found. The class of persons congregating there are a disgrace to the persons causing them to come there, and when they get relief, they do not consider it worth their acceptance."

The constable's statement was as follows:—"I am the constable on that beat, and have frequently observed that there is a certain set of characters who infest the

entrance to the institution, and when the destitute poor apply for relief they are driven away by the regular frequenters. I have had as many as thirty cards at one time delivered to me by strangers from the country, who had received cards from subscribers, and been driven away from the door, on applying for relief, by these characters."

After some further wrangling, chiefly between Mr. Barber and Mr. Phillips, of the West London Union, the former asked the Alderman if he would come and visit the institution, to which Sir R. W. Carden replied, amidst considerable laughter, "Not after the description of the company that already visits you." Mr. Barber then left, uttering threats of vengeance against Mr. Potter, to be wreaked "in a higher court."

IRELAND.

THE MURDER OF MR. LITTLE.—A man named Robinson, who was for a time detained as a witness for the Crown, in connexion with the railway murder, has been handed over to his friends, the police having ascertained that he has been noted, for some time past, for being subject to a species of religious frenzy. A person coming from Dublin has been detained for a few hours at Cork in consequence of his conversing at the Victoria Hotel in a manner which seemed to indicate that he had some guilty knowledge of the commission of the murder. Two magistrates accordingly met at the hotel, and examined the man, whose answers appeared to be satisfactory. Nevertheless, the police at Dublin were telegraphed to, and they replied that they had no charge against him. He was therefore released.

MURDER AND ROBBERY.—William Quin, a Kilkenny farmer, has been murdered on his way home from the Waterford fair. The men who attacked him carried off from his person a bank receipt for 76*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* (the proceeds of some stock which he had sold at the fair, subsequently depositing the money at the bank); they also robbed him of three shillings in silver which he had about him. The poor man lingered for some hours, and then died from the effects of the beating he had received. The offenders are not in custody.

DEATH OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP.—The Right Rev. Bishop Murphy, of Cloyne (consecrated in September, 1849, and known as a warm supporter of education, while never taking much part in political affairs), died on the evening of Thursday week at Fermoy.

LEGAL APPOINTMENT.—The Hon. John Plunket (a younger son of the late celebrated statesman and lawyer) has resigned the lucrative post of Crown prosecutor at the commissions and quarter sessions for the city and county of Dublin. His successor is stated to be Mr. Thomas O'Donohue.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.—Dr. Cullen's annual pastoral was read last Sunday from all the Roman Catholic altars in the diocese of Dublin, and has since been printed and distributed. It is of very great length, and contains an attack on the Colleges where Protestants and Papists are taught together. "Censured by the Holy See," writes Dr. Cullen, "and repudiated by the Irish hierarchy, the Queen's colleges will never take deep root nor permanently flourish in this Catholic country. Founded on the principle of indifference to religion, and placing religious doctrines, true and false, on the same footing of equality, they will never gain the confidence of the people of Ireland, who believe that there is but one faith, as there is but one baptism and one God." The doctor goes on to denounce Professor Vericour's "Historical Analysis of Christian Civilization," which has been placed on the Index Expurgatorius by the Pope. He also accuses the Government of favouring Protestantism at the expense of Roman Catholicism; but he admits that the common National Schools have been fairly conducted, the different sects being kept apart. He points to what he describes as the unhappy effects of secular education in Belgium—infidelity and immorality. "We think," proceeds Dr. Cullen, "that the Catholics of Ireland have a full claim to expect a share in every public grant in proportion to their numbers and their wants, and we should never renounce so important a right. But, at the same time, it is our duty to insist on having our claims recognized without any interference with our religion. From mixed education we can expect nothing but evil—we should not acquiesce in it or encourage it. It is highly dangerous to give over the instruction of Catholic children to a Protestant Government; we are bound to oppose encroachments on this head."

A PRIESTLY LIBEL.—A jury in the Court of Queen's Bench, Ireland, have given 850*l.* damages to a Mr. O'Sullivan, a Roman Catholic magistrate residing near Athlone, on account of a libel upon him by Mr. O'Reilly, a priest, who had made assertions damaging to his moral character. The action had been tried before, when the jury could not agree. On the present occasion, the defendant's counsel have reserved several points, which will be discussed in a superior court.

GREAT STORM.—A tremendous storm of wind swept over Dublin and other parts of Ireland on Tuesday.

THE NEWCASTLE AND TIPPERARY BANKS.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Wednesday, the case of Walker v. McDowell was proceeded with. It was an action instituted by the plaintiff, as public officer of the Newcastle Commercial Bank, to recover from the defendant, as official manager of the Tipperary Bank, the

sum of 51,000*l.*, as interest alleged to be due on account of certain bills of exchange drawn by Mr. S. Kelly, the late manager of the Tipperary Bank, and discounted by the plaintiff. After some consultation, the counsel for the official manager, on behalf of his client, considered that the jury should return a verdict of 25,000*l.*, and 6*d.* costs. The verdict for 25,000*l.* was accordingly taken by consent.

AMERICA.

THE Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald* states that the startling developments made in that journal as to Walker's ulterior views have materially injured his cause there, as well in diplomatic as in other circles, and that the Cabinet, regarding the question as one of the greatest magnitude, are about to adopt a new course of policy to check the Filibuster in his scheme of erecting a new Southern Republic independent of the United States, and, to some extent, antagonistic to it. According to the correspondent, the Government intends to send a Minister to the Republic of Guatemala, for the purpose of opening negotiations with Carrera, the permanent Dictator, and of urging him to form an alliance with the other Central American republics against Walker. Collateral means to bring about the result will not, the correspondent says, be neglected. Further, the writer asserts that Mr. Marcy hopes, during his remaining term of office, so to shape the policy of the United States in regard to Central America, that it will be difficult for the Buchanan Administration to effect a change. He will strain every nerve to overthrow Walker.

It is stated that matters in reference to the massacre at Panama have been arranged by Mr. Marcy and the New Granadian Minister. It is also said that, at the instigation of Messrs. Marcy and Cushing, the President has refused to recognize Mr. Oaksmith, the envoy of Walker.

Nine Frenchmen, political prisoners, have arrived at New York from Cayenne, whence they had escaped.

The further search for the boats of the *Lyonnais* has been abandoned, the *Marion* having returned to New York. The only hope now existing hangs on the probability of some vessel bound to Europe having picked up the boats.

The steamship *Texas* has left New York for San Juan, Nicaragua, with a large number—upwards of four hundred—of recruits for Walker.

Kansas appears to be again tranquil. The land sales are passing off quietly, and Governor Geary has suspended the Leecompton trials. The republic of Guatemala continues to make large preparations against Walker. The Mexican troops still pursue their operations against the insurgents at Puebla.

The New York commercial advices report the market for stocks as being rather firm, and that prices were generally higher.

Some interesting remains have been discovered in Texas, according to a story in the *Galveston Gazette*. Some gentlemen were hunting a panther with dogs, and the animal took refuge in a cave, where he was shot. The hunters then entered the cave, which was nearly circular in form, and about twelve feet high, apparently connected with another by a small aperture. Having procured a lighted torch, they passed through this aperture, and "found themselves in a room about ten feet in breadth by eight in height, and some forty feet long. To their astonishment they beheld at the further extremity of the room what appeared to be two human bodies, one stretched at full length on its back on the floor, and the other lying with the head partly elevated on the wall against which it leaned. They were, indeed, two human forms entire, complete, and perfectly petrified. The feet and hands were bare. A garment, which must have resembled a hunting shirt, seemed to have been worn by each, and, partly preserved by petrification, was distinctly visible, especially at its seams and folds. On the waist of one was a buckle of pure gold, almost three inches in diameter, securely imbedded in the body. The features were not much shrunken; the eyes were partly closed, and even traces of the eyebrows could be seen plainly. The party who discovered these bodies intend to remove them to Jonesborough, where they may be seen by all who wish to examine them. They probably lived before the race of Indians at present found in Texas."

From Buenos Ayres we learn that Colonel Oliveira, chief of the Italian Legion at Bahia Blanca, has been killed by his own soldiers. Large bodies of Indians were collected on the frontiers, and serious invasions by them were feared. An attempt at revolution in Santa Fe has been suppressed by General Lopes.

"The charge of dishonesty and treachery made by Mr. Randolph against General Goicouria, lately agent of Walker," says the *Daily News*, "caused the latter to send to Mr. Randolph, on the 22nd ult., a verbal challenge to mortal combat, which Randolph refused to receive, and required his communication to be made in writing. General Goicouria immediately sent a written challenge, which was promptly accepted. The meeting between Mr. Randolph and General Goicouria did not take place on the 24th, in consequence of the parties not being able to agree as to 'distance and mode,' although they agree that the weapons shall be pistols. Mr.

Randolph insists that the distance shall not exceed six paces, which has not yet been assented to by his antagonist."

ADDRESS OF THE EMANCIPATION OF ITALY FUND COMMITTEE.

IN our last address, annexed to the appeal from the working men of Genoa to the working men of England, we stated the object for which this Committee was formed—namely, to collect subscriptions in aid of Italian Emancipation, pledging ourselves that the sums received should be applied 'within the limits which the law compels.'

As yet, though some few friends of liberty have come forward with their pounds or their pence, our appeal has not elicited such sympathy from England as deserves to be called National.

Some have met our appeal with the selfish and short-sighted reply, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Such we leave to the teaching of the future.

Others, however, there are who sympathize with their oppressed fellow-men, but feel that any action emanating from England ought to be well and maturely weighed. They ask—First, Ought there to be a revolution in Italy? Secondly, Ought Englishmen to interfere actively in its favour? Thirdly, Is there that hope of success without which revolutionary attempts are criminal? Fourthly, Is there not danger that we may be impeding the action of Piedmont, who to many persons appears the natural leader of Italian Emancipation? These objections are often urged, in sincere earnestness, and must be answered.

To the first we say, "Twenty-four millions of Italians ask leave to live, physically, intellectually, morally; to commune freely with European life; to unite as a nation, in all noble progress, under the symbol of their own now-forbidden national flag. Is it for the free nations of Europe to suffer this divine life to be stifled by Austrian and Papal power? If the right to live can only be won by a revolution, is not that revolution a holy thing?"

To the second question, What is the duty of England? we say that we have not the responsibility of initiating insurrection, because we have not the power to do so if we would. Insurrections, whether petty and useless, or grand and successful, must and will be repeated until they have done their work and the country is free. Italians believe that if only France remained neutral, they could now achieve freedom for themselves; and it is undoubtedly in the power of England, without war, to force Louis Napoleon (who knows well that the mere rumour of a war with England would endanger his throne) to withdraw his troops from Italy. Let the British Parliament only pass a vote that the French occupation of Rome is contrary to the Law of Nations, and no minister will dare to continue the baneful system of trucking to the French Emperor which, ever since the affairs of Rome and Sicily in 1848 and 1849, our ministry has adopted. What we ask is, that public men who share Mr. Gladstone's sentiments concerning Naples, will openly express to Europe what the heart of England feels concerning the right of Italy to be free from the incubus of Austrian and French armies, which alone keep the wretched Italian potentates on their thrones. Perhaps it is not too late for mere words from England to free Italy, if Austrian and French ambassadors were not allowed to dictate what liberty of speech the English Parliament is to use. Even if Austria and France were the allies of the English nation (which we totally deny, so long as Parliament has no voice in treaties and alliances), the desire not to affront an ally could be no excuse for complimenting away the inalienable rights of Italy. The pusillanimous injustice of England towards Sicily, and Rome, and Hungary, was defended for a while by the argument, that had we dared to be just, we might have involved ourselves in a European war. The course pursued *has* involved us in European war; for it is notorious that nothing induced the Emperor Nicholas to attack Turkey, but his belief that England would not fight. The Russian war has shown even to statesmen of Mr. Cobden's order that England will not and cannot permanently isolate herself from the quarrels of the Continent; and that if, under the plea of non-interference, she allows such interferences as those of Russia in Hungary, and of France in Rome, the sole result is that she takes upon herself the wars in which Poles, and Hungarians, and Italians, and Germans, would be principals, and she, at most, would have to give words, arms, officers, and a squadron of ships. Let us not be told that England has adopted non-intervention as a policy, and that we vainly strive to alter it. The fact is the other way. Within recent memory, England has interfered to set up Belgium against Holland, Greece against Turkey, to put down Egypt in favour of the Sultan, and to crush the Whig party of Portugal. This last was in 1847; shortly after the same ministry saluted the insurgent Sicilian flag, and promised to recognize the Duke of Genoa as King of Sicily, if the Sicilians would elect him. Could the same ministry pretend that the principle of non-intervention prevented their doing for Hungary exactly what they did for Sicily, which, in Kossuth's expressed opinion, would have made Gorgey's treason impossible? The answer is plain: the principle is a sham, invented for them by others, and used by them to cover cowardice.

Interference is habitually practised by us where it appears safe, as against Holland, or Turkey, or Egypt, or Portugal. It is deprecated where greater powers are involved, as Austria, France, and Russia. These are allowed to practise it against the weak, as we have done ourselves, and then the parrot cry is raised that it is a Principle! We do hope that so much fruit has come of the agitations of the last seven years, that even the present Parliament will not allow the deplorable deeds of 1849 to be repeated. If Rome or Milan were now free for a single week, and the English public demanded their recognition as they called for that of Hungary in 1849, we do flatter ourselves that they would meet with a far different response now from Parliament and from the English ministry.

These considerations suggest two modes of action to English sympathizers. The one is that chiefly adopted by the (late) Society of the Friends of Italy—viz., to act on public opinion through the press, by lectures, public meetings, and in all constitutional ways, in order to influence Parliament. For the present, while accomplishing what good we may by these means, we have enough to do in the second mode—namely, assisting the Italian leaders with the funds necessary to enable them to hold their place and perform their functions as leaders. The most timid need not fear that in this way they will have the responsibility of initiating a revolution. So far as the Italian potentates can effect it, all political action, all transmission of news, all concert and co-operation, are stopped, and can only be supplied indirectly. If they can, by preaching smooth doctrines of humanity in Piedmont and in England, induce the friends of freedom to refuse funds to the Italian leaders, it may become impossible for the latter even to send a message to an oppressed district warning it *not* to revolt. Tyrants who know that insurrection must come, have the hereditary policy of getting up prematurely, here and there, sham insurrections by their own agents, in order to prevent any simultaneous action of the people. To hinder them, the popular leaders need much vigilance, and, in any case, to keep any lead at all, and to save the insurrection from being the irregular, unplanned outburst of the passions, they must have some small funds at their disposal. On the other hand, when insurrection is imminent, its success or failure may depend on so trivial a cause, as that one of the men to whom Italians look for direction has or has not a single hundred pounds at command. On his ability to send a secret messenger, or to travel in person, to a certain place, within a certain time, events of the greatest magnitude may depend. Amongst other uses to which money may be applied, which must command almost universal sympathy, are the relief, and, if possible, the rescue of political prisoners. The admirably planned and executed escape of Police Orsini from the dungeons of Mantua, could not have been effected without some pecuniary means. To contribute to such funds is a fit task for the English friends of Italy, if they will but trust those Italians whose lives are devoted to their country, and for whose blood its tyrants thirst. But to insist on knowing beforehand what is to be done with the money, this—without meaning offence—we must call a pedantic conscientiousness, which is like refusing bread to the starving, lest it should choke him.

Thirdly, Is there a probability that a revolution in Italy could succeed? for if not, it were policy to husband life and resources till better times. To this we reply, that in 1848-9 the Italian people would have liberated itself, if, first, the glorious national movement which had reconquered Italy from the Austrians, had not been changed by the false, selfish, and cowardly policy of Charles Albert into a mere dynastic, self-aggrandizing war: secondly, if it had not listened to the mediation of its double-minded friend, the English Government. These statements are as near to historical certainties as anything that has not been actually fulfilled can be. Even in 1849 the Republic of Rome would have stood, and Venice and Sicily would have been free, if England, instead of backing up Louis Napoleon in his infamous restoration of the Pope, had recognized the Roman Republic as promptly as she recognized the French, had sent an ambassador to it, and had forbidden French invasion. It is curious to observe that it is the lukewarm, or only half sincere friends of liberty, who appear to have least faith in its triumph. Not so the Governments who would delay, if they cannot prevent, what they anticipate and dread. Lord Clarendon, in the secret correspondence, has let out that his only fear is, that the oppressed nations have *too much chance* of success. On March 23rd, 1853, he wrote thus to Sir Hamilton Seymour:—"Every great question in the West will assume a revolutionary character, and embrace a revision of the entire social system, for which the Continental Governments are certainly in no state of preparation. The Emperor (Nicholas) is fully cognizant of the materials that are in constant fermentation beneath the surface of society, and their readiness to burst forth even in time of peace; and his Imperial Majesty will probably, therefore, not dissent from the opinion that the first cannon shot may be the signal for a state of things more disastrous than even those calamities which war inevitably brings in its train. But such a war may be the result of the dissolution and dismemberment of the Turkish Empire, and hence the anxiety of her Majesty's Government to avert the catastrophe." In plain words, Lord Clarendon knows that victorious European

insurrection is highly probable, if once the league of despots to keep down the oppressed is broken. His fears are not that insurrection should fail, but lest it should succeed.

To the last of these objections—that English interposition may clash with the leadership of Piedmont in the Italian war—we reply that the unavoidable revolution in Italy must be initiated by the people. Those who imagine that Piedmont can set Italy free without such popular revolutionary initiative, entirely misconceive her position. The King of Piedmont, bound as he is by treaties, involved in all the diplomatic intrigues of Europe, allied with some of the powers now oppressing Italy, cannot suddenly tear to pieces all treaties, and the map of Europe, and stand forth the embodiment of the revolutionary principle. He is, as a mere military power, weaker than Austria: how can he defy at once Austria, the Pope, and the King of Naples, and put himself at the head of a national crusade, before the nation herself has proved that she is ripe for it? Would not his initiating action be universally interpreted as the sign of a usurping ambition? Was not this one of the causes of the failure of the revolution of 1848? Had not the Romans, the Tuscans, the Neapolitans, forced their rulers to arm and send them into Lombardy to fight the national war? Had not the people expelled the Austrians from Lombardy and Venice? What damped the enthusiasm of the volunteers? What gave the Pope and the King of Naples a pretext for the withdrawal of their troops? The volunteers who came to fight for Italy were dismissed by the King of Piedmont, who desired simply a northern Italy for himself, instead of a national Italy for the Italians. The other Italian princes did not care to see this kingdom of northern Italy so disposed of. They withdrew their troops, and the Austrians re-entered Lombardy. As it was in 1848, so it must ever be; and our best hope for the Italians is in knowing that they comprehend the causes of their failure in 1848-9, and that they believe not only in their right to nationality and their power to win it, but also in the certainty that unless they win it for themselves, they never can possess it. Deeming, therefore, an Italian Revolution to be a holy and inevitable necessity, we desire to do our duty in helping to make it successful, in shortening the war, and lessening the bloodshed as much as possible.

We, as a committee, charge ourselves with the duty of diffusing information, by means of lectures, public meetings, and the press, so as, if possible, to bring a strong public opinion to bear on the British Parliament. Meanwhile, we appeal to the British public to provide the funds which, as we have shown, while they cannot initiate, may greatly contribute to the success of any Italian movement. Subscriptions sent to the Office of the Fund, 22, Sloane-street, Knightsbridge, London, are acknowledged from time to time in the *Daily News* and *Leader*. Post Office orders may be made payable to James Stansfeld.

THE INSURRECTION IN SICILY.

SOME details of the revolutionary movement in Sicily are thus given in the *Moniteur* :—

"On Saturday evening, the 22nd of November, the commander of the escort which usually accompanies the diligence from Palermo to Messina was having its toll-bar lowered between Bellefrate and Mezzujoso, about twenty miles from Palermo, when several shots were fired at him. Thinking they proceeded from brigands, he took to flight, ordering back the diligence. The Syndic of Bellefrate, informed of the occurrence, sent immediately a detachment of militia to clear the road; but it was attacked by about sixty insurgents, of whom about twenty were mounted, and the militiamen were obliged to retreat before superior numbers. The Sicilian Government at once took steps to stifle in its birth this attempt at insurrection. Troops were sent against the insurgents, and the latter, surrounded in a wood, were compelled to leave sixteen prisoners in the hands of the troops. A portion of the insurgents succeeded, however, in escaping in the direction of Cefalù, on the coast, between Messina and Palermo, at forty miles' distance from the latter. A detachment of eight hundred men was embarked on board a war-steamer to follow the insurgents to their retreat. After remaining three hours before the town, the troops entered without opposition."

Great precautions were taken by the police and military at Palermo; but insurrection spread all through the adjacent country. At Catania, placards were posted, bearing the words, "Long live the hereditary Prince!" "Long live the Constitution of 1812!" These were torn down by the police. The *Italia e Popolo*, the organ of Mazzini, says:—

"We hear from Palermo that the events we have so ardently wished for have commenced. The first step has been most favourable, as six hundred armed men were enabled to assemble at a moment's notice, led by men of talent and energy. The movement commenced at Mezzujoso, about two miles from Palermo. Although at so short a distance from that city, the police were a whole day inactive. All the neighbouring districts—Villafraie, Bonmira, Vicari, Cimina—have risen. Pêtes, concerts, and illuminations have been held. The conduct of our brothers has been most sensible. There has

been no pillage, no effusion of blood, no act of violence, but brotherly love throughout. At the moment I am writing, I learn that the insurrection is spreading, and we hope for success. The rallying cry is, 'Viva l'Italia!' The flag is a tricolor, without arms or municipal device."

Some soldiers at Palermo, surprised in the act of distributing a national and liberal address to the King, have been arrested. The *Opinione* of Dec. 2, says:—"The latest letters from Naples speak of attempts made to induce the army to pronounce for the constitution of 1848. A proclamation has been circulated, which, it appears, has found favour even in quarters where it might have been least expected." We read in the *Corriere Mercantile*:—"The *Corriere Siciliano*, which we receive from Palermo, speaks of an insurrectional movement, embracing Calatafimi and other large towns in the province of Palermo. The precise number of the insurgents is not known. Arms have been distributed, telegraphs cut, functionaries ousted, the flag of 1848 displayed, and all without effusion of blood. A provisional government has been established, with a member of the Sicilian parliament of 1844 at its head. The seat of the provisional government is Calatafimi, a town of 10,000 inhabitants." This intelligence has not been confirmed.

Despatches received on Thursday state:—"The insurrection in Sicily has been put down. The chief of the insurgents, Baron Bentivegna, has been taken prisoner. Palermo is tranquil. Everything is quiet, notwithstanding the clandestine landing of a quantity of muskets on the coast." Later accounts represent that the revolt is spreading through the interior, and further risings are expected every day.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following:—"The Treaty of Paris has met, in its application, with difficulties which have given rise to a difference of opinion between the contracting Courts, and has rendered necessary a meeting of their respective representatives to hasten the complete execution of the conditions of peace. The majority of the Powers that signed the treaty have already agreed, with this object in view, to the convocation of the Conference at Paris. It is, therefore, to be presumed that it will be able to meet before the end of the present month, and everything authorizes the hope that it will succeed in promptly re-establishing a perfect understanding on the points under dispute."

A treaty was signed at Bayonne, on the 2nd inst., between the plenipotentiaries of the French Emperor and of the Queen of Spain, settling the frontier line between France and Spain.

A report from the Governor-General of Algeria has been published, announcing a successful expedition against the Hamian tribes, and a skirmish with troops on the Morocco frontier.

M. Schwilgué, the inventor of the marvellous astronomical clock, which all visitors to Strasbourg go to see in the cathedral, has just died, at the age of eighty.

A few particulars with respect to the reassembling of the Paris Conference and to the Bolgrad question out of which the presumed necessity for the reassembling has arisen, are communicated by the Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, who says:—"On the map used by the Conference on the 8th and 10th of March, 1856, there is but one Bolgrad marked, and it is on the Akermann road, about five kilometres to the north of the Lake of Yalpuok. On a German map, which was copied from a Russian original, the Bolgrad just alluded to is thus marked, 'Tabak czantynie Bolgrad.' Of a second place of the same name, lying close to the north-east extremity of the Lake of Yalpuok—which place is so unjustly claimed by Russia—there is no trace. If M. de Walewski was previously informed by Count Orloff that Russia meant by Bolgrad a town which was not marked on the map, he certainly did not communicate the fact to Baron de Bourqueney, for when the Frontier Commission began its operations, that diplomatist did not know that there was a new Bolgrad. If the information given me be correct—and it probably is so—it has been already settled what subjects are to be discussed by the Conference. Each Government will be represented by its resident diplomatic agent only."

An act of supreme folly was performed on Monday at Paris. After a review of some regiments of the Guard and one of artillery, which had taken place in the Place du Carrousel, a deputation from the Grenadiers of the Guard proceeded to the Tuileries, and presented to the Imperial Prince (eight months old—or say eight and a half) his *livret* as *enfant de troupe*—the small regimental book which is given to every private soldier; for the Prince was made a soldier—one of the infant-ry—a week or two after his birth.

The following rather remarkable circular has been addressed by M. Billault, the French Minister of the Interior, to the Prefects:—"Monsieur le Prefet,—Decrees suspending Municipal Councils, and applications for their dissolution, are becoming every day more numerous. This exaggerated tendency is not in conformity either with the spirit of the law of May, 1855, or with the intentions of the Government. The intention of the law was to arm the superior authority against proceedings

which might be prejudicial to order, or which might transgress the legal powers of the communal assemblies. It was with a view to extraordinary cases of this kind that Article 13 was framed, under which Municipal Councils may not only be suspended or dissolved, but may be replaced by commissions whose powers may last till the next quinquennial election. But the greater part of the decrees of suspension which I receive are grounded upon the opposition of the Councils to propositions touching the communal interests brought forward by the mayors. The administration too often thinks fit to interfere in these local differences, and improperly brings its authority to bear upon the conflicts which grow out of them. I cannot too strongly recommend you, Sir, to leave the utmost latitude to the Municipal Councils in everything relating to the discussion within the limits of the law of purely communal interests. If these assemblies give a bad or unintelligent solution to the affairs brought before them, the population will know to whom the responsibility is to be imputed. A bad local decision is less mischievous than a system which tends to impose universally the action of central authority in matters not involving any general interest to require its interference. Administrators allow themselves too easily to be led away by the desire of crushing all inconvenient resistance, instead of using their personal influence, and encouraging that public opinion which, in the long run, is never blind to its own true interests. I have often regretted to observe this tendency to see in authority nothing but its rigorous exigencies, and to forget that the best way to serve the Emperor's government is to make it loved."

It is rumoured that Cardinal Morlot's mission to Rome has relation to the coronation of Napoleon III., which, should peace be consolidated, will probably take place in 1857.

AUSTRIA.

The official *Gazetta di Venezia* has announced that the communities of Venice, Burano, Malamocco, Murano, and Palestrina will not be obliged to pay 13,052,300 lire which they owed to the State. The debt dates from the years 1848 and 1849, and the five communities were mulcted in the sum mentioned in order that the paper money which had been issued by Manin during the revolution might be converted into Treasury bills.—*Times Vienna Correspondent*.

In some gossip from Venice, with reference to the reception of the Austrian Emperor and Empress in that city, we read that "the official illumination of the Place of St. Mark was magnificent, but the windows of the surrounding houses were not lighted up. Their inhabitants, however, appeared on the balconies, and joined in the general acclamation with which the Emperor and Empress were received when they walked out in the evening. Many Venetian nobles were present at the *Théâtre Paré*; but still thirty boxes were empty."

The *Austrian Correspondenz* has an article, the object of which is to refute the assertion that a Franco-Russian note has been addressed to Turkey with reference to the occupation of the Principalities and of the Black Sea, as well as the other questions in dispute.

Writing to Marshal Radetzky, under date of the 2nd inst., the Emperor says:—"I have resolved to raise entirely the sequestration placed under date of 13th February, 1853, upon the property of the political emigrants of my Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. You will at once take the necessary steps that the property still under sequestration shall be restored to those who can prove their right to the same. At the same time I authorize you, for the future, to report upon the sequestered property of the emigrants with a view to their reinstatement and their readmission to the quality of Austrian citizens when they shall have forfeited the same, and to grant them the clemency they asked for, on condition of a formal promise on their part to conduct themselves for the future as loyal and faithful subjects."

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Government, after according to Mr. Morris Moore a renewed permission to remain at Berlin, suddenly changed its mind, and ordered him to leave the country within four-and-twenty hours.

ITALY.

The King of Naples (says a letter from that country), on the 27th of October, granted a pardon to twenty-five political convicts, making forty-one pardoned since the 7th of the same month. Of these one has since been arrested on a charge of having, three days after his liberation, tried to inveigle a certain number of soldiers into a conspiracy. Some accounts say that a greater number have been set at liberty, and that any one may obtain his pardon who will sue for it.

An attempt has been made to assassinate the King of Naples. There was a review on Monday, and, while the troops were defiling, a soldier of the 3rd Battalion of Chasseurs rushed from the ranks and struck the King on the left side. The King was not wounded. The soldier was knocked down, and seized by Colonel Latour. The *Oesterreichische Correspondenz* says that the bayonet the soldier struck the King on the right side, above the waist.

RUSSIA.

We are informed by the *Morskoi Sbornik*, that the garrison of the port of Astrakan, on the shore of the

Caspian Sea, has been strengthened by the accession of three thousand men. This fact, says a Berlin journal, appears to furnish us with another proof that important movements are likely to take place in Central Asia before long.

A document was addressed by the Russian Government, at the latter end of October, to all the powers signing the Treaty of Paris. It was accompanied by a circular requesting the reconvoation of the Paris Conferences. This memorandum, which has just been published, contains an *exposé* of the steps taken by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg with regard to the fulfilment of Articles 20 and 21 of the Treaty of the 30th of March, and presents the various questions in dispute from a Russian point of view.

Fifty thousand Russians, commanded by General Bernloff, are ready (according to a rather improbable despatch from St. Petersburg) to march upon the frontiers of Persia at the first call of the Shah.

GERMANY.

The Grand Duke of Baden has granted an amnesty to all persons condemned for participation in the armed revolt of 1848, except the chiefs of the insurrection, and individuals sentenced to infamous punishments for crimes not political.

TURKEY.

The Divan, according to intelligence from Constantinople of the 30th ult., has authorized the English fleet to winter at Sinope. The Cabinet of Redschid Pacha is becoming established. The Sultan has received, at an audience, General Durando, the representative of Sardinia. The conferences opened by the English Embassy with Ferouk-Khan appear likely to detain the latter at Constantinople for several months.

Aali Pacha is mentioned as the new representative of the Porte at Paris.

GREECE.

The army of occupation will winter in Greece.

SPAIN.

A royal decree has been published, fixing the elections of the municipal councils for the 5th of next February.

SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Government has communicated a memorial on the Neuchâtel question to the several cabinets of Europe. This document reviews all the historical bearings of the matter in dispute, and deduces from various antecedents the right of Switzerland to the territory claimed by Prussia.

SHIPWRECKS.

The late boisterous weather has again furnished us with several shipwrecks to record.

Great consternation has been felt at Watchet, in Somersetshire, for some days past, in consequence of several pieces of wreck having been washed ashore, showing that a vessel had been wrecked in the Bristol Channel. Some papers thrown up behind the quay proved that this vessel was a schooner of one hundred and fifty-nine tons register, named the *Invoice*, of Plymouth, and freighted with iron. Mr. Boswell, Customs' officer, communicated with the ship broker at Cardiff, who states in reply that the *Invoice* was a fine schooner, with a crew of nine hands, and sailed from Cardiff on the 21st of November, with one hundred and thirty tons of bar iron, bound for Genoa. It is feared that all the poor fellows have perished. Parts of boats have also been found.

The brig *Emma*, Captain White, thirty days from Liverpool, with a cargo of salt, has been lost about midnight at Seal Cove, a small opening three miles N. of Flat Rock, and ten miles from St. John's, Newfoundland. A heavy swell setting into the light, the ship became unmanageable, and finally went on shore. The cook, an Italian, was drowned while endeavouring to save the rest; but his appears to have been the only life lost.

The new American ship *Clarendon*, Captain Noyes, seven hundred and fifty tons register, bound with a cargo of timber from Miramichi to Liverpool, for Messrs. Miller, Houghton, and Co., went on shore at Redness Point, about half a mile north of Whitehaven, last Saturday evening, and became a total wreck. She struck upon the rocks, stem on, and in a few minutes broke in two in the middle. The lifeboat was at once got out, and, after about two and a half hours' hard labour, twelve of the crew were got out and safely landed, but the captain and eight others refused to leave the vessel, which, as the wind was not blowing directly on shore, he thought would hold together till the tide left her. In this he was not disappointed, and about midnight the water had so far receded as to enable the captain and the remainder of the hands to land, without any worse mishap than a few slight bruises.

The English steamer, *William Beckett*, has foundered about two hundred and fifty miles W. by S. of the Scaw. Captain Holdridge, the master, and crew of the vessel, arrived at Goole last Saturday, having been forwarded to England by the Consul. Captain Holdridge states that the occurrence took place on the 12th of last month, and in getting out the ship's boats they experienced much difficulty in preventing them being dashed to atoms, as the sea at the time was running violently. The boats were at length safely got out by pouring a

quantity of oil overboard into the sea, which seemed to deaden the surf round the ship. The boats were lowered, and got clear without touching the ship, which went down in less than five minutes afterwards. The crew also took a can of oil with them in each boat, the can containing about three gallons, and used the same with similar results, while running down to the ship *Eugenie*, which took them on board. The *William Beckett* was only partly insured.

Intelligence has been received at Liverpool of the wreck of the American ship *Adriatic*, near Dungarvan, on Monday morning, with three men drowned. The *Adriatic* sailed from Liverpool for New York on the 30th ult., with two hundred passengers, and a crew, including officers, of fifty men. The ship and cargo are reported to have been worth 100,000l. On the 7th inst. (last Sunday), a ship, supposed to be the *J. L. Warner*, which cleared from New Orleans for Liverpool on the 23rd of October, was at anchor in distress off Tacumshin Lough, near Wexford. She had cut away her masts, and was in great extremity.

David Mason, mate, and James Crowther, seaman, the only survivors of the brig *Messenger* of Shields, have arrived at that port from Hartlepool, the vessel having been run down and sunk by the *James Hartley* steamer, when the master and five of the crew were drowned. The *Messenger* left Gravesend on Thursday week for the Tyne, and while off Seaham, running at nine knots an hour, the men on the look-out saw a large steamer coming towards them. With a view of running under the ship's stern, the steamer ported her helm, but, unfortunately, ran into her amidships, and cut her down to the water's edge. The brig began immediately to sink, and the two survivors had only time to jump into the steamer when the brig went down bodily, taking the master, three seamen, and two lads with her. The whole of the frightful occurrence was completed within six minutes of the vessels coming into collision. The steamer did not put out a boat to try to save the drowning men, and the only excuse that can be made for those on board is, that they were worn out with their exertions in a gale they had encountered in the Baltic, the master having been four days and four nights on deck.

A great number of wrecks—in some cases attended with loss of life—are reported from various parts of the English and French coast.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER AGAIN!—The Cronstadt grievance is once more dragged forward by Sir Charles Napier, who publishes in the daily papers some letters of his addressed to Lord Palmerston on the subject of Sir Robert Peel's allusions, at some recent meetings, to the conduct of the Admiral while in the Baltic; a letter from himself to the Grand Duke Constantine, and the reply of that Prince. From the correspondence with the Premier it appears that Lord Palmerston approves of Sir Charles Napier's discretion in not attacking Cronstadt, but that he thinks that his discussions with the Board of Admiralty, both in and out of Parliament, have been of a nature to give his best friends great cause for regret. Sir Charles, on the strength of Lord Palmerston's favourable construction of his conduct in the Baltic, argues that the Premier could not have been "the very chiefest authority" hinted at by Sir Robert Peel as confirming his (Sir Robert's) opinion that Cronstadt might have been "crumbled to the dust" if the English Admiral had "done his duty." That authority, continues Sir Charles, could not have been the Queen either. He therefore thinks "the country has a right to know" who the authority really is. The letter of the Grand Duke Constantine runs thus:—"St. Petersburg, 13th (25th) Nov., 1856.—My dear Admiral,—In answer to your letter of the 29th of October, I willingly affirm that you have quite exactly reported the conversation I had with you concerning Cronstadt. With regard to Sir R. Peel's statement, I consider it necessary to say that I spoke with him but once, viz., at his official presentation in Moscow; and that not a word concerning Cronstadt—not even the name itself—was mentioned by either of us.—Yours affectionately, CONSTANTINE."

THE NEW ROCKET FACTORY AT WOOLWICH.—The buildings, twenty-four in number, a contract for the erection of which was entered into two months ago by Mr. Smith, builder, of Pimlico, are now completed, upon the marshes immediately below the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich. They are intended to constitute the new rocket factory, and, by way of precaution, are isolated from each other.

THE CANDIA.—The heavy portion of the India and China mails, due at Southampton on the 5th inst., by the *Candia*, did not arrive till Monday, the 8th, and were then brought through France, by the Admiralty agent of the *Candia*, Lieutenant Tickell, R.N. The delay arose from some injury to the vessel caused by a succession of hard gales from the north-west, which, two days after leaving Malta, obliged them to put into the Bay of Tunis, where a Tunisian war-steamer was lured to convey the mails and passengers to Marseilles. The *Candia* is being repaired at Tunis. During the gales, a seaman was washed off the bowsprit, and drowned, and another man was much injured at the helm.

MISSING VESSELS.—Two Government steam-vessels have been ordered to proceed to Archangel in search of five merchant ships belonging to the port of Dundee, which have been missing for two months. They were on their homeward-bound voyage.

EXPLOSION AT SEA.—The Mecklenburg brig *Maria Brockelmann*, Captain C. H. Voss, with a cargo of coal from Cardiff, bound to Barcelona, when off Cape St. Vincent, on the 16th of September, experienced a violent explosion from the gas generated in the hold which blew off the hatches and all around them, shaking the vessel so tremendously that the crew prepared to take to their boats. The mate was lighting a chemical match in the cabin when the casualty took place. The result was, that the mate received some severe burns of which he afterwards died, and another of the seamen was also much hurt.

THE MILITARY AT MALTA.—Two English sentries at Malta have been stabbed by natives. One of them is dead, and the other, at the date of the last despatches, lingered hopelessly. The assassin is in custody. Some soldiers of the Royal Artillery have attacked the police, and severely injured several.

INFANTRY REGIMENTS.—A circular memorandum has been issued fixing the establishment of regiments of infantry, exclusive of those in India and depot battalions. With the eight service companies there will be 1 lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors, 8 captains, 10 lieutenants, 6 ensigns, 6 staff, 47 sergeants, including schoolmaster, 21 drummers or buglers, 32 corporals, and 768 privates; and with the depot, 4 captains, 4 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 20 sergeants, including a schoolmaster, 4 drummers or buglers, 16 corporals, and 184 privates; total, 1000. The 12th and 65th Regiments will follow this rule.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

A YORKSHIRE TRAGEDY.

A DOUBLE MURDER—the persons slain being a man and his wife, both old—has been committed at Bolton-upon-Dearne, a secluded village in Yorkshire, about a mile and a half from the Wath station of the North Midland Railway. The particulars of the tragedy, as communicated to the daily papers from the spot, are very singular. Mr. Luke White, the murdered man, was much esteemed, not only in Bolton, but in the neighbouring villages, where he was well known. He was the village druggist, grocer, and postmaster, and also entrusted with the transaction of all the parochial business, including that of overseer, vestry clerk, &c.; and, like most village druggists, he was to a great extent the village surgeon. His parochial trusts were not even confined to Bolton, but embraced several of the neighbouring villages, where he was held in great repute for his general knowledge, but more especially for his accurate acquaintance with all matters relating to parish business. He was likewise looked upon by the villagers as an extremely pious person, and he was an occasional preacher. He belonged to the Calvinistic sect, and held its doctrines somewhat extremely. The temperance movement also found an advocate in him. He was well to do in the world, being the owner of the house he occupied, with several cottage houses adjacent, and about eight acres of land. But, though his duties were multifarious, he performed them without assistance, and lived alone with his aged partner. It was the custom of the couple to sit up till midnight, the wife reading the Bible, and the husband making notes of his sermons, writing out his parish documents, or readings.

On the afternoon of Thursday week, a meeting of the principal ratepayers of the village was held at his house, for the purpose of petitioning, under the new police regulations coming into operation next month, that the village, which for some years past has had the advantage of a paid resident constable, may still enjoy the same protection. This meeting broke up about five o'clock, and neighbours and customers visited the house and shop up to about half-past eight o'clock in the evening, when everything was satisfactory. It had been mainly through Mr. White's influence that the village had maintained a parish constable.

Between nine and ten on the morning of Friday week, the wife of a labourer named Luke Downing, went to the shop to make a purchase. She found the door closed and the window shutters up, but was not at all surprised at the circumstance, as it was the habit of the couple to open at rather a late hour in the morning. She tried the door, and, finding that it was only latched, opened it so as to ring the bell; but, receiving no answer, she rang the bell a second time. Feeling surprised at hearing nothing of either of the inmates, or of a little dog which generally barked on the ringing of the bell, she pushed open an inner door, recently put up for the sake of warmth, and looked into the shop. She perceived some wet on the floor, which, however, she did not recognize as blood; but she retreated in undefined terror, and, seeing a hawk, named Harvey, crossing the road from an adjacent house, called out to him to come in. Harvey ran into the shop, and returned, saying that he had found the dead body of a man weltering in blood. A Mr. Day, who lives on the opposite side of the road, was then called in, and found the body

be that of Mr. White. It was lying in the passage parating the two counters, with the head towards the door. The alarm spreading, numbers of people flocked the place, and, proceeding into the house, found Mrs. White also lying dead and weltering in blood in the passage just opposite the front door. The little dog was discovered lying upon the body of its murdered master, uninjured; but so cowed and subdued that it had forgotten its habit of barking. In the hand of Mrs. White a canestick was firmly grasped; and it would appear that her husband was summoned into the shop by some apparent customer, and that Mrs. White, hearing the noise of a death-struggle, came forward to render such assistance as she could give, and was at once despatched. The wounds seem to have been caused by a heavy instrument, such as a life-preserver; and the skull in both cases was frightfully fractured and contused. The object of the murder seems to have been plunder, as a cupboard upstairs was forced open, and apparently ransacked of money. The shop till was also open and empty; but, no money was found in Mr. White's pockets, it is thought he may himself have emptied the till.

An open Bible and some memoranda were lying on Mr. White's table in the inner room. The latter seem to be meant for a sermon on Romans, viii. 19, and contain references to several passages in the Evangelists and the Epistles. The text is—"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God;" on which it was noted that the Greek word rendered "creature" meant "human creature," and that the word rendered "earnest expectation" implied looking out—looking with the neck stretched out and the head thrust forward." It had been the habit of Mr. White to sing a hymn every evening, accompanying himself on the piano. The nearest neighbour remarked on the Thursday evening that he did not hear from Mr. White's house the accustomed song of praise.

An inquest has been opened, but it was adjourned to Friday (yesterday).

A hawker was arrested on Monday; but it was afterwards found that there was no case against him, and he was discharged.

THE WINTER ASSIZES.

A policeman and a porter employed on the Great Western Railway have been sentenced at the Salisbury Assizes to four years' penal servitude for robbery of goods which were being transmitted by the company. The porter was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for a theft in which the other man was not concerned.

Robert Brewer has been found Guilty of uttering a receipt for 29*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* He was pay-sergeant in the 10th Militia, and he appears to have misappropriated the money for which he gave the false receipt. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour.

Four men have pleaded Guilty at Stafford to the charge of assaulting a gamekeeper in the course of a light-poaching expedition at Wolseley, last July. They were old offenders, belonging, apparently, to a large gang; and they were sentenced to three years' hard labour.

William Allen, alias Sidney Jones, and William Ray, alias Walter Jones, were indicted for forging and uttering a request for the delivery of goods with intent to defraud, on the 30th of last July, at Stafford. Great interest attached to this case, as the prisoners had acquired considerable notoriety as members of a gang of swindlers who had for some time evaded justice, and carried on with great ingenuity the proceedings for which they were now indicted. They seemed to know that giving an order on a tradesman for goods, with a promise of payment which they did not mean to fulfil, is not a false pretence, but they were not aware that putting a fictitious name to such an order or promise, though it was the name by which they had been for some months known, and had carried on their business, amounted to forgery. They have carried on their frauds for the last seven or eight years, and have before now been imprisoned. In the course of last February, Sidney Jones took a public-house in Stafford, under the name of William Allen. He was joined by his brother, and they went on till August, when, in consequence of the magistrates refusing to renew the license unless they had some reference to character, Sidney Jones announced that he meant to set up as an auctioneer, and would sell off all his stock. The articles included some goods which had been recently ordered and not paid for; but, the suspicions of the police being aroused, proceedings were instituted against Jones by the Excise and by some of his creditors; the house was searched, a directory was found, with marks against the names of traders in different parts of the kingdom, a number of envelopes addressed to those who favoured ready to be sent off, and a mass of memoranda respecting other tradesmen. Owing to the letters and papers thus discovered, a few being in the handwriting of Walter Jones, the latter was arrested at Gloucester. They were now found Guilty, and sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

A jurymen at the Gloucester Assizes, at the commencement of a trial for child murder, requested the judge to excuse him from serving, as he had a conscientious objection to capital punishment, and would rather forfeit his oath than be the means of bringing a

fellow-creature to that kind of death. Mr. Baron Bramwell replied that he could not see how a jurymen's conscience could have anything to do with the judgment of death. All that a jurymen had to do was to say whether the accused was or was not guilty. However, if this particular jurymen would take "so irrational a view of the case," he ought not to sit on the jury, and the counsel for the Crown would probably challenge him. This having been done, the case proceeded, and

Mary Yarnell (a married woman) was tried for the murder of her infant child, four months old. Directly she was placed at the bar, she began talking incoherently, and this she continued throughout the whole of the trial, and likewise abused the witnesses by applying to them opprobrious names. It appeared that, though she had plenty of milk, she neglected to suckle or otherwise feed the child. The doctor who attended her, and several of her neighbours, remonstrated, but in vain. The child became emaciated, and was allowed to be filthily dirty. Ophthalmia set in, and the child died of marasmus, or starvation, after being taken to the workhouse. On one occasion, a woman, one of the witnesses, saw Mrs. Yarnell washing the child; but "she rubbed it," said the woman, "as she would a floor," and the witness took the child out of her hands and finished washing it herself. It was evident, from this and from some other facts, that the accused was insane, and on this ground she was Acquitted of the charge, as well as of another indictment, to the effect that she had killed her stepson, a child seven years of age, by a kick on the loins. The woman was ordered to be detained in custody during her Majesty's pleasure.

In opening the Liverpool Assizes, Mr. Baron Alderson made some remarks on the ticket-of-leave system, which he strongly condemned. Several ticket-of-leave men are among the persons tried at those Assizes, the very first criminal being one. He was charged with burglary, of which offence he had been convicted in 1853, and, being set at large in June of the present year (his sentence was seven years' transportation), he again committed the same crime. Baron Alderson now sentenced him to transportation for twenty years, adding, "If they let you out again, the fault is not mine." The jury on Thursday made a presentment to the Judge, in which they expressed their hearty concurrence in his views with reference to the ticket-of-leave system.—Mr. Baron Bramwell, at Chelmsford, has expressed his opinion that the ticket-of-leave being at large cannot be regarded as the cause of the late increase of crime.

Richard Morris, a labourer, was tried at Shrewsbury, on a charge of abducting a girl of fifteen from the house of her father, a farmer, by whom the man was employed. The girl was taken by Morris to the house of his brother, where he remained with her till half-past three o'clock in the morning, when he left. The following day, the police found her out, and took her back to her father. The man said, when taken into custody, that they were going to be married next May, and that till then the girl would be in service. He was found Guilty, and sentenced to nine months' hard labour.

John Brown has been found Guilty at Durham, of a rape upon a married woman. Her husband was in the hospital at the time, and she lived in a lonely roadside cottage. One night, when she was in bed with her children, the man broke into the house, and committed the offence. He was sentenced to transportation for life.

Ann Harrison was tried at Durham for the murder of her illegitimate child. She had been delivered in the Union workhouse at Stockton-on-Tees, and the body of the child was discovered, after her leaving that place, buried in a heap of manure, but, as there was great doubt whether the death was not from natural causes, instead of from strangulation, as alleged by the prosecution, the woman was Acquitted.

Harriett Woolley was tried at Liverpool for a similar offence. As in the previous case, the woman was a servant, and she was delivered of an infant in the privy, down which the dead body was afterwards discovered. It was considered possible that the child dropped down accidentally, and in this case also there was a verdict of Not Guilty.

A woman, named Martha Worrell, was tried at Oxford, also on a charge of murdering her illegitimate infant. The body was found in a ditch; but here again a wilful murder could not be proved, and the jury simply found the woman Guilty of concealment of birth. She was sentenced to three months' hard labour.—Bridget Kelly has been found Guilty at Birmingham of murdering her infant by throwing it into the canal with a tape tied round its neck. The jury recommended her to mercy, and sentence of death was only recorded.

John Ingram, a postman, was indicted at Liverpool for stealing two letters containing bank post-bills and bank-notes to the value of 500*l.* Being found Guilty, he was sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

John Hollis, alias Williams, was charged at Shrewsbury with the murder of Benjamin Bromley. Hollis had been behaving with brutal violence to a girl; several persons interfered, a good deal of fighting ensued, and Bromley, who took the girl's part and struck Hollis, at length received from him a mortal blow from some instrument. The jury found Hollis Guilty of man-

slaughter only, and he was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation.

A sentence of eight years' penal servitude has been passed at Lincoln on James Campbell for a highway robbery at Ingham. This was an instance of very speedy justice. The robbery was only committed last Saturday night, and the offender was tried and convicted on Tuesday.

George Spivey was indicted at Liverpool for the manslaughter of John Coupland, at Church Fenton, on the 25th of July last, by his negligence in not attending to the danger signal of the railway, according to his duty. The facts of this case must be in the recollection of our readers: it will therefore suffice to say that Spivey was Acquitted.

A case of early depravity came before Mr. Russell Gurney at York. Ann Nicholson was indicted for perjury; and in proof of this charge it was shown that, last February, she being then under seventeen years of age, she was delivered of an illegitimate child, the paternity of which she swore upon her late master, Mr. Hudson, a miller and a preacher in the Primitive Methodist connexion, though she well knew that he was not the father. She was found Guilty, and was sentenced to nine months' hard labour.

John Autey, a master mariner, was found Guilty of discharging a pistol in the face of his wife, and badly wounding her. The man always exhibited great affection for his wife, and the motive for the act did not appear, but it seems to have resulted from a kind of temporary insanity caused by drink. Sentence was deferred.

William Jackson was indicted at the Chester Assizes for the murder of his son and daughter in that city last September. His wife had left him; and one day Jackson took the children out with him, cut their throats in an orchard, and buried them. The jury having returned a verdict of Guilty, the man was sentenced to death. On hearing the sentence, he at first turned very pale, but, almost immediately afterwards, picked up his hat from the floor, and walked composedly away.

The "Leeds wizard," Henry Harrison, has been tried at York, and found Guilty of marrying two women while his first wife was alive. He was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

A case of manslaughter, of a very savage kind, was also tried at York. During the last harvest, a quarrel took place near Great Smeaton between two labourers—one named Thomas Bowes, and the other Robert Cockfield. After some wrangling and fighting, Bowes took up his scythe, and swept it round in the direction of Cockfield, who stepped back, but immediately afterwards again came forward, and told Bowes he was not half a man. Bowes then cut Cockfield's leg with the scythe. He staggered and fell, bleeding so profusely that, in about two hours, notwithstanding all the endeavours that were made to staunch the wound, he died. For this crime Bowes was tried, and found Guilty of causing the death "by carelessness." Sentence was deferred.

Mariana Ooha, a Manila seaman, has been found Guilty at Liverpool of an attack on Thomas Smith, whom he stabbed in the breast so seriously that for some time his life was considered in danger. He was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.—At the same Assizes, a man has been found Guilty of a garotte robbery, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

The December general sessions of the peace for the county of Middlesex commenced on Monday morning at Clerkenwell, before Mr. Pashley, Q.C., Assistant Judge, and a bench of magistrates. Richard Osborne, a labourer, was the first person tried. He was charged with stealing signal lamps from posts on the Great Northern Railway. He was found Guilty; and, considering that the offence was one which might have led to most serious consequences on the railway, he was sentenced to a year's hard labour. The same punishment was awarded to Joseph Petgrec, who pleaded Guilty to stealing a box from a van belonging to the same railway.—Joseph Edghill was sentenced to four years' penal servitude for horse-stealing.—William Compton, a clerk, pleaded Guilty to having embezzled three sums of money, amounting to 80*l.*, received by him in his capacity of collector to Messrs. Palmer, candle manufacturers. He was condemned to hard labour for eighteen months.—Minetto Luigi, one of the disbanded Italian Legionaries, was indicted for an attack with a knife on a man in a public-house, whom, however, he did not succeed in injuring. The facts of this case have already appeared in the *Leader*. The Italian was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.—Carlo Coletto, also an Italian formerly belonging to the Legion, has been found Guilty of an assault with a knife on several persons at Hoxton. He was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

John Williams pleaded Guilty to a murderous assault on David Embleton, one of the warders of the Coldbath-fields House of Correction, where the accused was undergoing a sentence of twelve months' hard labour. He was now condemned to eighteen months' hard labour.

Louisa Allen Harrison, Fanny Roden, and Thomas Finnerty were tried for a burglary committed in the house of a gentleman with whom Harrison was living as a servant. They were all found Guilty, when Harrison told

a strange story, to the effect that she had been tempted to steal some of her master's goods by Roden, who said her husband was in trouble, and wanted a little money to help him out. She was afterwards drawn more and more into the toils, until she was induced to be a party to the burglary. Subsequently, she joined the thieves, but was soon deserted by them, and left without a penny of the proceeds. She was sentenced to a year's hard labour; the others to six years' penal servitude.

THE GREAT BULLION ROBBERY.

It appears that Tester left Sweden (where he had been employed for some months past on the Royal Swedish Railway) some three or four weeks ago, having been dismissed from his situation before he had himself received any intimation of Agar's revelations. He at once (according to statements published in the daily papers) decided upon returning to England, and accordingly quitted Sweden for Copenhagen, passing thence to Hamburg. Learning on his way the danger of his position, and coming to the conclusion that the statement of Agar had led to his dismissal from his appointment, he passed from Hamburg through Belgium to Calais, and thence, hardly as it may seem, to Dover. What followed reads like a chapter of romance, and is, in fact, one of the strangest episodes in the great gold epic; for at Dover, without the intervention of any elaborate disguise, but simply with the collar of his coat turned up, he remained upon the platform at the railway-station for nearly an hour, took his seat in the train, travelled up to town in the ordinary way, and passed through the London-bridge terminus without inquiry, or even a suspicion being entertained that the man upon whom the company were, above all others, anxious to lay their hands, had so easily eluded pursuit. What makes this more singular still is the fact that that very night Mr. Rees, solicitor for the prosecution, travelled down the line to Dover for the purpose of endeavouring to gain some information as to the whereabouts of the fugitive from Tester's father, who resides there. After arriving at London, Tester had an interview on Monday with his professional adviser, to whom he asserted his entire ignorance of the charge, and stated his determination to surrender himself on the re-examination of Pierce and Burgess on Wednesday.

On that day, Tester made his appearance in court, and was put at the bar. Mr. Bodkin (for the prosecution) then said that, as the third party implicated by the evidence of Agar was now in custody for the first time, it would be necessary to have the evidence previously taken read over in his hearing; but, to save the time of several banking clerks who were present, he proposed first to take their evidence with regard to the tracing of certain Bank of England notes, obtained at the Bank for the American eagles, and one hundred ounces of gold sold directly after the robbery for 620*l*. Agar had said that the gold so obtained was exchanged for notes; and this was singularly corroborated by the fact that about thirteen days after the robbery six hundred sovereigns were changed at the Bank for six 100*l*. notes. The name given at the Bank by the party who changed them was Edgington; but this was no doubt false, as it could be proved that of these six notes for 100*l*. Burgess changed two, Tester three, and Pierce one.

Evidence confirmatory of these statements having been given by a great many witnesses, the further hearing was adjourned to Saturday (this day), when it is supposed the case will be completed.

LOSS OF PROPERTY ON A RAILWAY.—Mr. Keys, a traveller for a large London house, has lost a case, containing nearly 2000*l*. worth of watches, while travelling by railway from Coleraine to Derry. It is evident that the case was stolen, and one of the porters was for some days in custody under suspicion, but he has been liberated on finding bail to appear again when called on.

A VENERABLE IMPOSTOR.—A well-dressed, gentlemanly-looking old man, of rather venerable appearance, who declined either to state his name or address, was brought up at Bow-street, charged with obtaining money from Sir Walter Trevelyan, Bart., by false pretences. The prosecution was conducted by Captain Wood, manager of the Mendicity Society, who stated that the man was the most successful impostor of the day. For upwards of four years he had pursued his present career without detection, the officers of the Mendicity Society having adopted every possible manoeuvre to catch him without avail. He was at length tracked by Horsford, the society's officer, who appears to have succeeded to the mantle of detective ingenuity left him by his father; and the impostor was apprehended immediately after receiving money from Sir Walter Trevelyan.

DESTITUTION AT THE EAST OF LONDON.—Mr. Josiah Viney, Minister of Bethnal-green-road Chapel, writes to the *Times* some particulars of the destitute state of the poor in his neighbourhood. He says:—"In a room, six feet square, the entire furniture of which is about 7*s*. in value, exist nine persons—a man his wife, and seven children. The man is severely afflicted, unable to work. The wife earns a precarious subsistence by washing and needlework. The entire proceeds of the family are 5*s*. per week, out of which 2*s*. must be regularly paid for

rent, or their all would be seized. 'Why not go into the house?' The poor fellow replied, 'I cannot bear to be parted from my wife and children.' I mention this case as coming under my own knowledge, and simply as an illustration of hundreds more. This afternoon I visited a policeman dying of consumption, the effect of blows received on duty. His young wife had worked for three days, and, after walking to and fro a distance of eight miles, with her heavy child in her arms, had received, as the produce of her labour, 1*s*. He, however, had a small pension, but, having overdrawn it, was in the utmost distress, and had parted with his blanket and coverlet to obtain food and fire." Subscriptions in aid of the poor, to be sent to him at the chapel, are solicited by Mr. Viney.

THE CONVICT MARLEY.—Since the condemnation of Marley, he has behaved with great resignation, and has confessed to the commission of the crime, which, however, he said he did not contemplate a quarter of an hour before. He was accidentally passing by, and seeing no one in the shop but Cope, the thought struck him that it was a good opportunity to commit a robbery. He therefore went in, but the blows which he struck were only given (according to his own account) to stun the shopman. The life-preserver, he says, is a weapon constantly carried about by persons who are in the habit of committing robberies. In the hurry of the moment, he snatched up (under the impression that it contained valuable property) a basket lying on the counter, wrapped in a blue bag, which, however, merely held a codfish. This he threw away shortly before he arrived at Bridge-street; for he denies that he handed it to an accomplice, and indeed asserts that he had no accomplices at all. He appears to have received a good education, and at one time he served in the army, and showed great bravery during the Kaffir war. Having afterwards taken to a life of crime, he was sentenced to transportation for housebreaking, but obtained his liberty under the ticket-of-leave system. He states, however, that he had no chance of obtaining any employment, and that he was again compelled to resort to his evil ways. The execution will take place next Monday morning.

EMBEZZLEMENTS AT LIVERPOOL.—Liverpool has witnessed numerous instances of defalcations within the past twelve months, and last week several other cases were added to the catalogue. The most serious, and the one which will, perhaps, create most surprise, is the flight of Mr. James Shaw, agent in Liverpool of the District Provident Society, whose accounts exhibit defalcations to the extent of 2600*l*. How such a large amount of money could be withdrawn without awakening the attention of the auditors and the committee is an astonishing circumstance. The committee appear to feel that their supervision has been somewhat lax, as they have themselves made up the required amount. This course was adopted at a meeting held on Thursday week, several members of the body subscribing as much as 100*l*. each to cover the deficiency. Mr. Shaw's office was at No. 4, Queen-square, his residence being in Lovelane, Wavertree.—Another case has occurred within the past few days, the facts of which are thus stated: Mr. William Ellis, cashier to Messrs. Abram Gartside and Co., woolbrokers, of Bretherton-Buildings, 10, North John-street, was missing from his duties on Monday. He was accustomed to take the cash-box every Saturday afternoon to the shop of Mr. Jones, silversmith, Castle-street, where it was kept until Monday morning. The box usually contained a large sum of money, but no deficiencies up to Monday had been noticed. On the box being then sent for by Mr. Gartside, it was found on examination that about 300*l*. was wanting, and subsequent inquiries have swelled the amount of defalcations to more than 1000*l*. Ellis, whose quiet demeanour and gentle disposition secured many friends, had been in the employment of Messrs. Abram Gartside and Co. from his youth upwards, and had succeeded in obtaining their entire confidence. He was believed to be steady, sober, and 'a good churchman.'—*Liverpool Albion*.

HOCUSING ON A RAILWAY.—A gentleman was recently travelling to Reading on the Great Western Railway. While in the waiting-room at the station he happened to show a large amount of gold and notes in his pocket-book, and having got into an empty compartment of a first-class carriage, he was followed by a fashionably-dressed man, who began to talk with him on the various topics of the day. At length, the stranger took from his pocket a flask and a glass, poured out some sherry, and drank it, and was about to return the flask to his pocket, when he begged his fellow passenger's pardon for not asking him to take a glass with him at first, and hoped he would do so then. The gentleman consented, drank, and immediately fell asleep, and did not wake till the train arrived at Swindon, when he found himself alone, and minus 69*l*.; but fortunately a larger sum, which was concealed about his person, the thief had passed over. It is supposed that the flask was double, and contained real sherry and some drugged liquid.

FRAUDS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—We believe we are betraying no confidence in stating that the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, impelled by the repeated serious disclosures of official men south of the Tweed, recently resolved on instituting a rigid investi-

gation into their affairs by a thorough examination of the books employed by the clerks at every station on their line. The investigation extends over a period of two years, and already, at some of the stations, circumstances, we regret to say, have been disclosed sufficient to warrant the wise decision of the railway directors.—*Alloa Advertiser*.

THE DEAD AMONG THE LIVING.—Two shopkeepers, residing in King-street, St. Saviour's, attended before the Southwark magistrate, and stated that in a room, at No. 16, the dead body of a young woman had been lying nearly nineteen days in a coffin. The room was locked up, the deceased's father, who rented it, and who owed nearly 60*l*. to the landlord, having gone away; and the effluvia was so offensive as to be injurious to the inmates of the house and the neighbourhood. The applicants wished to know what could be done to remove the body. The magistrate advised them to apply to the parish authorities.

EMBEZZLEMENT ON THE EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY.—With respect to some alleged frauds on the East Lancashire Railway, we have received a statement from Mr. James Smithells, the general manager, who says that there have been some misrepresentations in the papers, and adds:—"The facts are, that John Johnson, late our station-master at Ormskirk, was in September last discovered to have embezzled a sum of about twenty-nine pounds. He was then brought before the magistrates at Bury, and was committed to take his trial at the October Quarter Sessions at Salford. Bail was taken for his appearance; he afterwards absconded, and has not since been heard of. Johnson, on his appointment, gave, through the British Guarantee Society, the security invariably required from every servant who has charge of money, and this Company will not lose one penny by his defalcations."

BURGLARY NEAR SHEFFIELD.—Four men, a few nights ago, broke into the house of Mr. Bradley, about two miles from Sheffield, and, going into that gentleman's bedroom, while two other men were keeping watch on the lawn outside, made an attack on him and his wife with bludgeons loaded at the end with lead. Mr. Bradley was severely hurt on the hand, and Mrs. Bradley on the breast. One of the men was armed with a revolver belonging to Mr. Bradley; and, by means of threats, the thieves induced him to give them all the money he had in the room, amounting to nearly 40*l*. in cash, and a bill of exchange for 100*l*. They also took away two gold watches, a quantity of jewellery, and other valuable property. Mrs. Bradley's mother was lying sick in another room, which the burglars entered, threatening her with death if she made any alarm. They likewise menaced the servants, and then left with their booty. Mr. Bradley's house was very strongly fastened; but the robbers broke through all obstructions. A large and vigilant dog was kept in the yard; but, as he did not bark once during the night, it is supposed he was drugged.

A BOY MURDERED AT SEA.—The brig *Mars*, of Dundee, commanded by Captain James Burn, was driven by stress of weather on to the Cornish coasts a few days ago. After all hands had come on shore, some of the crew laid a charge against the captain of having, by repeated acts of ill-usage, murdered a cabin boy named Robert Becroft, of from fourteen to fifteen years of age, who had been shipped at Lowestoft on the 3rd of last June, while on their voyage from Dundee to Cuba. During the passage out, the boy was not ill-treated. He was healthy, but not very strong, and he was sick for some days while in the West Indies; but he recovered before they took ship home. On the passage back, the captain, finding that the boy did not do his work as quickly as was desired (though he appears to have been willing, and to have done the best he could), beat him savagely on several occasions—once on the day before he died. After death, his body was found to be shockingly bruised and discoloured. The captain (who seems to have been sometimes intoxicated) has been committed for trial on a charge of Wilful Murder.

THE ITALIAN CONVICTS AT WINCHESTER.—The Italians convicted at Winchester for a murder on the high seas, and now lying under sentence of death, having complained that some statements in justification which they were prepared to make were not listened to, a meeting has been held with the object of taking up their cause. An interpreter has been employed to take down the men's statements in Italian and English, and these will be forwarded to the High Sheriff. "The three prisoners," says a correspondent of the *Times*, "at first seemed in great distress of mind from an idea that their execution would take place immediately, but became more tranquil on being told that at least fourteen days' respite would be allowed them. The great distress of the youngest prisoner, only eighteen years of age, seems to arise from the knowledge of the grief his ignominious end will cause his family, and to his brothers and sisters, of whom, he says, he has seven."

THE GREAT NORTHERN FRAUDS.—A further examination of Redpath and Kent took place on Thursday, when the case against them was strengthened by additional evidence. The next examination will be on Friday, the 19th.—Some correspondence between the

ectors and auditors of the Great Northern Railway connexion with the late frauds, has been published. The auditors insist that Mr. Redpath's department was wholly out of their sphere; and so clear was their conviction on the subject, that they refused, after the discovery of his delinquency, to promote any examination till the directors had distinctly expressed concurrence in their view. This concurrence was subsequently pressed by the latter.

IMPOSTURE.—Mary Ann Murphy, a respectable woman, about thirty years of age, residing at Fott's-square, Old Bailey, has been charged at Guildhall with obtaining goods and various sums of money by fraudulently representing that she was the niece of the shop of Cloyne and Ross. She is remanded.—John Philip Arthy has been committed for trial on a similar charge of imposture.

AN UNHAPPY HOME.—Eliza Carvey, a young married woman, has been charged at Worship-street with an attempt to poison herself. It appeared that she had been brutally ill-used by her husband, and driven to desperation. The man's brother came forward in the woman's behalf, and she was committed to his charge. He promised to take out a warrant against his other.

STATE OF TRADE.

The trade reports for the week ending last Saturday are satisfactory. At Manchester the markets have been more and more active in consequence of the advices by Overland Mail and the reduction in the Bank rate discount. The Birmingham accounts describe steadiness in the iron-market, and a good home demand for general manufactures. The South American orders also have been considerable. In the copper trade much uncertainty prevails from the constant advance in prices. Nottingham, business, as is usual on the approach of Christmas, has been nearly suspended. In the woollen districts there has been no alteration, and the American and foreign purchases generally continue on a full scale. In the Irish linen-markets, owing to the limited amount of goods brought forward, quotations have been well maintained.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been considerable activity. The number of vessels reported inward was 271, being more than in the previous week. The arrivals of tea have again been large, comprising 52,114 packages, 499 of which were brought by the American ship *Ardenza*. The number of vessels cleared outward was, including 13 in ballast, showing a decrease of 21. The total number of ships loading for the Australian colonies is 50, being 5 more than at the last account. Those now loading, 7 are for Adelaide, 2 for Geelong, for Hobart Town, 1 for Launceston, 3 for Melbourne, for Moreton Bay, 7 for New Zealand, 17 for Port Phillip, 8 for Sydney, 1 for Swan River, and 1 for Arrambool. Of this list, 1 was entered outward in April, 1 in June, 1 in July, 1 in August, and 6 in September.—*Idem*.

OBITUARY.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM RIVERS, R.N., one of the heroes of the war with revolutionary France, having served with Hotham in 1795, under Sir John Jervis at the battle of Cape St. Vincent, and under Nelson at Trafalgar, died at Greenwich Hospital, of which he was one of the Lieutenants, on Friday week.

FATHER MATHEW, the Irish priest and originator of the temperance pledge movement, died on Monday, at Queenstown, Ireland. He had been for some time past in a debilitated state, owing to the unceasing exertions he had made to propagate his total abstinence principles.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT ON THE SHEFFIELD LINE.—Mr. Edward Ross, secretary to the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, writes to the *Times* to say that the account given in their columns, by a correspondent, of an accident on the Sheffield line, was greatly exaggerated. It is asserted by Mr. Ross that "none of the carriages were upset, and no one was injured. The accident was caused by the protrusion of a broken piece of rail in front of the wheel of the engine." Great care, the writer asserts, is taken by the directors to keep the rails in a safe condition; and, as a proof of the good result of this, he mentions that there has been only one fatal accident on the line since 1842. Mr. Ross requests the name of the correspondent, that he may be present at an investigation which shall prove to him the groundless nature of his fears. That gentleman, however, in another letter to the *Times*, adheres to his original account.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—The minor canonry in St. Paul's Cathedral, which became vacant by the death of the Rev. E. G. Beckwith, M.A., has been conferred by the Dean and Chapter upon the Rev. B. Morgan Cowie, L.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge.

NEW CATTLE MARKET.—The Great Western Railway Company propose to establish a fortnightly market at Windon solely for cattle, the object being to establish a large central depot for the numerous cattle districts

which have been opened up by their various lines, especially from Ireland and South Wales.

FIRES.—A very extensive conflagration, attended with loss of life, occurred on Friday week at a large block of buildings near Buchanan-street and Exchange-square, Glasgow. Four warehouses were either totally destroyed or greatly injured, and goods to the value of many thousand pounds (for the most part covered by insurance) were consumed. A fireman also was killed. He and three of his fellows had gone to an upper flat of the building to tear down a partition, when the flooring gave way; one man leaped aside, and saved himself, and the others were thrown down to the cellars. When they were got out, it was found that one was dead, and that the other two were severely wounded.—The workshops of Messrs. Pipers, builders, Turner's-row, Bow-common, were totally burnt down on Monday morning. The contents, including the workmen's tools, were all destroyed.—An extensive fire has also occurred at Deptford, on some large premises occupied by a broker. Several persons who were asleep in the house escaped with difficulty.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—We understand that a Royal Commission will shortly be issued, appointing Lord Broughton, the Dean of St. Paul's, Mr. R. Ford, Mr. Faraday, Mr. Cockerell, R.A., and Mr. George Richmond, to inquire into and determine the site of the new National Gallery, and to report on the desirableness of combining with it the Fine Art and Archaeological collections of the British Museum.—*Globe*.

CATTLE SHOWS.—The Birmingham cattle-show closed on Friday week, and the Smithfield show has now opened. The animals are reported as in fine condition.—The Baker-street exhibition was opened to the public on Tuesday, and appeared to give great satisfaction to a large and enthusiastic audience of farmers and others. The annual dinner of the Smithfield Cattle Club took place on Wednesday, the Duke of Richmond presiding. His Grace mentioned that Mr. Boulnois, proprietor of the Baker-street bazaar, had agreed to give them the handsome sum of 700*l.* a year for allowing the stock to be exhibited there.

THE "RAILWAY REVOLVER" ROMANCE.—The question of "Railways and Revolvers in Georgia" would seem to be finally disposed of by the precise and authoritative denial of Mr. R. R. Cuyler, the President of the Central Railroad in that State. The English Consul for the State of Georgia, moreover—Mr. E. Molyneux—comes forward formally to vouch for Mr. Cuyler's character and respectability—a point upon which we should not have permitted ourselves to entertain a moment's doubt. Thus, then, unless Mr. Arrowsmith, the author of this strange story, can support his statements by some fresh and overpowering evidence, his case has broken down.—*Times*.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—The Rev. Dr. Livingstone arrived at Marseilles from Tunis on the 6th inst., and was then in good health. His left arm, however, is broken and partly useless, having been torn by a lion. When he was taken on board her Majesty's ship *Frolic*, on the Mozambique coast, he had great difficulty in speaking a sentence of English, having disused it so long while travelling in Africa. He had with him a native from the interior of Africa. This man, when he got to the Mauritius, was so excited with the steamers and various wonders of civilization that he went mad, and jumped into the sea and was drowned. Dr. Livingstone has been absent from England seventeen years. He crossed the great African continent almost in the centre, from west to east, has been where no civilized being has ever been before, and has made many notable discoveries of great value. He travelled in the twofold character of missionary and physician, having obtained a medical diploma. He is rather a short man, with a pleasing and serious countenance, which betokens the most determined resolution. He continued to wear the cap which he wore while performing his wonderful travels. On board the *Candia*, in which he voyaged from Alexandria to Tunis, he was remarkable for his modesty and unassuming manners. He never spoke of his travels, except in answer to questions.—*Daily News*.

ACTION FOR LIBEL.—Another action for libel against a newspaper has terminated in a verdict for the defendants. Mr. Eyre, chaplain to the Faversham Union, induced the proprietor of the *Faversham Gazette* to publish in that journal a letter containing an attack on one James Burney, a carpenter. Burney replied by another letter, in which he severely 'mauled' Mr. Eyre's character. The editor of the paper afterwards published an apology, and the proprietor now paid 10*l.* into court, as being the utmost extent of damages to which he conceived the rev. gentleman was entitled. The jury returned a verdict for the newspaper.

THE INCOME-TAX.—Meetings have been held at Reading and at Plymouth (both under the presidency of the local mayors) to petition Parliament and the Government to repeal, or modify, with a view to a fairer adjustment, the present income-tax.—A meeting was also held at Southwark on Thursday, under the presidency of the high-bailiff, when Mr. Vickers, Dr. Challico, and Mr. Apsley Pellatt, M.P., were the chief speakers. They denounced the tax, and expressed their opinion that the augmented rate should terminate next April, and that no one should be subjected to the tax at all whose annual income is not more than 150*l.* Resolutions to

this effect were carried, and a committee was appointed to prepare a petition to Parliament.

ACCIDENT TO THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.—The communication between Liverpool and the south of Ireland was suspended on Wednesday, the wires of the Magnetic Company being out of order on the other side of Dublin, and the electric cable between Holyhead and Dublin having been cut—it is reported maliciously.

ARCHBISHOP v. LEE.—The arguments in this case (arising out of the British Bank affairs) have been continued with much legal elaboration and ingenuity; and on Tuesday Lord Justice Knight Bruce said the court would deliver judgment on the 19th inst. (next Friday).

NEW SCHOOLS AT NEWARK.—The Duke of Newcastle, on Tuesday week, laid the foundation-stone of Christ Church Schools at Newark, in which ceremony the Bishop of London and other churchmen and gentlemen assisted.

SOUTH AFRICA.—It was rumoured at Sierra Leone, at the date of the last despatches, that there had been a battle in the interior, in which four thousand persons were killed. The Minx was lying in the river Lagos in readiness, in the event of anticipated disturbances putting her services into requisition.

AN INSURANCE ACTION.—An action has been brought in the Court of Queen's Bench by the executors of the late Mr. George Gosling, against the New National Assurance and Loan Company to recover the amount of a policy of insurance for 600*l.*, which Mr. Gosling had effected in that office. The insurance was made at a premium of 30*l.*, in September, 1855, and Mr. Gosling died in May, 1856. It had been stated by Mr. Gosling that he was uniformly sober and temperate; that there was nothing in the state of his health to render his life more than ordinarily hazardous; and that he had not made any previous proposals of insurance to any other office. The company, therefore, accepted his proposals; but they now refused to pay on the ground that Mr. Gosling had deceived them. They contended that his habits were not temperate, though they did not charge him with being a positive drunkard; that he was afflicted with rupture, and concealed the fact; that, though denying it, he had made previous proposals to the St. George's Company, and that that company only consented to accept them at certain additional charges, on account of the state of his health, which would have made the premium 48*l.*, an amount Mr. Gosling declined paying. Had the National Company been aware of these facts, they would either have refused to insure Mr. Gosling's life, or would have charged a much higher rate of premium. This defence having been clearly made out, a verdict was given for the company.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE.—A deputation from the corporation of Gravesend and the parishioners of Erith waited last Saturday upon the General Purposes Committee of the Court of Aldermen, at the Guildhall, on the subject of the Metropolitan Main Drainage plans. The deputation was headed by Mr. William Fletcher, the Mayor of Gravesend, and the chief spokesman was Sir Culling Eardley, who, after calling attention to the poisonous influence which the main drainage scheme proposed by the Metropolitan Board of Works would have upon the river, and soliciting the aid of the Court of Aldermen in defeating it, referred to the necessity for draining the marshes to the east of London. Promising that, with respect to this latter subject, he only expressed his individual opinion, and did not wish to pledge the rest of the deputation, Sir Culling proceeded:—"He could not help thinking that, if justice was to be done to the whole subject of the health of London, in view of the danger of malaria, you must not only carry away the sewage in the best manner, but, also, you must prevent the fogs, the damps, the agues, the fevers from coming up to the metropolis out of the marshes through the trough of the Thames valley. The evidence given before a Committee of the House of Commons two years ago was conclusive on this point. When Lord Palmerston was in the Home-office, he had directed the counsel of that department to draw up the heads of a bill for the purpose, and his Lordship continued to take a warm interest in the object. He (Sir Culling Eardley) would therefore urge on the aldermen the consideration of this, as a subdivision of the question." Mr. Alderman Wire, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, said that body would give both subjects every attention.—The Metropolitan Board of Works, on Tuesday, proceeded to consider the report and plan of their engineer, as well as the points of discharge for the drainage of the metropolis suggested in Captain Bursall's letter and approved of by the first Commissioner of Works. A motion, to the effect that so much of the resolution of the 22nd of October, as adopted the engineer's plan marked B, be revoked, was carried by thirty-three to two. Some more discussion ensued, and the further consideration of the question was postponed till next Tuesday; so that no determination has yet been come to with respect to Captain Bursall's plan.

A LECTURE BY A LADY.—Miss J. M. White, a young lady whose enthusiastic devotion to the cause of emancipated Italy is known to many, and who recently translated Felice Orsini's narrative of his imprisonment, delivered, on Wednesday week, in the lecture hall at Derby, an address on her favourite topic. Her object was to arouse the sympathies of Englishmen for Italian

nationality; to show that the great obstacle to the independence and unification of the peninsula is foreign occupation (that by the Austrians being the worst because the most extensive); and to prove that there is no chance of Sardinia taking the lead in a national movement, as she is bound by treaties to the European system, but that the only hope for Italy lies in the Italian people themselves, headed by such patriots as Mazzini and Garibaldi. She denounced the truckling of England to Austria, which she asserted had caused the shedding of the blood of many patriots; defended Mazzini from the charges which have been brought against him; exhibited the bloodthirsty nature of the Austrians; and contended that in the event of the Italians freeing themselves from Austria, England should insist on the French not interfering, adding that she believed Louis Napoleon would not dare to provoke a war with this country, as that would ruin him. Miss White concluded by calling upon all to get up petitions to Parliament in favour of the non-intervention of foreign despots, and also to contribute their pence; for, however small, the Italians felt deeply any sympathy manifested towards them by Englishmen. The fair lecturer was loudly cheered on resuming her seat.

A NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Michael, and erected in the Commercial-road east, close to the Shadwell station of the Blackwall Railway, was opened on Monday for public worship, his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman officiating on the occasion.

SUICIDES.—Mr. John Collett, formerly M.P. for Athlone, has shot himself dead at his residence near Salisbury. His conduct for some time past had been such as to cause suspicion, and he was therefore watched; but he contrived to elude his observers, and blew his brains out in the library. The motive does not appear. A verdict of "Temporary derangement" was returned by the coroner's jury.—A married man, with three children, has strangled himself with one of his stockings in the Surrey county gaol. He had been charged with a burglary at Epsom, and was remanded for further examination.

PERSIA.—Russia, it is said, has demanded from the Shah of Persia a right of entry into the province of Makou; but it does not yet appear whether the demand has been granted.—The Beloches have invaded the Persian territory on the side of Kerman. The personnel of the English Embassy has left Teheran. The alleged capture of Herat is still doubtful.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—An increase of deaths is the effect which was generally anticipated from the late sudden changes of the atmosphere. The amount of sickness in a population, at any time, is measured only approximately by the mortality; and that part of it which is fatal is of various duration, and is recorded therefore, not in one week, but a succession of weeks. The deaths in London, which, in two preceding weeks, were 1261 and 1158, rose in the week which ended last Saturday to 1318. The mean temperature, which fell on the 25th ult., and continued below the average during ten days, was on Tuesday, last week, only 27.7, which is 14.0 below the average. On Saturday it rose to 52.2, which is 11.0 above the average.—Last week, the births of 755 boys and 765 girls, in all 1520 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1487.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

VERDICTS OF "FELONY DE SE."—A letter has been addressed by the Bishop of Chichester to Sir George Grey, under these circumstances:—A girl, who had been seduced by a farm-labourer at Wadsworth, recently took some arsenic and killed herself. An inquest was held, at which the coroner (Mr. Richard Blagden) influenced the jury, according to the Bishop's assertion, not to return a verdict of *felo de se*, and omitted to call witnesses who could have shown what was the state of mind of the girl just before taking the poison. The result was an open verdict, affirming that there was no evidence as to the deceased's mental condition. However, Mr. Clark, the perpetual curate of the parish, not feeling satisfied as to the facts, did not perform any religious service over the body, but simply committed it with decency to the churchyard ground. The Bishop thinks the coroner acted very wrongly; but he wishes the facts to be inquired into, as, if the coroner was in the right, Mr. Clark was in the wrong, and must be suspended for three months. Sir George Grey's answer has not yet appeared.

THE WEATHER IN THE NORTH.—The Scotch papers report the loss of some lives in the snow. A thaw, however, set in on Thursday week (the day when the frost broke up in London), and the roads are now clear.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE TREATY OF PARIS.—At the meeting of the Sheffield town-council, on Wednesday, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Councillor Broadbent, seconded by Mr. Councillor Sissons, to present an address to her Majesty, praying for the strict enforcement of the Treaty of Paris.

FELICE ORSINI AT ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—Felice Orsini, on Wednesday evening, delivered a lecture at St. Martin's Hall on Austrian and Papal tyranny. He spoke in English, in a slightly foreign accent, from notes, and was loudly cheered when he sat down. On the motion of Mr. A. B. Richards, a motion against the foreign occupation of Rome, &c., was unanimously carried.

THE NEW STREET THROUGH SOUTHWARK.—A deputation from Southwark had an interview with Sir Benjamin Hall on Tuesday, at the office of Public Works, Whitehall-place, with reference to the proposed new street through the Borough, to which they object. Sir Benjamin said he would give the subject every consideration.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, December 13.

FALL OF HERAT.

HERAT has surrendered to the Persian General Mourad-Shahi, according to a despatch from Constantinople. The British operations in the Persian Gulf have commenced. The *Presse d'Orient* of the 1st December, says:—"It was on the 26th of October that the town was taken. The messenger, who was immediately sent to Teheran with the news, only took eight days to cross the vast plains which separate Herat from the Persian capital." The same journal announces the departure from Teheran of all the members of the British Consulate. Mr. Stevens had gone to Tabriz, and Mr. Abbott, with the other members of the Consulate, had taken the road to Bombay.

Advices from Constantinople of the 5th, received at Vienna, state that France endeavours to persuade Persia to yield to England, and that Ferukh Khan has conferred with Lord Redcliffe.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF NAPLES.

From some further particulars of this affair, we learn that a colonel of hussars rode at the assassin, and knocked him over beneath his horse. He was at once made prisoner. The King, without manifesting emotion, continued the review. The Princes and the Queen, who were but a few paces off, observed the same demeanour. It was only after having returned to the palace that his Majesty acknowledged that he was slightly hurt (*atteint*) on the side. The assassin is a Calabrese. He had entered the army as a volunteer.

PRUSSIA AND NEUCHÂTEL.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Independence* states that Prussia has announced in her recent note that the negotiations with Switzerland are closed, and there remains for Prussia but to make preparations for active measures. Meanwhile Prussia will be ready to receive any new proposition, but she will not make any herself.

THE MURDER OF MR. LITTLE.

A discovery, which it is hoped may lead to still further results, was on Thursday made at the Broadstone Terminus, Dublin, shortly after twelve o'clock. A hamper being required for some purposes in connexion with the works, one of the foremen proceeded to a store in the locomotive department, and in one of the hampers discovered a bag containing a quantity of silver, amounting to 437 17s. 6d. The police entertain no doubt whatever that the bag was one of those used by Mr. Little to hold his money, and the suspicion before entertained that the murderer was a person connected with the railway has received forcible confirmation.—*Times of this day.*

ACCIDENT TO THE AMERICA.

The royal mail steamship *America*, Lang commander, which left Liverpool for Boston last Saturday with the usual mails, a large cargo, and fifty-nine passengers, has put back, having received considerable damage in the heavy gale of Tuesday. Her starboard bulwark, from the fore-castle to the paddle-box, has been carried away by a heavy sea, which appears to have broken over the forward saloon, reducing it to a mass of chips, and then to have swept the deck, tearing away the davits and two boats on the port side. The deck of the forward saloon was lifted up in several places, and the water poured into the berths below, and into the engine-room and hold, in large quantities. The force with which the sea struck the ship may be imagined when it is stated that one of the forward pumps was wrenched partly from its position, the strong bolts having started, while massive iron stanchions and steadying bars, several inches in diameter, were snapped asunder. The boatswain's house was also stove in.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—A special meeting of the Royal Geographical Society will be held next Monday, the 16th, at half-past eight p.m., Sir Roderick I. Murchison in the chair, to receive the Rev. Dr. Livingstone, on his return from Africa, and present to him the Society's gold medal.

THE IRISH CHURCH.—The *Evening Packet* announces the death of the Very Rev. the Dean of Cashel, which took place at his residence, Northlands, county of Cavan.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, December 12th, 1856, including season-ticket holders, 8926.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A FRIEND OF THE YOUNG.—This communication is unavoidably postponed. The letters on the Moon's Rotation will appear; but we must be allowed to close the discussion at this point. We have not issued a commission *De lunatico*.

E.—The new edition of "Baretti," by M. Comelati, at Rolandi's, 20, Berners-street, Oxford-street.

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

The Leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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.**

ELECTORS ALIVE.

THE present Parliament is not expected to last beyond another session. Representatives, therefore, are active, and electors consequential, except in those counties and boroughs where the members are proprietors, and the constituencies estates. They make no sign, but await the pleasure of their lords. In other directions, however, where the Reform Bill conferred real power on the enfranchised classes, we observe uncommon agitation. Southampton is a perfect little America of partizan rivalries. Tewkesbury, anticipating the political last breath of Mr. HUMPHREY BROWN, coquets with various suitors. Greenwich is weighing influences, and even in Lanark Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE may be declined, with thanks, though he is offered by the powers of Hamilton Palace. Then, in metropolitan Lambeth, Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS has been showing cause why he should be promoted to the trusts once held by JOSEPH HUME. There are rumours in Glasgow that the ingenious Mr. JOHN MACGREGOR is not again to represent its commercial integrity. Some enterprising householders in the West Riding of Yorkshire have been speculating on the production of a fine dramatic effect, by depriving Tiverton of her own, and sending Lord PALMERSTON into the House of Commons, as the colleague of RICHARD COBDEN. No one would miss Mr. DENISON; but for such a constituency to elect such a representative as the Premier, would be as absurd as for Southwark to repeat the joke of commissioning Sir CHARLES NAPIER to act on its behalf in the halls of the Constitution. Major REED, the "little Western flower," has been warned of opposition; the BUCKINGHAM interest will once more be worked in an attempt to rescue Aylesbury from Mr. LAYARD and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL; the fires of faction will crackle in Bodmin; and Dr. LEE is for the fourth time to disturb the stagnation of Buckinghamshire. We wish him all success; but how comes it that three years after the passing of the Reform Bill he polled nearly fourteen hundred votes, and in 1852 not half that number? Is it Liberalism that has declined in Bucks, or is it Dr. LEE? At all events, though CALEDON GEORGE DU PRÉ is certain of a seat, an efficient candidate might press hard upon Mr. DISRAELI. At Bury, Sir ARTHUR ELTON, or some liberal of quiet views, should offer the electors an alternative in lieu of Mr. FREDERICK PEEL, who may reasonably be supposed to have disgusted his supporters, as he has disgusted every class of politicians in the Le-

gislature, and every class of officials in the Administration. Again, is not Mr. NICHOLL resolved to repeat his venture at Frome? Will not the Liberals reconquer Carlisle, the great borough of Liverpool, Youghal, and the other constituencies lost at Lord DERBY'S general election?

They will probably make the attempt, and succeed, in Liverpool especially, where the electors are ashamed of their choice of a person so totally insignificant as Mr. TURNER, and a person so feeble and so rash as Mr. MACKENZIE, in preference to Mr. CARDWELL and Mr. EWART, both men of intellect, whatever may be the limitations of their liberality. But the result of an isolated election, here and there, is comparatively unimportant. The main question is, why should the constituencies trouble themselves to return to Parliament representatives of their own choice? We must believe them to have political objects of one kind or another in view; but, if we may judge from the proceedings of borough meetings, those objects are not very large or various. Upon what grounds did Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS claim the confidence of Lambeth? First, for a reason very much to his credit—that he had attended the House of Commons every night and day during the last session. Then, because he would have supported the continuance of the Russian war; would support Lord PALMERSTON'S interpretation of the Treaty; and, not very consistently, would insist upon a reduction of our naval and military establishments. He had helped to defeat Prince ALBERT on the question of a new National Gallery; had resisted Sir GEORGE GREY'S Police Bill, on account of its centralizing tendencies; and had a violent objection to military camps and civil forces under the control of the Government. As to the Income-tax, he would abolish it; as to the Crystal Palace, he would open it on Sundays, and he would not. The meeting reminded him that he was a political reformer, and he did not deny it. Only, he had nothing to say on that matter.

Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS is not a gentleman of much political importance; but he is an honest Liberal, and Lambeth is a great constituency. Its Liberalism has grown with the growth of its electoral list, which numbered less than five thousand at the date of the Reform Bill, and now numbers not far short of nineteen thousand. It is a constituency which may safely be reckoned upon to return a thorough Reformer, and we say that it should be the pride of such a constituency to send to Parliament, not only a Liberal representative, but a man of the highest character, and of commanding intellect. Lambeth has done with the innocuous officialism of Mr. BENJAMIN HAWES, and the elegant Whiggery of Mr. TENNYSON D'EYNCOURT; but it might improve upon the consulate of Messrs. WILKINSON and WILLIAMS.

It is not probable that the Tory opposition in Parliament will be more powerful during the next session than during the last. It has had no accessions of numbers or of intellect; its unity is gone; it is broken up; the Earl of DERBY is no longer its leader; Sir JOHN PAKINGTON stands at the head of one section, and another appeals to Mr. HENLEY, while garrulous gossips insist that Mr. GLADSTONE has been invited to supersede Mr. DISRAELI as chief of the Tory orators in the House of Commons. In the midst of the bickerings and jealousies of this unfortunate faction, a vigorous Premier may hold on his course unimpeded; but, were a decisive division to prove that Parliament had thrown off its indulgent allegiance to 'the War Minister,' the result would be, not a change of Cabinet, but a dissolution, followed by an 'ap-

peal to the country.' At this point the electors are challenged. What have they to say, to wish, to propose? What, for example, is the 'policy' of the Southampton Liberals? Southampton, it will be remembered, is a county in itself, and one of the most ancient constituencies in the realm. It still contains certain freemen, and more than two hundred of those scot and lot voters, the former constituents of the present Premier's father. Its political influences have wavered between Liberals and Tories; it returned two Liberals to the first reformed Parliament, two Conservatives to the second, one of each to the third, two Tories to the fourth, two Liberals to the fifth and sixth. Greenwich also has fluctuated from the incompetent Conservatism of WOLVERLY ATTWOOD to the forensic Liberalism of Mr. MONTAGU CHAMBERS and the contractor's docility of Mr. PETER ROLT. As to Lanarkshire, it remains to be seen whether that county, which was three times walked over by a voiceless Tory, will return to the independence of former days, when it selected a popular representative in spite of the HAMILTON family, which now insults the electors by attempting to force Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE upon them. Tewkesbury is a miserable little borough, with scarcely four hundred voters, whose habit it is to return a MARTIN of Overbury and a gentleman who, like Mr. HUMPHREY BROWN, has British Bank resources at his disposal for the time being. Glasgow, the seat of a fourteenth-century parliament and of an earldom, and haunt of scarlet-robed togati, has, since 1832, been invariably liberal, if not judicious, in its choice of members. But what shall be said of Middlesex, which clings to Mr. BERNAL OSBORNE as though his tongue had not been cut out by the paymaster of the official departments? And what of the constituency which enthrones in Parliament the Naturalism of Major REED? Or of the Borough which qualifies Mr. HENRY DRUMMOND to utter in the House of Commons that which more scrupulous talkers than he would call licentious ribaldry, if it appeared anonymously in a newspaper? There are not a few personal questions of this sort to be considered before the electoral class is again summoned to the polling-booths.

MORE PROPHECIES ON THE BUCHANAN POLICY.

THE journals, American and English, have teemed with reports as to Mr. BUCHANAN'S probable policy, foreign and domestic. We have already explained how totally without any authentication these reports are; they can, indeed, only be based upon a review of the actual events, aided by such light as can be drawn from the knowledge of BUCHANAN'S character, antecedents, and position. These data for a political judgment have already corrected some of the wildest calculations which have been hazarded. A regard for their own political acumen has compelled some of those who went the furthest in painting him, prophetically, as the agent of slavery extension, to admit that that view is as fallacious as if he had been called the leader of the abolitionist party. JAMES BUCHANAN is neither LLOYD GARRISON nor PRESTON BROOKS. An excellent paper appears in a recent number of the *New York Herald*, a journal which frequently admits into its columns judicious and well-informed papers, though in the intervals of such sober exposition it takes the opportunity of startling its readers with representations that cannot be so well sustained. Our *New York* contemporary shows that Mr. BUCHANAN is as little likely to subserve 'the ultra-southern disunion clique' as he is 'the anti-slavery ultras of the north':—

"For our part, we feel assured that it is the present intention of Mr. Buchanan to give the country a conservative and conciliatory administration in his domestic and foreign policy, and not a career of lawless border ruffianism at home and reckless filibustering abroad, for the purpose of extending the area of Southern slavery and the political power of the South in Congress. We have no doubt of the lawful and honourable inclinations of Mr. Buchanan, for we fully believe that he will endeavour from the outset to take that course best calculated to allay our domestic sectional excitements upon slavery, and best adapted, in our foreign relations, to secure the respect and confidence of foreign Powers, American and European."

With regard to Kansas, the most pinching question of the day, the *New York Herald* anticipates that Mr. BUCHANAN will stand upon "the organic law of the territory;" by which it is ordained that "the territory is open to settlers of all sections, all nations, and all opinions, slavery or anti-slavery; and that when these settlers shall proceed to organize a state constitution, it shall rest with them to determine upon the establishment of slavery in, or its exclusion from, the commonwealth."

With respect to the Ostend manifesto and Cuba, the probability is equally clear. No possible President of the United States can be expected to surrender the principle of the MUNRO doctrine,—America for the Americans; but no American statesman, who intends to promote the enduring interests of his country, or to procure for himself an historical reputation, will apply that doctrine recklessly. Mr. BUCHANAN will not accept as a medium for the interpretation of the MUNRO doctrine any mere adventurer, however energetic and picturesque, like General WALKER. "Every President, from JOHN QUINCY ADAMS down, has considered the acquisition of the Island of Cuba as a most desirable thing; it is the key to the Gulf of Mexico, the natural lock and key of the southern commerce and the southern coast." These expressions less express an opinion than state facts; and we have recorded the same conclusion long ago. In the event of war with any really powerful Government, it would be absolutely necessary, on military grounds, for the United States to take possession of Cuba. In doing so the Republic would commit no injustice upon any interest whatsoever. Spain does not govern Cuba, but puts it out under contract to some adventurer like O'DONNELL, who makes his fortune out of it, on condition of helping certain Spanish families to continue their traffic in official corruption, and in patronage of the slave-trade. The most numerous native party in Cuba would gladly welcome the change of masters, as the transfer would bring with it safety for life and property and certain prosperity. A magnificent island is now wasted upon the agents of Spanish corruption; transferred, it would become a grand emporium of commerce for the benefit of the natives, of the United States, and even of English merchants. But assuredly Mr. BUCHANAN will never lend his countenance to filibustering attempts. Whenever the Island shall be annexed to the United States, it will either be acquired by regular treaty, or taken in the prosecution of military enterprise.

The United States have not, for a long succession of years, possessed as President a man who had so completely a knowledge of State business, European as well as American; none who has been so completely elevated above the contracted views of sectional parties; none who has committed himself so little to any extravagant mission, and has shown so consistent a fidelity to the laws, the steadfast traditions, and the broad interests of America. Mr. BUCHANAN has hitherto disappointed factious and fussy persons by reserving the direct statement of his intentions, and deferring the formation of his Cabinet

until it shall become a work of practical business. This deliberation is thoroughly consistent with his character; it has stultified all the idle reports which have been circulated respecting his aggressive projects. From our own knowledge of the man, we were able at once to place the stamp of falsehood upon all those rumours; we now refer with satisfaction to the altered views put forward by the correspondents even of once hostile journals, such as the *New York Herald*, the *London Times*, and the *Daily News*, as confirming the opinion which we uttered in the very midst of the prophetic storm against him. It does not at all follow that the Administration of the United States will be more agreeable to Royal Governments, or less conducive to the extension of the Union, its power and prosperity. But in fact the true progress of the United States is identical with the progress of civilization on the other side of the Atlantic; it is identical with the material interests of the English people, and with the real opinions of the great majority of our countrymen; while those foreign Governments which most sympathize with Downing-street, have not conferred the greatest benefits on England or sympathized most with English people.

THE SICILIAN INSURRECTION.

The intelligence from Sicily is so confused and incomplete, that it is impossible to speculate upon the probable result of the insurrection. Its success would imply the ruin of the Neapolitan monarchy; its failure would be a misfortune, but would not imply the future submission of the island to the Bourbon rule. Indeed, it is by no means unlikely that a succession of partial revolts may take place before the general outburst of a war of independence in Italy. Setting aside, then, the details of the actual Sicilian movement, it becomes a vital question whether the opportunity is not close at hand for an attempt at Italian liberation. A signal from Sicily without a response from Naples can scarcely be imagined, unless we believe that the pressure enforced by the Swiss legationaries of the King is so rigid, that neither the disaffected national troops nor the oppressed population have discerned a chance of victory. If, however, the Neapolitan patriots have preferred not to recognize the Sicilian outbreak as a leading event, we may suppose them to have good reasons for their reserve. The Italians have too dearly learned the lesson of patience to throw away their power, and sacrifice their blood without a reasonable prospect of success. We do not anticipate, however, any very serious delay in the ripening of the great scheme that now includes among its promoters the most intelligent patriots of all classes, from the Alps to Sicily. The insurrection that has taken place may not be the commencement, but it is the prelude; it is a parallel to the irregular activity of 1847, which preceded the organized war and conflagration. Under such circumstances, what is the duty of the Italian people? To be ready, to be bold, to be unanimous, to trust no pretenders, to keep their cause unprofaned by violence, intrigue, and selfishness; above all, to act in concert, and not to flinch before danger. This counsel may be superfluous; but it is in such a spirit that we sympathize cordially with the champions of Italian independence.

The English nation may aid this good cause in the event of a general Italian insurrection. It is utterly vain to recommend peace doctrines to the subjects of the King of Naples, the Austrian Emperor, and the Pope. They will not remain tranquil. The bayonet pointed at the breast of BOMBA is a declaration of war.

We must accept an Italian war of independence as though it had been already begun;—indeed, it may at any moment be in progress. Our duty is, then, to press upon the Government to exercise no sinister influences in Sicily or the peninsula, to make no fallacious promises, to enter into no compacts inimical to the nation whose calamities we affect to deplore. We may even insist—and if we used our power might give effect to our proposals—that England shall in no case, directly or indirectly, participate in Continental conflicts, unless upon the Liberal side. Let us hear no more of MINTO missions, or Genoese royalties. Whatever governments may be set up in Sicily, Naples, Rome, or Venice, we are bound to recognize, upon the principle which actuated the recognition of the French Republic and the BONAPARTE Empire. More than this may be done. Money may be supplied, by a national subscription, in aid of the independence of Italy. Such a subscription, as our readers are aware, is in active progress; but it is now doubly necessary that the English Liberals should be prompt and generous. Whatever be the issue of the movement in Sicily, it is certain that Italy is not far distant from a period of commotion.

CHEEK'S "STUNNER" AND THE TRUE LIFE PRESERVER.

MR. CHEEK, the eminent umbrella-maker, advertizes amongst his "useful and elegant presents," a new kind of life preserver, intended to encounter the garotte. He calls it "the Stunner," and we have no doubt that for the moderate price which he charges, "Tyburniensis," "Saxon," or any other gentleman who is nervous on the subject of metropolitan highway robbery, will procure a very efficient weapon. The question is, however, whether "Saxon," who is just at present arming his person against the metropolitan and suburban highwaymen, and fortifying his castle against the housebreaker, will have the qualifications for using his weapon when he needs it. It is the common result of empirical remedies, that they are only designed to meet the last stage of a disease, and that they fail because the patient has already succumbed to the most fatal part of the malady. The man who combats gout with a lotion for the skin, has suffered himself to be already killed from within; and the man who has relied upon a "stunner" for meeting a garotter, is likely enough to find the lotion turned against himself. We had an example the other day in the case of Mr. BRADLEY, at Sheffield, whose bedroom was invaded by four housebreakers. They maltreated him and his wife, ransacked his drawers, imprisoned him in his bedroom, and quietly proceeded to rob the rest of the house. In the most critical stage of his misery, Mr. BRADLEY was kept in awe by a man who stood at the foot of his bed with a revolver—the self-same silver-mounted revolver which Mr. BRADLEY had purchased for his own defence.

A reckless use is made of the word "garotte," which is now applied to every species of attack by surprise in the open streets or roads; whereas it originated with a species of instrument intended for the partial strangulation and stupefaction of the passenger. It consisted, we believe, and still does consist, when it is used, of a stiff double bow,—as if two yew bows were tied together at the ends; it is opened by the robber, applied over the head of the unconscious passenger, and thus used as a mode of gently throttling him, with consequent congestion of the brain; so that he is seized with temporary apoplexy before he knows what he is about. How would a stunner apply in a case of this kind? except that it might be used by a garotter to finish his work, should the patient still retain

vigour enough to bellow. Where would be the use of a sword-stick, or a pistol, or any other instrument, for *ex post facto* defence?

Those who rely upon topical remedies, forget the very position in which they stand towards the highwayman and housebreaker. It is a constant race in the progress of civilization. We discover new guards—spring-bolts, alarm-bells, iron shutters, patent locks, new police, plate safes; but every step in the art of protection is only a premium for a new step in the art of depredation. Each improvement that we invent cheats us into a false reliance, until the thief has found out the trick of circumventing the improvement; and then we fall to make a new trap to ourselves by some fresh 'security.' The invention of a more ingenious lock by CHUBB, or BRAMAH, only calls into requisition a better workmanship in skeleton keys; an iron shutter is a stimulus for producing a superior kind of jemmy; the advent of a HOBBS is accompanied by the development of an AGAR. You appoint guards on railways, and they become, as BURGESS did, the partners of the AGARS. The streets are thought safe because they are crowded and the policeman is near; but some very clever fellow strikes out the invention of the garotte, which at once supersedes alarm and resistance.

The fact is that the knave's civilization has gone on quite as fast as the honest man's, in some respects much faster. Perhaps there was no period in which society could show such a large number of names in the Rogues' Peerage as England at the present moment. Mr. AGAR belongs only to the middle class of roguery. The annals of high commerce can show us a WINDLE COLE, a COSMO GORDON, a DAVIDSON, a SADLER, &c. &c. We have the list by heart. Eminent merchants, scions of noble families, Honourables, Members of Parliament, are reckoned amongst the swindlers, false pledgers, forgers, defaulters, and thieves. Yes, stealing is not unknown even amongst the aristocracy. In some of those notorious cases the real offence was the stealing of other people's property from the places of safety in which they had been reposed. JOSEPH WINDLE COLE stole men's money under pretence of selling them 'securities' on worthless paper. An eminent merchant told his customer DAVIDSON, that he was "a thief," and undoubtedly the word might be applied in other cases. The rogue therefore meets us in the counting-house which is 'as safe as the Bank,' in the House of Commons, in the lordly mansion. Undoubtedly, the Rogues' march has gone ahead much faster than the march of civilization.

"Tyburniensis" tells us that knives, revolvers, and shutters are not enough, and he proposes a very sweeping measure:—

"Society relies simply upon the expedient or possible detection after the offence committed, and possible punishment after detection. I suggest, therefore, as a hint for wiser and abler men than myself, whether, now that there are 16,000 persons in London known to the police to be living systematically by robbery, some expedient is not desirable to restrain or curtail these wretches in their operations. For myself, I hold it to be better that twenty Mr. Marleys should be dismissed the world per week, as Mr. Marley himself will be shortly dismissed, rather than that one poor man should perish as poor Cope perished behind his counter in Parliament-street, and I would visit all cases of robbery with violence, if not with death, at least remorselessly with life-long expatriation. But none of the 16,000, of whom Mr. Marley was a unit, are really one whit better than he, or deserving of more consideration. I say, therefore, it is not because a measure may appear harsh or severe that society has not a right to demand it for its protection. The 16,000 ought not to be considered in the matter at all. If it were possible to take them bodily and deposit them on a desert island, society would have the right to do it. This, of course, is not possible, but some strong and decisive measures, not remedial, but repressive, have become absolutely necessary if honest men and timorous women are to be allowed to sleep peacefully in their beds, and I commend that view of the subject to those whose duty it is to attend to it."

Judges are all talking in the same strain. "Transportation!" they cry. But, if none of the existing colonies will receive transported convicts? Then, says the *Times*, let us send the incorrigibles "to Caffraria,"—and so provoke a new Cape rebellion; "to Vancouver's Island,"—and so make another Norfolk Island; "to the Falkland Islands,"—ditto; or to the islands that gem the Pacific,—and so stud that distant ocean with a multiplicity of Norfolk Islands! Denied transportation, England is put in no worse position than other countries which are without colonies—Prussia or France, for instance. Are we more criminal, that we are less able to contend with our criminal population? Do we not pretend that we are wiser, more 'practical?' Have we really arrived at that pass that we must proceed at once to chain or kill the 16,000 MARLEYS that keep "Tyburnensis" in trepidation? We might grant the right to kill as many MARLEYS as could be found; but are we not sometimes mistaken? Are there not COPEs mingled among the MARLEYS? Are the 16,000 really 16,000 criminals? It is a critical question. If men will follow the inquiries of those who have taken the pains to go among the criminal orders and the classes which recruit them, we shall find that a large proportion of that 16,000 are not there by their own free will or the impulse of malice, but by the neglect of those who ought to know better. They have been, perhaps, thrown out of work; they may have been *born* out of work. The *Daily News* was showing on Thursday how the whole class of domestic servants are incompetent, idle, dishonest, and treacherous, because they have no training to their work; so, badgered by harsh masters and mistresses that will not teach them, they are cast upon their own resources, and are open to be seduced by the epicureans that abandon them, or by the gentry prowling about Tyburnia that use them as a means of admission to the household. We have no schools that the young of the country can go to; we make destitution a disgrace; we have thousands upon thousands of females around whom every temptation is crowded, and supply them with no teaching, with no intelligence, no knowledge of the world, to prevent their becoming the procuresses of crime. If we look a little closer, perhaps we shall find that the 16,000 might be reduced; and, in point of fact, Mr. ADDERLEY has calculated that, by withdrawing those who ought to be taught better, we might reduce the number of criminals by three-fourths.

When we have done that, as a mere matter of school teaching and industrial provision, we have then other duties to perform. Before we can demand full protection of the law against wrong, we must ourselves do equal justice. Police magistrates have lately astounded 'gentlemen' by inflicting upon them the same punishments that they would to the 'lower orders.' Yet to this day a ROTHSCHILD can command an amount of police assistance for following his cash, which is denied to an humble victim; while the highborn thief shall be spared under charitable arrangements, with charitable constructions that his propensity is a 'disease.' Small pity for that disease in a man whom hunger bids to steal. Equal justice first, and then, complete protection.

But we speak to the consciences of men,—arraign them before a 'higher tribunal,' and so forth. Through what influence? Through the influence of religion. And where shall that be taught? In church. And yet we have waited until this day, until the appointment of Dr. TAIT, before we have it confessed by a Bishop of LONDON that

churches ought not to be built without arrangements for admitting the 'lower orders,' and treating them as Christians, instead of sending them into corners and galleries, and so degrading them by social comparisons in the House of God.

When we have given to the seducible classes strength against temptation; when we have ceased to forfeit our claim by unequal justice; when we have put ourselves right before the highest Power by equal religion; then we may ask what we shall do to deal effectually with the 16,000, or the incorrigible part of that number. Four thousand offenders for a population of two millions and a half! Is that so formidable?

Would it not be possible, even within the bounds of our own country, to construct great prison establishments open to the view, surrounded by a deep ha-ha, with an insurmountable wall in the midst, and there to set the incorrigibles upon supporting themselves by compulsory industry. In that rough school we might find that some few of the incorrigibles were *not* incorrigible. Those that were so we should force into a more healthy mode of life than they, with their stunted and confined faculties, can shape for themselves. It appears to us that in this whole process more would be done to preserve life, than by hanging up twenty MARLEYS for every COPE, or adopting the indiscriminate use of Mr. CHEEK's "Stunner."

LESSONS TO JOURNALISTS.

THE exasperated Lord HASTINGS called on the editor of the *Norfolk News* to punish him. Being not a man of proud stature, and finding a gentleman who could have hung him over a clothes-peg, as a certain KIRCUDERIGHT was hung not many years ago, he confined the punishment to violent infliction of "words that burn." His behaviour was purely ridiculous, and not criminal, as it might have been had JACOB ASTLEY possessed the valour of THOMAS ASTLEY, the good knight killed at Evesham. Or was it the thrift of GILPIN that made his hand "shake, but delay to strike," like the hand of Death in the epic? Certain it is that the writhing Justice, who imprisoned the poor labourers of Holt, made his way out of the office, and that all Norfolk is laughing at him.

But there are HASTINGS out of Norfolk. Not to recal the painful follies of Lord LUCAN, or the blunder of the Dumbarton Sheriff, there has been a little burlesque at Oldham. The actors were: a Mr. FIELDING, Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and fourteen other individuals; a fifteenth, Mr. WHITWORTH, exempted himself from the ridicule elicited by the proceedings. Well, then, it was declared by FIELDING that the *Oldham Chronicle* had attacked the board. Neither he nor the board could point out any inaccuracies that have appeared in the reports or articles published by that journal, but they were exasperated, and therefore, in their exasperation, could think of nothing more dignified than expelling the reporter. The reporter was expelled; but not until the guardians had uttered several ludicrous tirades, without a shadow of an attempt to prove that they had been misrepresented or maligned. Of course, under such circumstances, the affair is a compliment to the *Oldham Chronicle*. We notice it, however, chiefly because it illustrates the growth of a foolish feeling on the part of petty individuals, and of corporate bodies equally petty, to tamper with the press, some resolving to intimidate an editor with a walking-stick, others by expelling a reporter, others by going to a jury for damages. All these means have hitherto failed; and it is time that others were adopted.

PENS AND DAGGERS.

A WEEKLY contemporary recommends the Italian patriots to revive no bitter by-gones. This wise and charitable advice is given *à propos* of the narrative we lately published of M. GALLENGA's scheme to assassinate the father of the Piedmontese King, from whom he has been glad to receive employments and rewards. "Let by-gones be by-gones." But the proceedings of M. GALLENGA, which have extorted the testimony that has ruined him, are not by-gones. The friends of Italy will understand what we mean when we say that, not content with vilifying M. MAZZINI in his pretentious but untrustworthy work on Piedmontese history, he has since been engaged in writing against him and his party. M. MAZZINI detected him, and M. GALLENGA well knows with what object these attacks were levelled against his compatriot and former friend—the great revolutionist from whose table he took the dagger with the handle of lapis-lazuli. It is not a forgotten act of a young enthusiast that M. MAZZINI has punished; it is a perpetual attack from which he has shielded himself by unmasking the author of anonymous insinuations, not injurious to an individual alone, but to the cause of Italy, and the true interests of the Italian people. There are some things which we should be glad to count among by-gones—the libels that are sent from Turin to London, and imposed upon certain of our contemporaries; the English misrepresentations inspired by Italian malice; the false accounts of MAZZINI's political position; the miserable efforts made to increase the popularity of the Piedmontese Court, by calumniating all men who are not courtiers or their agents. These are not by-gones. They are the work of the day. Their authors are persons who must be exposed, because some of them occupy positions into which they have crept by abandoning their duties, satirizing their friends, and forgetting the afflictions of Italy. Other letters may be produced in addition to that from Egypt, the publication of which M. GALLENGA's friends affect to invite; but of which M. GALLENGA himself has not ventured to furnish an account even to the *Opinione*. This we may say,—that there have been in certain quarters attempts to ruin M. MAZZINI, and that when he printed at Genoa the letter which, within three months, has become celebrated, he did no more than had been rendered necessary for the sake of his reputation, and for the sake of the principles of which he is so eloquent and so honourable an advocate. As for M. GALLENGA, he has sunk into ignominious obscurity. Compelled to resign the decorations he had not been ashamed to wear at the Court of VICTOR EMMANUEL, whose father's steps he haunted with a knife in his hand, he can never again come forward under pretence of serving the Italian cause. Miserable as his discomfiture has been, he merits it, for he had not played a patriotic or manly part. He was afraid to use a dagger against CHARLES ALBERT, but in the service of CHARLES ALBERT's son he has used a pen which he hoped would give him the privilege of being an envier and a detractor with impunity. In self-defence, the distinguished Genoise has recriminated, and has crushed his assailant. This is not a "squabble of Italian patriots." It is an exposure rendered unavoidable by M. GALLENGA himself. Better that the world should be witness to this quarrel than that secret agencies should be at work to undermine the foundation of Italian hopes. But we are spared the task of apologizing for the letter from Genoa. M. GALLENGA accepts it, and is doing public penance at Turin. He is now indeed a by-gone—and a by-gone we are willing he shall be.

THE NORTHERN TRADES

WE are glad to announce that the nucleus of a Federal Union of the Scottish Trades has been formed at Glasgow. The Society organized by Mr. PROUDFOOT and his colleagues has published a set of rules which appear to have been thoughtfully discussed. The objects declared are of the most moderate character, there being on the part of the industrial Federalists no desire whatever to introduce coercion or conspiracy into their system of operations. Events have abundantly demonstrated the necessity of the movement, which has our heartiest sympathy, and which may be a means of protecting the working classes throughout Scotland from the arbitrary selfishness of their masters and the frauds to which they are frequently subjected in factories and mines. The enormous losses caused by strikes to the public at large, no less than to the operatives and their employers, have been exhibited in the report of Mr. MACKINNON's very useful committee. It may be hoped that the intelligent combination of the working classes may induce the class that flourishes by their labour to adopt those moderate and generous principles of conduct which some masters have adopted, thus reconciling the interests of industry and capital, and benefiting both.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA'S QUESTION.

IN an article which appeared under this head in our last week's impression, a typographical error occurred, by which the Neufchâtel Protocol of 1852 was dated 1855. No one, of course, could have been misled by this inaccuracy, since it was distinctly stated that Lord MALMESBURY, who quitted office early in 1853, was the Minister who signed the Protocol on behalf of Great Britain. Nor would it have been easy to remember the Russian Ambassador who officiated in London during the siege of Sebastopol! But it is as well to point out that the assent of the four Powers to the King of Prussia's claim was procured four years, not seven years, after the adoption of the Federal Constitution by the Neufchâtelers. This circumstance in no way affects the argument. Neufchâtel, by a revolution, had separated itself from the Prussian monarchy. The Prussian monarchy, four years afterwards, put forward a claim which it did not attempt to enforce. Four years have again elapsed, and the claim is repeated. Neufchâtel is, to some extent, in the position of Texas, before that territory became a state of the Union. Texas had, by her own act, become independent of Mexico. Subsequently, by her own act, she became part of the American Federation. Then, though the Government of Mexico had been unable to retain Texas, it made war on the United States for accepting her adhesion to their political compact—and was defeated, as Prussia deserves to be defeated should she disturb the peace of Europe for the sake of her "inalienable rights," which signify no more than inalienable perversity.

THE RESOLUTE.

ONE of the handsomest presents which was ever made by one country to another is on its way across the Atlantic. It is the British discovery barque Resolute, which went out under Captain KELLET to assist in the search for Sir John Franklin, and which is now coming back as a present from the United States to England. Everybody remembers how the vessel was abandoned by order of the commander of the expedition. From her station in the Arctic regions she drifted among the icebergs 1200 miles, and was found, several months back, by an American whaling crew, belonging to New London, in Connecticut. The

ship had been distinctly abandoned, the English Government waived all claim to the vessel, and she was now the private property of the crew. The American Government showed a stronger appreciation of this interesting relic than our own had exhibited. The two Houses of Congress united in a joint resolution, voting 40,000 dollars to purchase the vessel from the crew who found it, and to present it to the English Government as a token of the friendly feelings entertained by that country for our own.

This exactly followed out the whole course of events in which the Resolute had figured. The search expedition fell under the command of an officer who showed a strange apathy in carrying it forward; who appeared to feel in some degree a jealousy of the greater zeal, perhaps the greater success, of the officers under him. Against the opinion of the others, he caused the barque to be abandoned; and the Government completed its abandonment. No sooner had the search for Sir JOHN FRANKLIN been announced, than it was manned by volunteers; and the American Government spontaneously accepted the services of its own volunteers to assist in the search. The ship which was abandoned by an order of Sir EDWARD BEICHER was found by Americans, and reclaimed by the American Government. Nor did the American Government stop short at the mere return of the ship as it floated. In the words of our contemporary, the *New York Times*—

"She has been repaired and fitted with the utmost care at the expense of our Government, with the design of restoring her to the Queen in at least as good a condition as she was in at the time the exigencies of their situation compelled her crew to abandon her. With such completeness and attention to detail has this work been performed, that not only has everything found on board been preserved, even to the books in the captain's library, the pictures in his cabin, and a musical box and organ belonging to other officers, but new British flags have been manufactured in the Navy-yard to take the place of those which had rotted during the long time she was without a living soul on board. From stem to stern she has been repainted; her sails and much of her rigging are entirely new; the muskets, swords, telescopes, nautical instruments, &c., which she contained, have been cleaned and put in perfect order. Nothing has been overlooked or neglected that was necessary to her most complete and thorough renovation."

The vessel, thus renovated, has been placed in the charge of Captain H. J. HARTSTEIN, one of the officers of the late Arctic expedition, who will bring her into Portsmouth. It appears to us that the ship has thus acquired a value which it did not possess when it first left the builder's hands. Every sword, every telescope, every quadrant, has gained something more precious than a covering of gold, in the friendly care which has been bestowed upon it. Nothing can have been more handsome than the whole conduct of the American Government, from first to last; but most especially in the graceful attention to these small details.

Will not the American officers be welcomed? Of course they will. The *Times* has done justice to English feeling by announcing the welcome. It will have a deeper meaning than the mere exchange of official courtesies. There have been 'differences' between the two Governments; we look in vain to find any differences between the two peoples. The Government of the United States usually harmonizes with the feeling of its own people; we cannot always say the same of ours. Where our volunteers have pressed to perform the sacred office of friendship in the search for FRANKLIN, our Government has been dilatory and cool. The Foreign Government of America has shared the enthusiasm of our volunteers. Although conveyed to the English Government, we may be quite sure that this gift is at heart presented to the English people, and we are equally sure that Queen VICTORIA will perfectly understand the spirit in which her ship comes home to her. Some forty days, counting from the 13th of November, will the Resolute be at sea—or less, probably, considering the strong westerly gales. She will reach this country before Christmas, and a right hearty English Christmas welcome will be given to Captain HARTSTEIN, his officers, and his crew, by every Englishman, ay, and every Englishwoman, that can win the presence of the visitors by the most cordial of hospitalities.

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.

THE MOON'S ROTATION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Will you allow me to ask a question on this subject, which I have no doubt some of your correspondents will be able to answer. I presume that the alternation of day and night is really, as usually stated, the result of the earth's rotation on her axis, and is quite independent of her motion in her orbit; if, therefore, this rotation were to cease, I suppose that the alternation of day and night would cease as well, and not otherwise; in fact, that the one is entirely the result or effect of the other; if, however, the alternation of day and night were to cease, the earth would then constantly present the same face to the sun in her revolution round that body in the same manner as the moon does to us in her revolution round the earth. Now, how am I to reconcile the two cases if this supposition be correct—viz., "that the rotation of the moon on her axis causes her always to present the same face to the earth, but that the non-rotation of the earth on her axis would cause her always to present the same face to the sun;" and if the above supposition be not correct, how is it that the alternation of day and night depends upon the earth's rotation.—I am, sir, yours obediently, Q.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—With your permission I will take the benefit of your "Open Council" column to give public expression to the sentiments of a class to which I belong, relative to the above subject. I belong to that class of men who contemplate mathematical truth for its own sake, and the rotation of the satellites is a mathematical truth, or rather, perhaps, a mechanical truth, admitting of successful contemplation only by mathematicians; and even by them only when they reason in accordance with mathematical axioms, definitions, and logic.

It is quite true that a man who is no mathematician, or who possesses just sufficient of this kind of knowledge for the transaction of common life affairs, has the same natural and lawful right to discuss such questions as mathematicians, and he may, if he pleases, give publicity to his views, and even amuse himself, by dictating how such matters ought to be treated; but of this he may rest assured, that by so doing he is but pronouncing, after his own way, the fact that he has yet to learn the first rudiments of the science to which the truth under consideration belongs. Those who have acquired their ideas from a similar course of training to himself may laud him, and others who have taken another than the 'royal road to geometry' may try to set him right; but whether such efforts be attended with success or not, one thing is certain, that whenever he speaks or writes on such subjects for the instruction of others, he will surely jumble words together in a manner altogether ridiculous. In support of this view I need only, I believe, quote a few phrases and sentences from the last public statement made by the originator of the present controversy:—

"No one denies that the moon turns round." "It turns without rotating."

To say the least of it, this is making a singularly illogical use of words.

"The sidereal day being the measure of the rotation of the earth is a positive blunder."

Blunders are such errors as, properly speaking, result from conceit, ignorance, or stupidity; but surely our instructor cannot mean what he says.

"The rotation of a globe which is at the same time revolving in an orbit is incomplete, till it presents the same meridian line to the centre of its orbit."

This is one of many instances which prove that the writer has taken the 'royal road to geometry.'

"Astronomers make the year consist of 366½ sidereal days, instead of 365½ solar days and rotations, as the fact is. The one extra turn is merely the orbital revolution which the moon has."

Astronomers make the year to consist of neither the one nor the other. They state that 366½ sidereal days are equal to 365½ solar days, and that each period (with a little adjustment of the fractions) is equal to one solar year; and so it is.

The consideration of the various views published relative to this subject forces a reflection on my mind, that the cause of the widely spread, indefinite ideas entertained respecting it has its origin in the ardour existing in this country for popular instruction in the pure sciences. That this kind of instruction is really good in its general results I may, to a certain extent, admit; but I certainly do think that this one result of it is not to us, as one of the enlightened nations of the globe, entitled to the term *creditable*.

Southampton.

J. STEEL.

Literature.

not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

SPONDENT thinks we were not so 'wide awake' as usual when last attributed to DE QUINCEY the opening paper in this month's *Leader*, which, he unhesitatingly asserts, is only a parody of the great writer's style. In spite of the nudge he has given us, we continue to snore, and dream that DE QUINCEY, and not a parodist, wrote it: if we are still far from 'wide awake' on this subject, it is because we sleep. In truth a suspicion did once or twice flash upon us while reading an imitation, but a closer scrutiny dissipated that suspicion. If any writer can imitate DE QUINCEY's marvellous prelude and on that noble organ, the English language, so as not only to reproduce its manner, which is indeed conspicuous enough, but the power also, no one else but RUSKIN has shown himself to possess, then we say the palm should be awarded him for having accomplished the rarest of imitations. When style is parodied consciously, or imitated semi-consciously, we detect the peculiarities of manner, but miss the qualities which distinguish the original, and give his manner a living soul; and this is the secret of our contempt for imitators. JOHNSON'S antitheses and MACAULAY'S antitheses and short sentences, CARLYLE'S compound and abrupt suddenness of effect, or DE QUINCEY'S confluent, slowly flowing sentences, are easily imitable. The difficulty lies elsewhere: it is in imitating the felicity and force of JOHNSON, the epigram and rare illogicality of MACAULAY, the pictorial concreteness of CARLYLE, or the subtlety of DE QUINCEY; and the writer who has power enough to do this will not be likely to waste it on an imitation.

A piquant contrast is brought into relief by a writer in the *Revue des Mondes*, in a paper on Greek and Chinese vases, the contrast of the two nations as they represent themselves in Art: the one idealizing and glorifying itself, the other caricaturing and degrading itself. The world, China, knows little of the Chinese except in such representations as artists have given on vases, tea-cups, &c. In all these we have the Chinese ideal, round head, large ears, eyes lurching upwards, the temples, a single lock of hair, a grinning gash of a mouth, and a touch of aldermanic emphasis; and if we compare this type with the Greek type, with its noble front, its large simple contour, its regular features, and majestic form, we might almost deny the community of species in the two. M. BEULÉ, referring to the Chinese type, says, "Il est peu de nous qui touchent la race caucasienne; elle en plaisante." And so little do we admit with ugliness so grotesque, that, as he says, "the Chinese of China leaves us indifferent, its sorrows even cause us mirth." The newspapers narrate that many thousand rebels have been cut to pieces; these atrocities only seem to us *bizarres*: a Chinese is too distant a people for neighbourhood, too ugly for brotherhood: *pour être notre frère, un Chinois est trop laid; pour être notre semblable, il est trop laid*. This, who will repeat the platitude about beauty being only skin-deep? Men and women were in the habit of divesting themselves of their covering, to show that underneath they were lovely enough! As if any difference whether the beauty was many fathoms or only the thickness of a line in depth! Beauty is one of God's gifts; and every one submits to its influence, whatever platitudes he may think needful to say. The Greeks understood this influence which, as M. BEULÉ says, *déle respect autour d'une race, de même que les représentations qu'on soutient la majesté des rois*. How, think you, should we have relished the immortal fragments of Greek literature if our conceptions of Greek men and women had been formed by contemplation of such as those of Chinese art? Would any pulse have throbbed at the cadaverous tale had the descendants of Labdacus risen before the imagination with obese rotundity, large ears, gashes of mouths, and no nose to be seen? Could we, with any sublime emotions, picture to ourselves Prometheus on his rock, or a Congou Antigone wailing her unwedded Ajax, in the darkness of madness, slays a flock of sheep, mistaking them for ungrateful Greeks, and we contemplate him awakening to the full humiliation and despair, with emotions which would scarcely arise in the broad-chested Greek were substituted a Souchong Ajax with his head wagging in smiling idiocy. No, the Chinese have chosen to make themselves, and the world takes them at their word; the Greeks, on the other hand, chose to deify themselves, and the world will ever think of them as godlike.

THE WISE PHYSICIAN.

on the Principles and Methods of Medical Observation and Research. By Thomas Laycock, M.D. Adam and Charles Black.

It has been remarked on many an occasion that the wiser a physician is, the more sceptical is he of medicine. Only the quacks are confident, for medicine is always absolute. The profound complexity of a human organism, reached, as it is, through so many avenues of inappreciable influence, the total impossibility of our distinguishing and eliminating our various cases where a plurality of causes are necessarily operating, and the

fact that important changes are taking place in recesses of the organism not scrutable by any means in our power, must for ever render the Art of Medicine delicate and difficult. A recognition of its difficulties is, however, of incalculable benefit to the physician. He learns to make allowance for possibilities, hidden yet potent; he learns to be wary in forming conclusions; he learns to be vigilant over his own precipitate tendencies.

The very fact that Medicine is an Art and not a Science, consequently not to be definitely taught, but only indicated, will always keep up the distinction between the skilful and the unskilful physician. Raphaels and Canovas are not to be made. Yet Raphaels and Canovas may learn from wise predecessors certain general rules wherewith to guide their own attempts. And for medical students Dr. Laycock has, in the work before us, sketched some of these guiding rules, not to make physicians wise, but to make the wise more alive to what is required of them. It is a treatise on medical logic, or the Methods of observation; and is as interesting to philosophical as to medical students.

See for example how he warns the student against the common fallacy as to the value of mere observation, which in our 'matter-of-fact' country is constantly lauded as the best of all methods:—

But, after all, unlearned experience is not the best guide, nor empirical knowledge real science; and this is a fallacy against which I must warn you; for it is a very common one. Medical practitioners in all ages, noting the great value of simple experience, and seeing how far away from truth and common sense men have been led by theories and hypotheses, have put simple experience forward as something better or more instructive than the combination of observation with theory—esteeming them as only mischievous elements, and to be avoided at all cost. Now, this notion is, in fact, a theoretical notion; for experience itself teaches us two great principles or maxims as to what is termed theory or hypothesis—namely, first, that theory cannot be dispensed with in observation; and secondly, that theory, rightly used, is a necessary element not only in the advancement, but in the practical application of all human knowledge. Let me illustrate these propositions by facts drawn from experience, and by arguments upon those facts.

He cites Sydenham, who constantly inculcated this necessity of empirical observation, and this is the citation:—

"In writing the history of a disease," he says, "every philosophical hypothesis whatsoever that has previously occupied the mind of the author should lie in abeyance. This being done, the clear and natural phenomena of the disease should be noted—these, and these only. They should be noted accurately, and in all their minuteness, in imitation of the exquisite industry of those painters who represent in their portraits the smallest moles and the faintest spots." In these directions Sydenham is influenced by two hypotheses—first, that just as there are species of plants, there are also species of diseases, which have their clear and natural phenomena; and secondly, that nature, in the production of disease, is "uniform and consistent." He therefore roundly asserts, what is in fact contrary to the experience of us all, "that for the same disease in different persons the symptoms are for the most part the same, and the selfsame phenomena that you would observe in the sickness of a Socrates you would observe in the sickness of a simpleton." Now, diseases are really series of events, and not well-defined objects, as plants or animals, and these events vary as infinitely in combination as the natures of the individuals to whom they happen; so that it is a medical proverb or maxim, that in practice "No two cases are alike."

In truth, empiricism is choked with hypothesis, and labours under the disadvantage of not knowing its hypotheses to be such.

What, then, you will ask, is the nature of hypothesis or theory in medicine, and what the use? I will endeavour to explain to you. Experience shows that in medicine, as in every other branch of human knowledge, thought itself is impossible without hypothesis or theory. We instinctively desire to understand all that we observe to occur. No man can be content with mere perceptions, for these are only the stimuli to thought. After observation comes comparison with what we already know, and conclusion or inference from the comparison. This conclusion is a theory, which would be perfectly true if the data were complete and correct; but they are not. Our observations are imperfect, our knowledge is imperfect—our conclusion, therefore, reflects the imperfection of our observations and of our previous knowledge, and is never true, but always hypothetical or theoretical; varying from the truth, just in proportion as we are ignorant or imperfect observers. Having drawn our conclusion—that is, formed our theory—we may or may not rest satisfied with it. If we wisely doubt, then we desire to verify it by observation or experiment; or if the conclusion be as to something attainable, we endeavour to attain it. And this is only another way of testing the theory by experience. To theory, then, in this sense, that is, tested by observation or experiment, or experience, we owe all true progress in knowledge, for empirical knowledge is stationary.

To be able to theorize and yet discriminate between what is fact and what hypothesis, is the test of a scientific mind. In direct contradiction to such a mind is the self-styled 'practical man,' who never 'fuddles himself with theories.' Dr. Laycock well says of such men:—

They are unhesitating believers in phrases, in the names of symptoms, and in classes of drugs. For each symptom they have a remedy, and talk of tonics, alteratives, astringents, febrifuges, not being in the least aware, apparently, that every word they use involves a complex and very doubtful theory. They are necessarily theorists in practice of the worst kind, because they do not even suspect that they are theoretical. So far from being practical in their methods of treatment—that is to say, adapting it to the morbid conditions in which the individual is involved as a unity—they only look at special or isolated morbid states. The result is, the administration for the cure of disease of a frightful farrago of drugs, more dangerous even than the nullities of homeopathy. This error has had a very seriously injurious influence on the profession as a whole, as well as upon medical art.

It is these 'practical men' who, untrained in the rigorous school of philosophy, approach the most complex questions with confidence, and do not even show themselves aware of the 'plurality of causes' with which they have to deal; as 'practical men,' they fix on one cause, one palpable factor, and with it work the whole sum. Here is a good example:—

Until within the last twenty years, it was an uncontroverted doctrine in England that ripe fruit, and especially the plum, was the 'cause' of the diarrhoea and cholera prevalent in the towns and villages during the hot months of summer. Even so lately as October, 1848, the English General Board of Health set forth this theory in their official notification to the boards of guardians as to the means to be adopted for the prevention of cholera—in which we have this paragraph: "It will be important also to abstain from fruit of all kinds, though ripe and even cooked, and whether dried or preserved." By way of proof, certain facts are subjoined, as thus: "The three fatal cases [of cholera] that have just occurred to sailors who had been at Hamburg, and who were brought sick to Hull, turned out, on inquiry, to have followed

very shortly after the men had eaten a large quantity of plums, and had drunk freely of sour beer." Note the wording—"Very shortly after"—as illustrative of the mode in which this fallacy arises. The nearest phenomena to the event to be explained are seized upon as 'the cause.' The becoming sick at Hamburg, where cholera was raging, is not noticed; this important fact, indeed, is omitted from the statement; nor is there a word as to the medicinal treatment, or as to other articles of diet. Doubtless, in this particular instance the illustration was given to clench the caution against ripe fruit (the sour beer not entering into the theory), but which caution is itself founded on fallacious observation. This is so generally understood now, that I need hardly to tell you, that ripe fruit, moderately taken, is one of the best prophylactics against the summer cholera, diarrhoea, and dysentery. Nor need I add, that of the large number of the poor attacked, amongst whom diarrhoea is proportionately much more prevalent than among the rich, it is only a very small minority that have the means to purchase ripe fruit in sufficient quantities for daily consumption, or even to purchase it at all. This long prevalent dogma, then, as to the bad effects of ripe fruit on the alimentary or intestinal canal, when tested by experience, is found to be nothing more than a very fallacious inference from a wholly erroneous observation.

This passage will interest the reader not only in its philosophical bearing, but also in its rescuing of fruit from the anathema of ignorant terror. If the extracts already given do not render our recommendation superfluous, we urge every philosophical reader, especially every medical reader, to get Dr. Laycock's admirable little volume.

BARRY CORNWALL'S POEMS.

Dramatic Scenes. With other Poems. Now first printed. By Barry Cornwall. Illustrated. Chapman and Hall.

THE reawakened love of the old dramatists who belong to what is rather laxly called the Elizabethan era—a reawakening which was consequent on Charles Lamb's specimens and criticisms—created a set of writers, some forty years ago, who all thought and uttered their thoughts in accordance with the feelings and phraseology, not so much of Shakspeare himself as of Shakspeare's contemporaries. These poets were not mere imitators; they did not simply mock certain easily acquired peculiarities of language and forms of versification; they were men of genuine imagination and creative power; but, poetry having been roused out of her long sleep by the touch of masters from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it was not unnatural that the new practisers of the art should learn the accents of their teachers. The poetry of the present century has since reached another stage of development—whether for the better or worse may be open to dispute; but it will not be doubted by any observant critic that the temporary recurrence to an extinct style did great good by once more arousing passion, rekindling imagination, striking out from the dead flint and steel of conventionality the wild, nimble, and freakish fires of humour, wit, and fancy, and strengthening our enervated tongue by a diction that was at once learned and homely, full of the spirit of scholarship, yet tasting of the soil.

Among the young poets of the reawakening time to which we allude, one of the most conspicuous for similarity to his great prototypes was Mr. Procter, who, under the assumed name of Barry Cornwall, published, in the years 1819 and 1820, some *Dramatic Scenes*, full of the old elements, and exhibiting a mind naturally akin—not forced by external circumstances into a superficial resemblance—to the men who wrote for the Globe and Fortune playhouses, and more especially to the dramatic twins, Beaumont and Fletcher. Mr. Procter also wrote narrative poems, the sweetness and delicate painting of which at once gave him a place in the same category with Keats, whose gorgeous and exotic luxury he shared, though not equalling him in native energy and sustained power; and he has since made for himself a separate reputation as one of the most varied, harmonious, and emotional song-writers of the day. In the latter branch of his genius he is best known; but, exquisite as are many of his lyrics—touching the soul of sadness, mirth, or tender meditation, with the magic of a musician, added to the greater comprehensiveness of words—we venture to think that the choicest evidences of his faculty as a poet are to be found in these brief *Dramatic Scenes* which take us back to the time when plays were written in the hot blood and with the throbbing brain of an overmastering imagination. Therefore are we delighted to see such productions again issued to the public, with the author's last emendations, and to perceive that others, hitherto remaining (with the exception of a few brief specimens) in manuscript, are now suffered to appear in print.

It is true that we do not find in these pages the highest elements of the ideal drama; that we are not lifted on to the most exalted peaks of passion, or shown the infinite varieties of character which make up the rich web and texture of humanity; but we contend that here, in these *Scenes*, is an amount of delicate poetry, of fine feeling, and of beautifully modulated versification, not usually found in the play-writing of this day. Mr. Procter is a lover of art in all its shapes—one who has fed upon the divinest dreams of Greece and Italy; and, as a consequence, an instinct of beauty moves over every one of his pages. This indeed is his dominant, though not his only, characteristic. It shines forth constantly in bits of warm, soft, lulling description, which glow from out the type like pictures; permeates the dialogue of his speakers as "a hidden brook" murmurs its undersong through the pattered colloquies of the reeds and rushes; gives to his mirth an airy and refining grace; and dallies quaintly with his sadness. He has, in fact, that strange power, possessed by the older writers, of mingling grief with wayward playfulness, suggesting the depth of the underlying feelings by the very lightness with which the speaker skims across, as a skater over treacherous ice; and he owns the cognate faculty of rapid alternation between riotous, sarcastic jest, and highly-wrought, full-coloured poetry. An instance of this latter will be found in the little drama in the present volume called "The Temptation"—an admirable piece of *diablerie*. But the choicest of the *Scenes*, to our apprehension, are those called "Michael Angelo," "Raffaello and Fornarina" (both full of a poet's conception of art), and "The Florentine Party"—the last a suggestion from Boccaccio, bright with fancy and humour, and Tuscan to the heart. We append some extracts, commencing with "Michael Angelo":—

MICHAEL. Methought I lived three thousand years ago,
Somewhere in Egypt, near a pyramid;

And in my dream I heard black Memnon playing:
He stood twelve cubits high, and, with a voice
Like thunder when it breaks on hollow shores,
Called on the sky, which answered. Then he awoke
His marble music, and with grave sweet sounds
Enchanted from her chamber the coy Dawn.

He sang, too—O such songs! Silence, who lay
Torpil upon those wastes of level sand,
Stirred and grew human: from its shuddering reeds
Stole forth the crocodile, and birds of blood
Hung listening in the rich and burning air.

RAFFAELLO. Didst dream all this?

MICHAEL. Ay, Raffaello; and so gazed
On Theban Memnon, that his image sunk
Fixed in my brain. Lo! this is he thou look'st on.

RAFFAELLO. Sad watcher of the hours, which slowly creep
Through melancholy nights and desert days!
His look oppresses me.

MICHAEL. Now I would rather lie on some vast plain,
And hear the wolves upbraiding the cold moon,
Or on a rock when the blown thunder comes
Booming along the wind. My dreams are nought,
Unless with gentler figures fierce ones mix;
Giants with Angels, Death with Life, Despair
With Joy:—even the Great One comes in terror
To me, appalled like the fiery storm.

RAFFAELLO. Thy fancy was begat in the clouds.

MICHAEL. My soul
Finds best communion with both ill and good:
Some spirits there are, all earth, which only thrive
In wine or laughter: But my nature seeks
Darkness and Night, Power or the death of Power:
A mountain riven—a palace sacked—a town
Rent by an earthquake (such as once up tore
Catania from its roots, and sent it down
To the centre, split in fragments)—Famine; Plague;
Earth running red with blood, or deluge-drowned:
These are my dreams:—and sometimes, when my brain
Is calm, I lie awake and think of God.

What follows is from "The Florentine Party":—

EMILIA. In the caves he lived,
Or tops of mountains; but when winds were loudest,
And the broad moon worked spells far out at sea,
He watched all night and day the lonely shores,
And saved from shipwreck many mariners.
At length—he died; and strangers buried him.

DIONEUS. Had he no friends?

EMILIA. In some lone cemetery,
Distant from towns (some wild wood-girded spot,
Ruined and full of graves, all very old,
Over whose scarce-seen mounds the pine-tree sheds
Her solemn fruit, as giving 'dust to dust')
He sleeps in quiet. Had he no friend? Oh! yes;
Pity, which hates all noise; and Sorrow, like
The pale-eyed marble that guards virgin mould;
And widowed Silence, who will weep alone;
And all sad friends of Death, were friends to him!

NEIPHILA. Is there no more?

EMILIA. No more. My tale is told.

NEIPHILA. Then let us seek the fresh green river-banks,
And rest awhile under yon plane-tree's shade.
Our fair Emilia there will touch her lute;
And with a song, where love shall sweeten wisdom,
Bid us take comfort. After such sad stories,
What can be heard, save music?—Follow me.

A portion of the volume is devoted to a collection of songs and short miscellaneous poems; but we do not think these are equal to some which the author has already published. Nevertheless, they are all genial and pleasant.

Independently of its literary contents, the book before us is a fascinating production. Costliness and taste are visible from first to last. The pages are profusely illustrated by Tenniel, Birket Foster, Clayton, Harvey, Corbould, Harrison Weir, &c. Of the figure subjects we cannot express any high admiration; but the landscapes (especially those by Birket Foster) are exquisite, and are beautifully engraved on wood by the brothers Dalziel, who contribute some of the designs. Then, the thick board covers glitter with golden arabesques upon a crimson ground, and the type is shown to the highest advantage by the delicate, cream-coloured ivory paper on which it is printed. A more splendid book for splendour-loving Christmas is not likely to be produced; and charming is it to see an author, who gave delight to many when the century was young, coming forward in the year 1856 to add to the literary pleasures of the festive season.

AN ADMIRABLE BOOK ON GEOLOGY.

Advanced Text Book of Geology. Descriptive and Industrial. By David Page, F.G.S. Blackwood and Sons.

It is from no invidious desire to underrate other works, it is the simple expression of justice, which causes us to assign to Mr. Page's *Advanced Text Book* the very first place among geological works addressed to students, at least among those which have come before us. We have read every word of it, with care and with delight, never hesitating as to its meaning, never detecting the omission of anything needful in a popular and succinct exposition of a rich and varied subject. The *ordonnance* of its material is clear, masterly, and philosophical. The exposition is often eloquent, without ever striving after rhetorical effect. The information is lucidly yet briefly given. And if, on occasions, we are disposed to question a somewhat precipitate expression—these occasions are rare, incidental, and in no wise affect the generally philosophic structure of the book. We will mention one of these. It is at page 21, where, speaking of hypotheses, Mr. Page says, "The legitimate progress of human science lies over a pathway of observation, fact,

tion, and is little aided by conjecture, however plausible and possible." forgotten that deduction itself is but conjecture, until it is verified; often that all the greatest discoveries in science are made on the of conjecture; it is forgotten that Kepler framed seventeen guesses to frame several successive conjectures, before the one discovered the true path of the planets, and the other the true composition of

ge's plan is first to lay down the principles and more conspicuous necessary for the understanding of each section of the subject, and lose the section with an explanatory and recapitulatory survey. He aerous woodcuts, and an extensive glossary. Solicitous of being instructive to the young geologist, he has indicated many details for writers pass over as trivial, but for which the student will be But the work is really of interest to others besides mere students, best acquainted with geology will be its warmest admirers. ll extract a passage or two which can be read without reference to xt:—

encies that now operate on and modify the surface of the Globe—that scoop s and wear down hills; that fill up lakes and estuaries and seas; that sub- dry land and elevate the sea-bottom into new islands; that rend the rocky throw up new mountain-chains; and that influence the character and dis- of plants and animals, are the same in kind, though differing it may be in those that have operated in all time past. The layers of mud and sand d now deposited in our lakes and estuaries and along the sea-bottom, and solidifying into stone before our eyes, are the same in kind with the shales tones and conglomerates that compose the rocky strata of the globe: the our lakes, the shell-beds of our estuaries, and the coral-reefs of existing seas, year increasing and hardening, belong to the same series of materials, and of time will be undistinguishable from the chalks and limestones and mar- rary: the peat-mosses, the jungle-growth, and the vegetable drift that have d collected within the history of man, are but continuations of the same power that gave rise to the lignites and coals of the miner; the molten Etna and Vesuvius, and the cinders and ashes of Hecla, are but repetitions of materials which now compose the basalts and greenstones and trap-tuffs ls around us; while the corals and shells and fossils, the fragments of plants tons of animals now imbedded in the mud of our lakes and estuaries and seas, lay or other be converted into stone, and tell as marvellous a tale as the now exhume with such interest and admiration. Without this uniformity at operations of nature, the history of the Past would be an uncertainty sion. We can only read the past as connected with the present; and pre- ne future from what is now going on around us.

ollowing passage, on the operation of Rivers, is a good specimen of pact, clear style in which the work is written:—

is and rivers—in fact all winter currents—act chiefly in a mechanical way, influence depends partly on the nature of the rocks over which they run, the of their flow, and the size or volume of water. If the rocks over which they of a soft or friable nature, they soon cut out channels, and transport the aterial in the state of mud, sand, and gravel to the lower level of some lake, estuaries, or to the bed of the ocean. Their cutting as well as transporting greatly aided by the rapidity of their currents; hence the power of mountain compared with the quiet and sluggish flow of the lowland river. It has been d, for example, that a velocity of 3 inches per second will tear up fine clay, ches will lift fine sand, 8 inches sand as coarse as linseed, and 12 inches fine while it requires a velocity of 24 inches per second to roll along rounded n inch in diameter, and 36 inches per second to sweep angular stones of the hen's egg. During periodical rains and land-floods the currents of rivers often exceed this velocity; hence the tearing up of old deposits of gravel, the away of bridges, and the transport of blocks many tons in weight—an greatly facilitated by the fact that stones of ordinary specific gravity (from 3) lose more than a third of their weight by being immersed in water. Nor mere velocity of rivers which produces their eroding or cutting power, but nt and nature of the debris carried down by their torrents—every pebble and shingle rubbing and striking and grinding still deeper and deeper the chan- a which they are borne. The geological effects of rivers on the crust is thus old nature—viz., to waste and wear down the higher lands, and then to bear waste material and deposit it in valleys, in lakes, or in the ocean, in the nud, clay, sand, or gravel. By such deposits lakes are silted or filled up, and lluvial valleys; estuaries converted into level plains; and even large tracts l from the sea. . . . Every person must have observed the rivers in his ict, how they become muddy and turbid during floods of rain, and how their urrents eat away the banks, deepen the channels, and sweep away the sand el down to some lower level. And if, during this turbid state, he will have sity to lift a gallon of the water, and allow it to settle, he will be astonished ount of sediment or solid matter that falls to the bottom. Now, let him this gallon by the number of gallons daily carried down by the river, and by years and centuries, and he will arrive at some faint idea of the quantity r worn from the land by rivers, and deposited by them in the ocean. In the y as one river grinds and cuts for itself a channel, so does every stream and urrent of water. The rain as it falls washes away what the winds and frosts ened; the rill takes it up, and, mingling it with its own burden, gives it to m; the stream takes it up and carries it to the river; and the river bears it to a. Thus the whole surface of the globe is worn and grooved and channeled gher places being continually worn down, and the wasted material carried to level.

this explanation of the process of petrification will be read with :—

rocess of petrification, generally speaking, consists in the infiltration of stony into the pores of vegetable or animal substances. In some instances the body has almost entirely disappeared, and the stony matter has been so y substituted, particle for particle, that the petrification presents a perfect re- ce in its minutest parts to the original structure. Petrification has been ly imitated by burying bones in mud, clay, and lime, and it has been found r a time the bones become black, harder, and heavier; and had the process tinued, they would have eventually been undistinguishable from true fossils. holding lime or flint in solution are familiar examples of petrifying agents ey convert pieces of moss, straw, twigs, and branches, into calcareous and matter. Lime and flint are perhaps the most abundant petrifying substances e; but many fossil bones and shells are converted into metallic crystals, e remains into bituminous masses like coal, and not unfrequently trunks of ve their forms perfectly preserved in strata of fine-grained sandstone. With-

out entering upon the obscure, and as yet little studied, processes by which organic substances are preserved in the crust of the earth, we may notice a few of the more obvious, rather with a view to indicate the nature of the subject than attempt to teach its details. A shell, like the common cockle, may be buried in a mass of calcareous mud, and when so enclosed it is of itself composed of carbonate of lime and a little animal matter. As it remains imbedded chemical changes take place—the animal matter decomposes and passes off in a gaseous state, and its place is supplied by an additional infiltration of lime from the mass. If iron in solution be present in the mud, the sulphuretted hydrogen arising from the animal decomposition will unite with the iron, and the shell will become coated or incrustated with shining iron pyrites, or sulphuret of iron. As the calcareous mass becomes consolidated into limestone-rock, the shell will also become hard and stony, but still preserving its form to the minutest ridge and corrugation of its exterior surface. By-and-by, carbonated waters may filtrate through the pores of the limestone; the shell may be dissolved entirely, and leave only a hollow cast of its form. Another change may now take place: water holding siliceous matter may percolate through the rock, and the hollow shell-cast be filled entirely with flint. As with flint, so with crystallized carbonate of lime, with iron pyrites, or even with a soft clayey deposit that yields to the scratch of the nail. All these are possible changes, and changes which every day present themselves to the palæontologist; and as with a shell, so with a tooth, a fragment of bone, a fish scale, a mass of coral, the net-work of a leaf, or the woody fibre of a drifted pine-branch. The structure of the organism is always more or less preserved, and forms a basis for the petrifying solution, which thoroughly pervades it without disturbing the arrangement of those parts on which its characteristic form depends. It is this form or external character which enables the palæontologist to compare and classify fossils with exist- ing plants and animals; and it is this internal arrangement of cell and fibre, as re- vealed to the microscope, that enables him to detect bone from shell, and the bone of a bird from the bone of a mammal.

These three passages sufficiently indicate the quality of the book; its merits as a text-book can only be estimated by the student himself. If it does not drive many a student, hammer in hand, into quarries and railway cuttings for immediate experience of geological phenomena, nothing will.

MISCELLANIES LIGHT AND LEARNED.

PRECEDENCE to beauty—we have Sir Walter Scott's *Lord of the Isles* (Edin- burgh: A. and C. Black), in a rich binding of red, blue, and gold, exqui- sitely printed on tinted paper, and illustrated by seventy-two illustrations, from drawings by John Gilbert and Birket Foster. The introductions by Scott are all reproduced, together with a variety of notes. The volume is superb; its external appearance will entice many an eye in search of a sea- sonable gift-book. Some of the illustrations are of the highest merit, and wonderfully in keeping with the character of the poem. These bright editions almost atone at Christmas for the absence of flowers. But we are dealing, at present, with works of all classes which do not admit of more ample treatment. Let us note, then, that Miss Meteyard, the Silverpen of former days, presents, as her Christmas offering, *Lilian's Golden Hours* (Routledge).—It is an elegant tale for the young, elegantly illustrated by Absolon. We must forgive Miss Meteyard her didacticisms and her moralities, as well as the simple egotisms of her preface, on account of the genial, generous sentiments with which her writings are imbued. Mrs. Hubback, too, must be mentioned with praise, as the author of *Agnes Milbourne; or, Foy pour Devoir* (Skeet).—The praise, however, applies to the form rather than to the matter of her story, which is a variation from the three-volume conventionalality. The volumes, besides being only two in number, are small in size. As for the novel, those who remember "The Wife's Sister" and "The Old Vicarage," will know what amusement and what edification to anticipate from the history of Agnes Milbourne. We are really at a loss how to apply the teachings conveyed in Mrs. Hubback's *Gesta*.

Help in Time of Need; or, the Lord Careth for his Own (Edinburgh: Kennedy), is a tale founded on the persecution of the Huguenots, by Miss Catherine D. Bell, who reminds her friends and the public that she has pro- duced eleven similar volumes, the names of which are set forth, with con- scious pride, upon her title-page. The story is carefully executed, and ex- hibits a good deal of liberal and healthy feeling. It may be recommended to young readers. Another sort of narrative comes to us from America. It is anonymous, but purports to be *The Autobiography of a Female Slave* (Trübner).—We have no doubt that it is a mere fiction, the scenes being of a grossly exaggerated description, the characters theatrical, the style that of a Lascar pamphlet. One remark has been suggested to us by this epic of stripping, whipping, and melodramatic atrocity. The "friends of the black" have a singular abhorrence of the true Nigritian stain. They almost in- variably make their heroines white or nearly so; accordingly, the female slave of this "Autobiography" is depicted as having "a very fair and beau- tiful complexion," "no perceptible shade darker" than that of her free-born mistresses. She is, indeed, altogether lovely, and devotes many a page to revelations of shame and suffering connected with her own displays at the whipping-post. We much question whether this sort of literature helps the abolitionist cause, and sometimes are disposed to doubt whether it is published with that object.

Connected with the same subject is an interesting volume, *Anthony Burns: a History*, by C. E. Stevens (Trübner), being a minute narrative of an extradition case which occurred in Boston two years ago, under the Fugitive Slave Act. In the course of his relation, Mr. Stevens sketches the portraits of two abolitionist orators, Wendell Phillips and Theodore Parker. The contrast being thoroughly American in tone and spirit, we will make room for it:—

There were two men in the Hall for whose words, more than for those of all others, the assembly impatiently waited. These were Wendell Phillips and Theodore Parker. Regarded by the public as the leaders of the present enterprise, closely associated in spirit and purpose, and eminent, both, for the power of speech, they yet differed from each other in many particulars. Mr. Phillips belonged to the aristocracy, so far as such a class may be supposed to exist in this country. He had an ancestry to boast of; his family name was interwoven with the history of the Commonwealth; and some of those who had borne it had filled high offices in the government. Mr. Parker, on the other hand, was of more plebeian origin; he had been the architect of his own fortunes, and was by far the most distinguished person of his lineage. In

religion, Mr. Phillips was a Calvinist, and believed that the Holy Scriptures were the inspired word of God; while Mr. Parker, rejecting all creeds and disowned by all sects, held the Bible to contain only the wisdom of fallible men, and claimed for himself and for future sages the possible power of improving thereon. Mr. Phillips was a lawyer, but he seldom appeared in the courts; Mr. Parker was a clergyman, and, though without a church and eschewing the holy sacraments, preached constantly to a large but shifting congregation. Mr. Phillips excelled in oratory, Mr. Parker was a greater master of the pen. The former studied men, the latter books. Mr. Parker had a wider reputation—Europe had heard of him; but those who knew both would have forsaken him to hang upon the lips of Mr. Phillips. Mr. Parker had secured his triumph when he had uttered his speech; Mr. Phillips found his chief satisfaction in the accomplishment of the end at which his oratory was aimed. Mr. Phillips had the garb and gait of a gentleman; Mr. Parker, as he moved along with stumbling steps and prone looks, had the aspect of a recluse student. In their physical characteristics, they differed not less than in mental and moral traits. Mr. Phillips was a person of commanding height and elegant proportions; his features were cast in the Roman mould, his head was rounded and balanced almost to the ideal standard. A ruddy complexion, fair hair, and eyes of a sparkling blue, showed him to be of the true Saxon race. Mr. Parker, on the contrary, was of inferior stature and ungraceful form; he had the face of a Diogenes, and his massive head, capacious of brain in the frontal region, was not symmetrically developed. He had an atrabilious complexion, dark hair, and large, dark eyes, that looked forth from behind spectacles with a steady, unwinking gaze.

There are few readers who will not be interested in this description. In illustration of English oratory, the Messrs. Griffin (London and Glasgow) have published a second series of *Speeches of Eminent British Statesmen during the Thirty-nine Years' Peace*, containing Lord Brougham's matchless appeal to the House of Peers on Negro Emancipation, and some of the best speeches delivered, on various occasions by Mr. Macaulay, the Earl of Derby, Daniel O'Connell, Mr. Shiel, Lord Palmerston, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord Lyndhurst. An excellent manual for geographical students has been compiled by Mr. William Hughes, *The Treasury of Geography, Physical, Historical, Descriptive, and Political, containing a Succinct Account of Every Country in the World, Preceded by an Introductory Outline of the History of Geography; a Familiar Inquiry into the Varieties of Race and Language Exhibited by different Nations, and a View of the Relations of Geography to Astronomy and the Physical Sciences*. It was designed and commenced by Mr. Samuel Maunders, who possessed an uncommon aptitude for the preparation of manuals, the Biographical, Historical, Scientific, and Literary Treasuries, the Treasury of Natural History, and the Treasury of Knowledge. Some deficiencies might be pointed out, which detract from the practical utility of the volume; but it is, upon the whole, a satisfactory work of reference. A work of another kind, very unsatisfactory, is, *Louis Napoleon and the Bonaparte Family* (Trübner), by Henry W. De Puy. It is a ragged compilation composed of fragments appropriated from various histories, and thrown together without art, and even without common care. Mr. Samuel Eliot's *Manual of United States History from 1492 to 1850* (Trübner), is an American book of a highly creditable character. We have met with no outline of the kind so complete, so clear, so simple. It might be advantageously adopted in English schools. Special illustrations of New World history are contained in the *History of Immigration to the United States* (Trübner), an elaborate volume by William J. Bromwell, of great interest to those who have watched the progress and decline of the Know-Nothing organization. Other useful manuals are, *Elements of Modern History*, by Alexander F. Tytler, Lord Woodhouselee, fourth edition (A. and C. Black), continued to the end of the Russian war; and *The Student's Handbook of Mediæval History from the Fall of the Western Empire to the Close of the Fifteenth Century* (Griffin and Co.), edited by Isaiah McBurrey, with Dissertations on the State of Europe and on the Feudal System, by Colonel Procter. This is a very meritorious volume. *The Life of Sir William Pepperell*, by Usher Parsons (Trübner), is a curious specimen of biography, detailing the career and achievements of the hero Louisburg, "the only native of New England who was created a baronet during our connexion with the mother-country." Mr. Thomas T. Lynch sends in a second edition of his *Lectures in aid of Self-Improvement addressed to Young Men and Others* (Longman and Co.). Mr. Lynch is chiefly known as the author of "The Rivulet," about which every possible question was raised—whether it was an evangelical poem? whether it was not an evangelical poem?—all but the obvious inquiry, whether it was a poem at all? We should say that Mr. Lynch writes better essays than verses. For scholars of different classes we have the second part of Mr. C. D. Yonge's admirable *English-Latin and Latin-English Dictionary* (Bentley), a second edition of *The Science of Arithmetic: a Systematic Course of Numerical Reasoning and Computation, with Exercises*, by Dr. James Cornwell and Mr. J. G. Fitch (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.), and a beautiful little volume called *The Golden A. B. C.* (Trübner). A *Dictionary of Commercial Terms, with their Synonyms in various Languages*, has been compiled by Mr. Alexander Faulkner, and published at Bombay (L. M. D'Souza). The latest additions to Mr. Bohn's very useful Libraries are—two volumes of *Poster's Essays*, edited by Mr. J. E. Ryland, of Northampton, and a volume of *Defoe's Works*, containing the "Adventures of Duncan Campbell," a "Voyage Round the World," &c.

With these miscellanies we must announce a work of large pretensions, *The Text of the Old Testament Considered: with a Treatise on Sacred Interpretation, and a Brief Introduction to the Old Testament Books and the Apocrypha*, by Dr. Samuel Davidson (Longman and Co.).—This is a massive octavo volume, the contents of which would fill a middle-age folio. Dr. Davidson, as many of our readers are probably aware, is the author of a learned treatise on Biblical Criticism, and of a work on Hermeneutics. We cannot undertake to review his elaborate book, and must content ourselves with notifying its appearance to the students of sacred literature. At the same time, we may mention a *Letter to the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford on the Present State of Theology in the Universities and the Church of England, and on the Causes of Existing Scepticism and Infidelity*, by Clericus (Oxford: Hamman), and *Sunday, the Rest of Labour*, by A. Christian (T. C. Newby).—The Miscellanies on our table, varying from poetry to arithmetic, and from theology to fireside romance, have thus been disposed of.

ORACLES FROM THE COLONIES.

The Rise and Progress of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. By An Englishman, Author of "Commercial before Military Glory," "Sketches of English and Scottish Scenery," "A Traveller's Diary," "Five Dramas," &c. &c.

D. P., the Englishman who pretends to give in the present volume an account of the Rise and Progress of the finest and richest of our South Oceanic colonies, commenced his literary career as a poet. But the world would none of his inspirations. The fate of his earlier poetic works, therefore, prompted him to try his hand at prose-writing. Could we be overawed by a pompous list of works achieved—a list supported by a *posse-comitatus* of five dramas—and could we be imposed upon by the assumption of a "fifth thousand," we might perhaps be brought to recognize the claims which D. P. sets up; and admit the pretensions which inflate his volume. "If two voyages round the world in prosecution of the design," exclaims our sea-roving Englishman, "excessive toil and personal inconvenience in collecting materials, and strict impartiality, and a rigid adherence to truth in the execution,—if such features in the character of a work have any claim on public favour, the humble artist may reasonably anticipate some little return for his past labour." These are the grounds upon which our author claims for himself a pre-eminence of respect, and begs to be allowed to constitute himself Sir Oracle.

Had his pretensions been less absurd, had he not so consequentially thrust his merits forward, his book might have deserved a paragraph of mere announcement. But when an author is found proclaiming his infallibility and extolling his claims to authority, we have a right to investigate closely his credentials. We have done so in this instance, and are bound to confess that the hubbub about "*two voyages round the world in prosecution of the design*," and a "*fifth thousand*," is but a repetition of the "*parturient montes*," and that so far from the book being impartial, it is in every page blennished with party prejudice. The writer has evidently been received at "Government House," and inhaled the perfumes of the Court drawing-rooms; has shaken hands with the small F. Peels of office, talked on colonial subjects with salaried secretaries, and been taught to regard the rough and unwashed citizens, the democracy of this Anglo-Australasian empire, as a hotbed of corruption, disaffection, and crime.

Veracity is not always to be expected even from travellers. However, we are invited to repose implicit confidence in the correctness of D. P.'s impressions about colonial matters and manners, habits and costumes, demoralization and democracy caught *en passant*. But who is ready to trust to a photographic drawing taken from a railway carriage pushing on at the rate of sixty miles an hour? And who will put faith in the accuracy of D. P.'s notes, taken during a brief sojourn in our distant colonies? But D. P. brings with him statistics—official statistics. The following copy of a letter from the Colonial-office is to "satisfy the reader of accuracy on that head:"—

Downing-street, 29th Dec., 1854.

Sir,—I am directed by Sir George Grey to forward you the enclosed letters of introduction to the Governors of Victoria, New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand, in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 19th inst. (Signed) SAM. WHITEHEAD.

Who dares doubt the infallibility of Government statistics or official declarations? "An Englishman," being introduced to a governor, is necessarily "accurate on that head."

According to our author, Victoria, the first colony described in his volume, had in 1852-53 attained the acme of speculation, crime, excitement, and disorder. The magnetic influence of gold had attracted thither the scum of the earth, and, like the wand of Circe, converted the new comers into monsters of colossal dimensions. Gambling, drunkenness, strife, pillage, murder, are some of the mild features which characterized the society of Melbourne at this epoch, whilst every kind of wickedness and extravagance was prosecuted with impunity, the police and magistrates being intent on making their thousands per diem. "A little hell upon earth;" "a city of rioters, gamblers, and drunkards;" "a crowded den of human iniquity," are terms intended to convey to the reader a faint idea of the capital of the Yarra-Yarra under the first impressions of our author; and though his second impressions modify his earlier views a little, what, he pathetically asks, can be expected from a state where "the better the form of existing government, the more abusive and malignant will be found those fiery demagogues who envy in others the honesty they want themselves, and who merely aspire to place for emolument, and to power with a view to create or perpetuate on an extended scale the abuses they decry?" We need not inquire the source of this evil, the cause of this demoralization. For ourselves, we were led to suppose it was the temporary excitement caused by the discovery of gold that aided in producing this state of things. But D. P. kindly takes out the key and opens his cabinet of curiosities for us himself. It is that "the people of the present generation have had their minds polluted, their morals corrupted, and their talents partially if not wholly perverted by a mass of impure matter which, during the greater part of the last thirty years, has been vomited from the disorganized bowels of an unhealthy press as *wholesome food for an enlightened people*?" That is to say, certain bowels vomit a people's food. Then follows a list of publications which are D. P.'s aversion, and which he objects to have placed in the hands of emigrants. Amongst these figure prominently Sunday newspapers and novels—not that we are to consider him altogether as an "advocate for the total extinction of all works of fiction." No; has he not written, has he not published *five dramas*? 'Tis true they were unnoticed, "sullenly plunged, and slowly sunk," but what of that? Ink and type still perpetuate the deed, although the tragic "Englishman" has undertaken to be a Colonial cicerone.

D. P.'s ideas of politics are no less sage than his views of other matters. "Half the grievances of the world," according to him, "are sentimental grievances;" men don't really suffer, they only imagine they suffer. Governments know much better how to rule than people know how to be ruled. "The trashy harangues of some low popularity hunters, those mercenary scribblers who would readily sacrifice a people's morals or a country's good

for personal gain," are, we are here taught, the root of political evil, and threatens the ruin of our English dependencies. We ought to apologize to our readers for quoting such specimens of maudlin cant and ignorance. It is sometimes necessary, however, to expose a much-puffed volume assuming to offer practical information. Except where the book is dully didactic, it consists of extracts from newspapers and pre-existing volumes finished off with tables of official statistics. We are at a loss to discover the real object of its publication. As a history, it is miserably imperfect; as a guide to the emigrant, it is altogether useless. Many works have recently appeared with far smaller pretensions and of much greater utility—written not by persons who have tripped jauntily across two oceans twice, in prosecution of the design of writing a book, but by men who have lived on the spot, who have passed many years amidst the scenes they describe, who have learnt by experience what is best to be taught, who have been inspired to write solely from a desire to convey information to new emigrants, and who, in their simple way of narrating facts and giving advice, at once convince us of the truth of their statements.

Where "An Englishman" describes what has already been described—and that he does largely—we are content to accept his descriptions; but where he draws upon his own observations, his own impressions, we must be allowed to say, even in contradiction of his own declaration in the preface, the work partakes of the character of 'imaginary sketches.' He coasts along Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and the Islands of New Zealand, but we are, as we have already stated, at a loss to discover what advantage he has reaped from his voyages or the public are to gain from the perusal of his volume. A dozen pages of practical matter, written with the object of conveying instruction rather than publishing a book, would have been of ten-fold the value. Many a small pamphlet, "one of those countless books on Australia, the merits or demerits of which," D. P. humbly submits, "are not becoming subjects for discussion" in his preface, serves the same purpose far better than the four hundred and fifty pages to which "An Englishman" has extended his volume.

The Arts.

"THE CAGOTS."—MR. DILLON AS "OTHELLO."

THEATRICAL managers are becoming the chief historians of the time. We shall expect some day to see advertised an edition of "the historical and archaeological works of CHARLES KEAN, now first collected from his numerous playbills, with illustrations taken from the stage;" and certainly we question whether one person in a thousand, who looked at Mr. DILLON's fly-leaf about the mysterious people forming the subject of the new drama produced last Saturday evening, had ever before heard of the existence of such a race. The historical knowledge of Londoners is therefore really added to; and JONES is made aware, for the first time, that a persecuted set of wretched human beings, called Cagots, formerly lived among the Pyrenees, abhorred and shunned on account of the popular opinion that there was a leprous taint in their blood. JONES also (instructed by the playbill) may discourse as to the probabilities of their origin—whether they were descended from a part of that invading army of Saracens which entered the South of France in the time of CHARLES MARTEL, and were defeated by him, or whether they were the posterity of the Autochthones (fancy JONES discussing that part of the question!), or of the Ostrogoths or the Visigoths. In these abstruse speculations, JONES will find no help from the drama, which merely seeks to put the forlorn condition of the Cagots in a picturesque form before the eyes of the audience. This is done by means of a story in which there is an heroic Cagot (very choice in his language, very generous in his sentiments, very powerful in his lungs, very advanced in the extremely democratic colour of his political opinions, considering that he is living in the fifteenth century), who falls in love with a young lady whom he has saved from a wild boar, and by whom he is loved in turn, the damsel being all unweaving that the gentleman is one of the proscribed class. This lady (*Eugénie*, performed by Miss WOOLGAR) is also loved by two other persons—the younger Count de Foix and Sir Aymer de Beriot—the last of whom seeks to slay the former. But he is rescued by the Cagot, and conveyed to his (the Cagot's) own hut. When there, *Astarte*, the Cagot's mother (Mrs. WESTON), wishes her son to despatch him, as she has a grudge against the *De Foix* family, having once been the old Count's wife, until discarded by him. *Raoul*, the son, refuses, and even wakes the young Count from his sleep in an adjoining room, in order to put him on his guard; but the nobleman staggers forward, badly wounded, and drops insensible, immediately after which, *Astarte* perceives in him the features of a lost son of hers by the old Count. In the next act, the latter, believing *Raoul* to be guilty of killing his son, orders him to be put to death; and *Raoul*, when he finds that the lady of his heart shuns him on learning that he is a Cagot (though she afterwards has a revulsion of feeling in his favour), falsely accuses himself of the murder, and is led forth to die. Apparently he does die, and *Astarte* then informs the old Count, with vindictive delight, that *Raoul* was his own son by a second marriage. However, the young Count is not murdered, and *Raoul* is not executed; and the story ends happily, *Raoul* receiving *Eugénie* in marriage, and Sir Aymer, the arch-villain, being taken off in custody.

Such is an outline of the plot. It will be seen that it is very 'effective;' and the author (Mr. EDMUND FALCONER, a young provincial actor and poet) has shown a great deal of stage tact, and has wrought up several very startling situations. But the play is dull, notwithstanding. It is too long, and too involved in its plot; the dialogue is turgid and abounding with clap-traps; there is no relief to the perpetual strain upon the spectator's sense of horror and misery; and the agonies are piled up with a remorseless hand. The play, in truth, is a melodrama, in five acts and in blank verse, without a melodrama's condensation, or its genial comedy. These faults are rather aggravated than softened by the acting. Mr. DILLON as *Raoul*, and Mr. STUART as Sir Aymer, raved and ranted till they were hoarse; and the former actor exhibited even

fewer excellences and more defects in this part than in his previous impersonations. He lost his breath with excess of vehemence, and was obliged to make pauses in the middle of sentences, to fetch it again. There were one or two striking bits where the situation really demanded loudness and energy; but those nice touches and various elaborations, by which a character is built up, were wanting. Mrs. WESTON performed the fierce, gloomy mother very creditably; but Miss WOOLGAR was out of her line in the part of *Eugénie*, and did not impress us with any idea of her admirable talents as an actress.

The scenery and dresses are beautiful; and, in the present dearth of true dramatic poetry, *The Cagots* is a success.

Of the LYCEUM *Othello* we are disposed to say as little as possible. In the presence of a conspiracy to extol the worthless, and to abolish the right of honest criticism, we find it an invidious and ungracious task to tell the truth. It seems to be agreed on all hands that the duty of so-called dramatic 'critics' in these latter days is to register the good opinion which managers, and more especially actor-managers, are apt to entertain of themselves. Declining, as we always have declined, to lend ourselves to this service, we are content to be silent. In some cases silence is the sincerest criticism. An influential contemporary has said that Mr. DILLON's *Othello* "opens a new era of Shakspearean performances." The credibility of this announcement time will show. We may be allowed, however, to indulge a hope that this new era may be a brief one, if it is to be marked by such phenomena as the *Othello* we have lately witnessed. For the first time in our experience we found this tragedy comparatively ineffective. We say comparatively, for so powerful are the situations in the third and the last act, that they may be said to act themselves. The wretchedest strollers cannot quite disfigure or efface the terror and the pity of those scenes. The performance at the LYCEUM would have been a tolerably creditable one at a provincial theatre. The play is very fairly put upon the stage so far as dresses, decorations, and appointments are concerned. Of the *Othello* we will say no more than that it proved to all disinterested judges the total inadequacy and unfitness of the actor.

Not a gleam of intelligence in the reading, not a tone of passion or of tenderness in the voice, from the first scene to the last. Mr. DILLON appears to have formed no sort of conception of the character. All that was not conventional was meaningless; all that was conventional was pointless, and often incorrect. A superfluity of grimacing, but not a flash of emotion; as much rant as a weak and arid voice, incapable of modulation, would permit; and for the rest, whining and preaching intermittently. Many traditional points were slurred over, some omitted altogether; but there was no refined or subtle by-play to explain the omission or the neglect. Passages which we have never known to fail to 'bring the house down' fell as dull as lead; and in the last scene the utter abandonment of all dignity converted the 'great of heart' *Othello* into a vulgar convict, and too truly made a murder what he thought a sacrifice. There is one apology, however, to be made for this lamentable failure; we do not believe that EDMUND KEAN himself could have made head against Mr. STUART's *Iago*. A more preposterous version of the character is not to be conceived. In one word, Mr. STUART's *Iago* is a ticket-of-leave man.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE last Christmas performance of the *Messiah* by the Sacred Harmonic Society takes place at EXETER HALL next Friday. Madame CLARA NOVELLO (it being her first appearance this season), Miss DOLBY, SIMS REEVES, and FORMES, are the principal vocalists.

Among the musical events of the week may be mentioned Miss DOLBY's second *soirée*, which took place last Tuesday at her residence in Hinde-street. Criticism loses its office with such an artist as this lady. Where perfection has been so nearly attained, we can but listen and admire.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY SMITH, on Monday evening, delivered at the BETHOVEN Rooms, Harley-street, a lecture on some fantastical notions, which he has previously expounded in a pamphlet, with respect to the authorship of SHAKSPEARE's plays, which he persists in attributing to BACON. An account of this lecture in the *Daily News* says that—

"Mr. Smith chiefly referred to the play of *Julius Caesar*, which he considers to be especially confirmatory of his views; in proof whereof the lecturer quoted passages from Bacon's paper on 'the civil characters of Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar,' which he contends was a mere sketch, afterwards enlarged and elaborated in the play. Mr. Smith also quoted a passage from a letter of Bacon's to Mr. Matthew, referring to an interview at which the former accuses the latter of having been 'more willing to hear *Julius Caesar* than Queen Elizabeth commended.' In refutation of the assumption that Bacon was deficient in the poetic element, Mr. Smith quoted some very forcible passages from the poem on 'The World,' and also turned some of Bacon's prose into blank verse, to prove that in both he possessed the true Shakspearean genius."

Really, Mr. SMITH's cause must be weak indeed, if these are the best arguments he can bring forward.

Some good news for picture-lovers is contained in the *Times* of Monday, which says:—

"We understand that Mr. Sheepshanks has munificently presented to the nation the whole of his collection of paintings and drawings for the purposes of public instruction in art. Mr. Sheepshanks, disapproving irresponsible management by boards like the trustees of the British Museum and National Gallery, has made it a condition that the responsibility for his collection must rest with an individual Minister—the Minister for Education. Mr. Sheepshanks considers that a crowded thoroughfare is not a suitable site for quietly studying works of art, and has stipulated that his collection must be kept in the neighbourhood of its present locality, at Kensington. He is willing that the pictures &c., should be lent to those provincial towns which provide suitable places to exhibit them. Upon these conditions, which we believe Lord Palmerston has cordially accepted on behalf of the Government, Mr. Sheepshanks has signified his readiness to hand over immediately the whole of his very fine collection, which is especially rich in the best works of Mulready, Landseer, and Leslie, and contains fine examples of the principal modern British painters in oil. The value of the collection may be estimated at about 60,000*l*."

The operatic performances at DRURY LANE came to a close last Saturday, and the regular performances have been resumed this week. Last night was Mr. E. T. SMITH's benefit, and after the first piece, the manager was called before the curtain, when he said that his management had been very successful, that the rent of the house had been settled, and that he had engaged his present company to continue after Christmas. The chief attraction will be Mr. CHARLES MATHEWS; and by the assistance of Mr. BEVERLEY, Mr. SMITH hopes to produce a gorgeous pantomime. The house was crowded in every part.

second son of the late Archd. Trotter, Esq., of Dregghorn,
near Edinburgh, aged 22.

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Tuesday, and Wednesday will be presented the
titled
S THEY WERE AND MAIDS AS THEY ARE.
tory, Mr. Addison; Sir William Dorrillon, Mr. F.
liss Dorrillon, Mrs. Stirling; Lady Priory, Miss
ugh.
ude with a new Farce called
JONES THE AVENGER.
N. Jones, Mr. Robson; Tim Doolan, Mr. Danvers;
Miss Marston.
rsday, a new Farce by the Author of MEDEA.

SES for DRAWING of ALL KINDS
w formed at the Normal School of Art, Cromwell-
h Kensington. Terms, &c., may be learnt on ap-
py letter, P.P., addressed to the Secretary.
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models and preparations, illustrating every part
nan frame in health and disease, the race of men,
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five indication), they are of unerring efficacy. In
nd in Winter Cough, they have never been known

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AFERS, allowed to dissolve in the mouth, imme-
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nore confidently on the intrinsic quality of the
of which one trial will not fail to convince the most
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the samples of barley and groats which you have
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those principles which are found in good barley;
no mineral or other impurity present, and from the
my investigation I believe them to be genuine, and
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o this description of food.
(Signed) "A. S. TAYLOR.
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