

Headed Edmund Mellow, 35 & 36 Fleet.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1857.

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Review of the Week.

THE opening of the Session presents parties in new relations to each other. On the first night Mr. GLADSTONE was seen in the position of offering himself as Chancellor of the Exchequer for any Government reversing the policy of the present Cabinet, while Mr. DISRAELI placed himself at the head of the Income-tax movement, and recovered an immense amount of lost ground as the leader of the Opposition. Already we have had occasion to remark the junction between Sir JOHN PAKINGTON and the Manchester party; Sir JOHN, however, was, as usual, a guest at Mr. DISRAELI's political dinner before the opening day. It seems scarcely possible that a coalition Government could be formed in competition with the ABERDEEN coalition, and, indeed, we anticipate nothing of the kind; but the movements of Tuesday night certainly might have been interpreted as having that tendency. Scarcely had the Royal Speech been delivered—and a right royally vapid affair it was—ere HER MAJESTY'S Opposition stormed the breaches in the Ministerial lines. The Foreign policy—a compromise between peace-making and war-making, the Income-tax—a war impost continued in peace,—these were the points that presented the readiest attack, and the assault was fierce. The geographical blundering of Ministers in agreeing to the Bolgrad boundary; their assertion that there should be no conference, followed by their assent to the new conference; their bullying in Naples, with the result only of rendering the King more obstinate; their embarking in a war with Persia before obtaining the consent of Parliament or being able to calculate the cost; their instructions, which primed Sir JOHN BOWRING to take advantage of any incident, like that of the Iorcha,—were subjects upon which Mr. DISRAELI spoke tellingly. Lord PALMERSTON had promised to come back, after the war, to domestic affairs. A Liberal Minister is always expected to produce a Reform Bill, but Lord PALMERSTON has promised none; perhaps he leaves that to Lord JOHN RUSSELL. And if he is pressed for that and other improvements, or, if called upon to reduce the Income-tax, he may point to those disturbed relations abroad. He takes a pride in extricating us from difficulties, himself being the creator of the difficulties. We are at this moment interfering in Italy, in Switzerland, perhaps in other quarters, only to bring about results the very reverse of those which, in deference to public

opinion, Lord PALMERSTON professes to desire. In a large part of these accusations Mr. DISRAELI found a ready support. Mr. GLADSTONE avowed that he must give to the right honourable gentleman his vote when he said that the House of Commons was bound to stand by the Income-tax settlement of 1853. If that settlement had been carried out we should, after April next, be paying only fivepence in the pound. Mr. GLADSTONE and Lord JOHN RUSSELL joined in the verdict against Ministers on the score of Naples. Lord JOHN RUSSELL insists that they are subverting the policy of Austria in Italy, and Mr. DISRAELI accuses them of sanctioning a secret treaty between France and Austria, guaranteeing to the Emperor FRANCIS-JOSEPH his Italian dominions. Of course Mr. MILNER GIBSON and the Manchester party agree in condemning the war expenditure.

The debate in the Upper House very closely resembled that in the Commons, only that it was much more commonplace in tone, and not much relieved from insignificance by the fact of a direct amendment. For although Lord GREY closed his somewhat bitter diatribe upon the presumption of declaring war against Persia without the leave of Parliament with a resolution embodying censure, he obtained only a fractional support—only twelve to the forty-five against him; and it is evident that none of the other speakers believed in the reality of the contest with the Government. The real contest lay in the other House, where no formal amendment was moved.

The work set down for the session is such as we might have foreseen. There is to be a fight over the Income-tax, on which Mr. ARSLEY PELLATT has notified a motion for the 12th instant, and Major REED ditto for the 10th instant. The whole subject of transportation, ticket of leave, &c., is to be brought before the House of Commons on motions by Sir GEORGE GREY, Mr. ROEBUCK, Lord BERNERS, and others. Mr. LABOUCHERE has obtained a Select Committee on the Hudson's Bay Company and its territory—whether to recover the land for transportation or colonization he said not. The LORD CHANCELLOR announced a list of law amendments, at which people laugh; the Chancellor's list of measures for the session usually agreeing with his list of measures withdrawn at the end of the session. The LORD CHANCELLOR's bills are like Mr. CAXTON's "Great Book"—they engage all his soul; and he views them with such reverence, that he is never content with touching them up, never able to approach a finish.

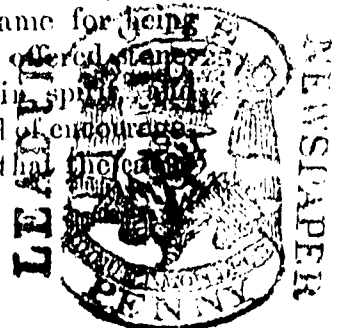
It is not probable that Ministers will be let off without some further explanations on the subject of the Crimean Commission, Sir JOHN McNEILL's protest not having passed without a remark. Colonel TULLOCH is bringing forward a book; various speakers take note of the movement; and it is among the topics upon which Ministers will be worried.

The Association for the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge has been to Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS with a demand for the repeal of the duty on paper. It seems possible that Sir GEORGE may be deprived of his Income-tax, or at least of so much as he intends to ask for; and, if so, the question of other duties will be referred to another Ministry.

The convocation of clergy has been held in the provinces both of Canterbury and York, only to go through the same paltry forms, or to put down some attempts at rendering the farce a reality. York adjourned at once; Canterbury slightly prolonged its debates.

It is agreeable to turn from these pretences to something like a real mission on the part of the clergy. We allude to the "Church Schools" which have been opened by Mr. ROWSELL, the local incumbent of St. Peter's, Stepney. The schools are intended as a place for the education of the poor, and also as a place of worship for those of the working classes whose diffidence and shame of poverty-stricken garb keeps them from the parish church. The Bishop of LONDON appeared as a working clergyman to assist in this movement; Mr. GLADSTONE and the Reverend FREDERICK MAURICE also co-operating.

We say it not invidiously if we remark that Bishop and Statesman might profitably use their sagacity and their influence to assist the poor, not a hundred miles from that district, who have been thrown out of employment by the fluctuations of the building trade. We have already explained how the poor are victimised by the alternating of selfish speculation and bankrupt stagnation. When the men apply for relief according to law, they are in some cases treated as if they were assumed to be rioters. Yet certainly they have a right to be indignant, for while they have no effectual control over the movements in the trade which subject them to these calamitous consequences, they have to endure at once starvation and blame for being starved. They ask for bread, and are offered starvation-breaking! It would be Christian in spirit, and wise in statesmanship, to speak a word of encouragement to these men—to promise them the



of their wretchedness shall be investigated, and to give them meanwhile guidance and support. What is given to them is reproach and penal labour!

Notwithstanding the opposition to some points in the treaty on Central America, the committee of the Senate on Foreign Affairs has advised that it be ratified. No doubt there are advantages in the treaty for both countries. It settles many disputed points, and the concessions by Great Britain are unquestionable. So also are the concessions on the other side, and we are inclined to believe that Mr. DALLAS might have attained all he did without conceding points which are scarcely appreciated here, and have been strongly felt in the committee of the Senate.

The public in this country will be rather perplexed to see an open opponent of the President-elect appointed by the suffrages of Pennsylvania against the presidential candidate. The real causes, however, are extra-political. No doubt Mr. CAMERON has had aid from the political opponents of the new President, but he did not rely exclusively upon their support. He was formerly a zealous advocate of Mr. BUCHANAN; and he might, we think, have remembered past times. But with some men the memory of a former friendship is a motive for vindictive bitterness. Mr. CAMERON has used immense exertions to effect a *coup-d'état* against a man whom he once upheld. It is a personal rather than a political success, obtained by desperate exertions not altogether of a political kind.

On another point our expectations are completely fulfilled. The Austrian amnesty, and even the illumination at Milan, is now known to have been got up by the mob under Austrian instigation.

Statesmanship is descending indeed to lower depths. The French Empire and the clergy thereof have been saved, for VERGER has been guillotined without being allowed to open his mouth.

The annals of the Law Courts give us a glimpse of high life—the Marquis of BATH taking *petits soupers* with “le Traviate” in Denbigh-street, Pimlico. The case is interesting. The Marquis is no worse than others—nay, he is better than most of us; for he belongs to the highest class in the land, and is a born legislator. He belongs to the same privileged class with Lord CARDIGAN and Lord MALMESBURY, who, on the second night of Parliament, occupy the “Upper” House for a whole sitting with their purely personal affronts. Unable to “call out” Major CALTHORPE for a clever book mingled with follies, *The Realities of the War*, Lord CARDIGAN comes to ask the House of Lords for redress. He hints that Government should cashier the Major—he wants the servant turned away because he speaks ill of a Lord! What, then, should be done with CARDIGAN and LUCAN—one of whom tries to write, and the other threatens us with a book—by somebody? Lord MALMESBURY is offended because the New Forest Commissioners will not attend to him!—an indignity which he ascribed to a ‘prancing attorney,’ when it was really due to the caracoling Commissioners. They are very ‘omusing,’ these Lords, whether in their Crimea, their Denbigh-street, or their own ‘House.’

REPRESENTATION OF DUMFRIESSHIRE.—The friends of Lord Henry Scott, observing the very general feeling in favour of Mr. Hope Johnstone of Annandale, as expressed at public meetings of the electors on the 21st and 28th of January, have resolved to withdraw Lord Henry. Mr. Johnstone is therefore the only candidate for the representation of Dumfriesshire.

REPRESENTATION OF COLCHESTER.—Lord John Manners has issued an address to the electors of this borough, intimating that he is about to retire from the representation, because he believes it to be his duty to come forward as a candidate for the constituency hitherto represented by his brother, the new Duke of Rutland—viz., North Leicestershire. There are already four candidates in the field for Colchester—two Conservatives, a Whig, and a nondescript.

THE SOUTHAMPTON ELECTION.—The nomination will take place on Monday, and the polling on Tuesday.

SALFORD ELECTION.—Mr. Langworthy (Liberal) was on Monday elected for Salford, without opposition.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Tuesday, February 3rd.

THE session of 1857 was inaugurated on Tuesday. The Queen, as previously announced, did not herself open the Houses, and the public interest was therefore less than usual, there being but little state show to attract the Royal or the idle. The House of Lords did not show many peers, but the peeresses' gallery was well filled, and the diplomatic corps was present in considerable numbers. The Lords Commissioners were—the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Harrowby, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Stanley of Alderley, and Earl Spencer. These noblemen having entered the House of Lords, the Commons were summoned; and, on the members of the Lower House making their appearance headed by the Speaker,

The LORD CHANCELLOR read the following as
THE ROYAL SPEECH.

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“We are commanded to assure you that her Majesty has great satisfaction in recurring again to the advice and assistance of her Parliament.

“We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that difficulties, which arose in regard to some of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris, delayed the complete execution of the stipulations of that Treaty. Those difficulties have been overcome in a satisfactory manner, and the intentions of the Treaty have been fully maintained.

“An insurrectionary movement which took place in September last in the Swiss Canton of Neuchâtel, for the purpose of re-establishing in that canton the authority of the King of Prussia as Prince of Neuchâtel, led to serious differences between his Prussian Majesty and the Swiss Confederation, threatening at any one time to disturb the general peace of Europe.

“But her Majesty commands us to inform you that, in concert with her august ally the Emperor of the French, she is endeavouring to bring about an amicable settlement of the matters in dispute, and her Majesty entertains a confident expectation that an honourable and satisfactory arrangement will be concluded.

“In consequence of certain discussions which took place during the Conferences at Paris, and which are recorded in the protocols that were laid before you, her Majesty and the Emperor of the French caused communications to be made to the Government of the King of the Two Sicilies, for the purpose of inducing him to adopt a course of policy calculated to avert dangers which might disturb that peace which had been so recently restored to Europe.

“Her Majesty commands us to inform you, that the manner in which those friendly communications were received by his Sicilian Majesty was such as to lead her Majesty and the Emperor of the French to discontinue their diplomatic relations with his Sicilian Majesty, and they have, accordingly, withdrawn their missions from the Court of Naples.

“Her Majesty has directed that papers relating to this subject shall be laid before you.

“Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she has been engaged in negotiations with the Government of the United States, and also with the Government of Honduras, which she trusts will be successful in removing all cause of misunderstanding with respect to Central America.

“Her Majesty has concluded a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce with Siam, which will be laid before you.

“Her Majesty commands us to express to you her regret that the conduct of the Persian Government has led to hostilities between her Majesty and the Shah of Persia. The Persian Government, in defiance of repeated warnings, and in violation of its engagements, has besieged and captured the important city of Herat.

“We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that a British naval and military force despatched from Bombay has taken possession of the Island of Karrack, and of the town of Bushire, with a view to induce the Shah to accede to the just demands of her Majesty's Government. Her Majesty has seen with satisfaction that the naval and military forces employed on this occasion have displayed their accustomed gallantry and spirit.

“Her Majesty commands us to inform you that acts of violence, insults to the British flag, and infraction of Treaty rights, committed by the local Chinese authorities at Canton, and a pertinacious refusal of redress, have rendered it necessary for her Majesty's officers in China to have recourse to measures of force to obtain satisfaction.

“Those measures had, up to the date of the last accounts, been taken with great forbearance, but with signal success as regards the conflicts to which they had led.

“We are commanded to inform you that her Majesty trusts that the Government of Peking will see the propriety of affording the satisfaction demanded, and of faithfully fulfilling its Treaty engagements.

“Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

“Her Majesty has directed the Estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you.

“They have been prepared with every attention to economy, and with a due regard to the efficient performance of the public service at home and abroad.

“My Lords and Gentlemen,

“Her Majesty commands us to inform you that Bills will be submitted to your consideration for the consolidation and the amendment of important portions of the law; and her Majesty doubts not that you will give your earnest attention to matters so deeply affecting the interests of all classes of her subjects.

“Her Majesty commands us to recommend to your consideration the expediency of renewing for a further period the privileges of the Bank of England, the conditions imposed on the issue of bank-notes in the United Kingdom, and the state of the law relating to Joint-Stock Banks.

“Her Majesty commands us to express the gratification which it affords her to witness the general well-being and contentment of her people, and to find that, notwithstanding the sacrifices unavoidably attendant upon such a war as that which has lately terminated, the resources of the country remain unimpaired, and its productive industry continues unchecked in its course of progressive development.

“Her Majesty commits with confidence the great interests of the country to your wisdom and care, and she fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your deliberations, and prosper your councils for the advancement of the welfare and happiness of her loyal and faithful people.”

After the reading of the Speech, both Houses adjourned until evening.

THE ADDRESS.

The Houses reassembled at five o'clock. In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Earl of CORK moved the Address in answer to her Majesty's Speech, commenting previously, from a Ministerial point of view, on the conclusion of the Peace Conference, the failure of the attempt to disturb the repose of Europe by the Neuchâtel *émancipation*, the necessity which existed for resisting the aggressions of Persia and the insolence of the Chinese, and the condition of the three kingdoms, which, he said, indicated industrial prosperity.—The Address was seconded by the Earl of AIRLIE.

The Earl of DERBY objected to the shadowy nature of the Royal Speech, and observed that Parliament would be wanting in its duty if it did not insist on the termination of the income-tax in 1860. He also noted with dissatisfaction that the Speech did not contain the formerly well-known paragraph in which we were told that peace had been steadily maintained. The affair at Neuchâtel would probably have been more speedily and more completely arranged if our ally, the Emperor of the French, had not been interfered with. As regards Naples, we had played with the cause of Italian liberty. Ministers, also, had committed a grave error in not assembling Parliament when the war with Persia became inevitable; and the same remark applied to our proceedings in China, where the English authorities had committed an indiscriminate slaughter of the innocent and the guilty. He (the Earl of Derby) would not move an amendment to the Address; but he confessed he could not look upon the state of our foreign relations without distrust and misgiving.

The Earl of CLARENDON defended the course pursued by Government in its foreign policy, and denied that Ministers had unduly meddled in the affairs of other countries. The capture of so important a city as Herat had rendered the Persian war absolutely necessary; and the conduct of the Chinese, in refusing to hold communication with our officials, compelled us to resort to hostilities.

Earl GREY strongly condemned the Persian war, which he considered had been prompted by the bugbear of Russian influence, though, if Persia really had any leanings towards Russia, the attack we had made on the Shah would be very likely to throw him into the arms of the latter power. His lordship concluded by moving an amendment to the Address, to the effect that the Government should have summoned Parliament together before declaring war with Persia.—Lord GRANVILLE replied, defending the policy of the Government, and expressing a hope that Earl Grey would not stand to his amendment, though the Ministry was quite ready to meet him.

Lord BROUGHTAM spoke strongly against a further continuance of the income-tax, and urged the necessity that existed for legal reform.—The LORD CHANCELLOR agreed in this necessity, and said he had given notice that he meant to introduce several bills for the reform of the law, more especially with reference to marriage and divorce, testamentary jurisdiction, and ecclesiastical matters. In the lower House, bills would be introduced to meet those crimes of breach of trust which had hitherto shocked the public to so great an extent, and to effect a reform in secondary punishments.

Earl GREY's amendment was then put, and their Lordships divided, when there appeared,

For the amendment—

Content	12
Non-content	45
Majority against the amendment...	—33

Their Lordships then adjourned.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, the Address was moved by Sir JOHN RAMSDEN, who after remarking upon the topics which were also touched upon by the mover and seconder of the Address in the Lords, alluded to our convict and criminal population, observing that the present state of things is disgraceful to the Legislature and

grievous to the community.—Sir ANDREW AGNEW seconded the Address.

Mr. DISRAELI delivered a speech of great length, in which he severely criticised the policy of Government. The condition of the great Powers at the close of the Russian war, he argued, was such as to warrant a reasonable hope of peace; yet we were pursued by wars and rumours of wars. Russia and the United States, he was convinced, were sincerely desirous of peace; and the people of this country were disposed to be on good terms with their neighbours. But every part of the Royal Speech indicated want of trust in foreign Powers. This disastrous state of things was attributable to Lord Clarendon. The seeds of the Italian difficulty were sown by him in the Paris Treaty of Peace. We interfered with the independence of Italy, to the neglect of our own internal affairs; we negotiated with Count Cavour; yet all this while a secret treaty was in existence, guaranteeing to Austria her whole possessions in Italy. [Lord PALMERSTON: "By whom was the guarantee given?"] The guarantee was given by France, with the concurrence of the English Government. The King of Naples had set the remonstrances of England at naught. Austria is at rest under her guarantee, and regards the movements of England with indifference. As regards the Peace treaty with Russia, why had the difficulty about Bolgrad occurred at all? It was owing to a blunder on the part of the English Minister, which implied a lamentable ignorance of geography. It was altogether unfair to twit Russia with duplicity. Our Government said that Russia had no claim to Bolgrad; but she had been bribed by a large compensation to give it up. Then came the Swiss difficulty, which had been settled by the Federation taking the advice of France rather than of England. Furthermore, there were the Persian and Chinese quarrels, which had been precipitated by the meddlesome policy of the Government, and were in fact the consequences of instructions from home, sent out some time ago. The question of the income-tax should be at once entered into; and, if it were left to himself, he would suggest that it be brought forward on Monday fortnight. The course he would then take would be to move two resolutions—one, that it is not right that taxes imposed for the purposes of war should be continued in time of peace; the other, that the plan of Mr. Gladstone, brought forward in 1853, for the abolition of the tax in 1860, should be insisted upon.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER declined to enter into the questions of foreign policy raised by Mr. Disraeli, and very briefly remarked on the financial part of his speech. The expenses of war, he reminded the House, do not immediately cease with war itself. He was anxious to make his official statement as soon as possible.

Mr. GLADSTONE spoke to the same effect as Mr. Disraeli, and observed that he thought the silence of the Government was disrespectful to the House. The attack on Canton was an outrage to humanity. By whose authority was it that war was declared against Persia? and were the English people to be saddled with the expense? A large reduction of the estimates was both necessary and practicable; and he (Mr. Gladstone) felt himself bound to maintain the settlement of 1853, under which the income-tax would cease in 1860.

Lord PALMERSTON repudiated any intention of disrespect to the House in not before speaking on behalf of the Government. Mr. Disraeli had exhibited great talents as a writer of fiction; and the greater part of his speech was an entire romance. The mistake in the Treaty of Peace with respect to the boundary line had not resulted from any geographical ignorance. The Russian plenipotentiary had asked that the line should go to the south of Bolgrad, and, from a map produced, the English Plenipotentiaries had been induced to accept the proposition. But the real Bolgrad and the Bolgrad on the map were found to be so widely different, that a line drawn to the south of the latter would interfere with the spirit of the treaty. The Russian Government attached great importance to Bolgrad as the headquarters of the Bulgarian colonies; and, this being considered a just demand, Yalpuok was given in exchange. The papers detailing the differences would not be laid on the table, but the final protocols would be produced. Mr. Disraeli had entirely misunderstood our course with regard to the Swiss question. The English Government had consented to unite with the French in making an arrangement with Prussia for the settlement of the Neuchâtel difficulty. He (Lord Palmerston) had heard of no such treaty with France, for securing the Austrian possessions in Italy, as Mr. Disraeli had spoken of. That gentleman had recently been in Paris, where it was well known that persons could be found ready enough to play upon the credulity of over-confiding and imaginative people. The existence of the secret treaty was an entire romance. In answer to Mr. Gladstone, Lord Palmerston admitted that the Persian war had been commenced on the authority of the Government. As there was a prospect of a settlement, he should postpone producing the papers. The hostilities with China had arisen out of a breach of the treaty of Nankin, which had been concluded by the Government of Sir Robert Peel. Matters of finance he thought it premature to discuss before the production of the estimates.

Mr. HENRY BAILLIE having condemned the expedition to the Persian Gulf,

Lord JOHN RUSSELL expressed satisfaction with several parts of the Ministerial policy, but feared that the expedition to Bushire might lead to serious consequences. The opinion of Parliament should have been taken before commencing hostilities. The state of Italy had been made worse, instead of better, by the course pursued by Government; and he therefore could not approve of Lord Palmerston's policy in that respect.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON condemned the pugnacious tendencies of the Government, and said he saw that finance would prove the rock ahead on which Lord Palmerston's Ministry would split.—After some observations by Mr. HADFIELD and Mr. VERNON SMITH, regarding the cultivation of cotton in British India, and after Lord PALMERSTON had consented, at the request of Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, to introduce some words into the Address, qualifying the expression of approval of our proceedings against the Chinese, the Address was unanimously agreed to, and the House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

Wednesday, February 4th.

INDIA.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the report upon the Address, Mr. HADFIELD complained of the omissions in the Royal Speech, particularly in respect to the colonies, dwelling upon what he termed the degradation of the people of India.—Admiral WALCOTT commended the caution, celerity, and efficiency displayed by the Government of Bombay in preparing the expedition to the Persian Gulf, and by the officers in command of the forces.—Sir J. FITZGERALD made some observations upon the cotton cultivation of India, and upon the deficiency of transport.—Mr. VERNON SMITH explained the difficulties which beset all questions concerning land in India.

After some observations by Mr. KINNARD, the report was agreed to, and the Address was ordered to be presented to the Queen in the usual manner.

The House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

The HOUSE OF LORDS did not meet.

Thursday, February 5th.

THE PERSIAN AND CHINESE WARS.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Earl SPENCER, Lord Steward of the Household, brought up her Majesty's answer to the Address.

A discussion then ensued with respect to the production of papers relating to the Persian and Chinese wars, in the course of which Lord CLARENDON declared that the documents relating to our quarrel with Persia would be laid before the House in a few days. His Lordship also intimated his intention of producing certain papers connected with our diplomatic intercourse with China.

THE EARL OF CARDIGAN'S CHARACTER.

The Earl of CARDIGAN drew attention to some attacks upon his character which had been made in a work on the Crimean war, written (under the signature of "A Staff Officer") by Major the Hon. Somerset Calthorpe. These attacks, he said, were of the most unwarrantable, false, and malignant character; and he bewailed the recent abrogation of "the laws of honour"—an abrogation which had caused him some years ago to be placed at their Lordships' bar as a felon, with a chance of losing, not only his property, but his liberty, though he only did what the Duke of Wellington, Pitt, Fox, Lord Londonderry, Canning, Sir Robert Peel, and other great and distinguished men, had done before him. He wished to ask the Secretary-for-War whether an officer who had disgraced himself by publishing false statements was to be permitted to remain on the staff of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.—Lord PANNMURE, while admitting that Lord Cardigan had been wantonly attacked, said it was not the intention of the Commander-in-Chief to bring Major Calthorpe to a court-martial. Having received the thanks of Lord Raglan and of Parliament for his services in the Crimea, Lord Cardigan could afford to despise the assaults of one in an inferior position.

THE NEW FOREST.

The Earl of MALMESBURY moved for certain returns connected with the proceedings of the Commissioners for disafforesting the New Forest, and complained of the injustice which characterized those proceedings.—After considerable discussion, in which Lord GRANVILLE, the LORD CHANCELLOR, and Lord CAMPBELL took part, the returns were ordered.

TICKETS OF LEAVE.

Lord BERNERS moved for returns showing the number of tickets of leave issued to convicts in each year since the commencement of that system, specifying their original sentence, their unexpired time, the number re-apprehended after release, the fresh charge, and the result of the investigation.—After a short discussion, the return was ordered, with an amendment proposed by Lord CARNARVON, who suggested that the number of convicts with tickets of leave re-apprehended without having committed any fresh offence should be distinguished in the return.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

RIGHTS OF LABOURERS.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER presented a petition from Charles Atwood, a labourer, sixty years of age and upwards. The petitioner stated that he had lived in the same cottage more than thirty years, and brought up a family of eleven children, and that, up to the period to which his petition especially re-

lated, he had never been imprisoned for any offence whatever. From Christmas, 1855, to August last, he worked for the same master, receiving his wages weekly, and considering his engagement as one from week to week. In the latter month, a dispute occurred between him and his master, in the course of which his master told him that he was at liberty to go. On the following day, therefore, he engaged himself to another employer, whereupon his master took out a summons against him on the charge of having unlawfully quitted his situation. The summons was disposed of by the Reverend Mr. Hemming, a magistrate, who sentenced the petitioner to twenty-one days' imprisonment with hard labour, and it was only by the kindness of the superior officers that he was not put into irons on his way to gaol. On returning from prison, where he had to work at the crank, he was taken unwell, and by his imprisonment he lost the advantage of the harvest month. On the 14th of last December, the petitioner's son, who worked with the Rev. Mr. Hemming, went to town, and by accident lost the train by which he was to have returned. Upon his non-arrival, Mr. Hemming immediately obtained a warrant against the son from another magistrate. This so terrified the young man that he fled, and, returning to London, has not since been heard of. Under these circumstances, the petitioner submitted to the House that such transactions tended to weaken confidence between employers and employed (*cheers*), and prayed the House that means might be taken for doing away with the arbitrary power which is now possessed by a single magistrate. (*Loud cheers.*)

THE CAPTIVES AT FORMOSA.

In answer to Major SIBTHORP, Sir GEORGE GREY said that orders had been sent to Sir John Bowring to communicate with the Admiral on the Formosa station, in order that the most effectual means might be taken to ascertain whether there are any British subjects in captivity at Formosa, and, if there are any, to take steps to release them. (*Hear, hear.*)

THE LATE BARON ALDERSON.

Sir GEORGE GREY, in answer to Mr. GLADSTONE, stated that it was not the intention of the Government to keep open the vacancy occasioned by the death of Baron Alderson.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

Mr. LABOUCHERE moved for the appointment of a select committee to consider the condition of the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company in North America. Considerations of high importance, moral, humane, and mercantile, were involved in the inquiry. The trading license of the company expired in 1859; and he had just received a letter from the directors asking if it was the intention of the Government to renew their license. Before pledging the Government to any course, he had resolved to submit the question in all its extent to the consideration of a select committee.

Mr. ROEBUCK and Mr. ADDERLEY both argued in favour of taking away the powers of the Company at once, and without any previous inquiry. Those powers had been used tyrannically, and had had the effect of preventing colonization in a very important part of North America. The Company, remarked Mr. Roebuck, had simply acted on the narrow policy of petty merchants; but the whole of British America should be properly developed as a counterpoise to the lust of power exhibited by the United States.—Mr. EDWARD ELICE said that the two previous speakers had shown great ignorance of the facts of the case; and he supported inquiry as a means of removing erroneous impressions.—Mr. GLADSTONE was also in favour of inquiry. He had doubts as to the legality of the Company's title, and he was decidedly of opinion that it would be highly imprudent to continue the monopoly. Still, he hoped ample compensation would be given for the withdrawal of the exclusive privileges, supposing that course to be determined on.—Mr. HENLEY was apprehensive, from the tone of Mr. Labouchere's speech, that the inquiry was intended merely to back up a foregone conclusion of the Government.—Mr. LAING supported inquiry.—After some brief remarks by Mr. BAILLIE and Mr. GEORGE BUTT, with respect to the validity of the charters, and a reply by Mr. LABOUCHERE, disavowing any foregone conclusion upon the subject, the motion was agreed to.

THE IONIAN STATES—NORFOLK ISLAND.

Mr. LABOUCHERE obtained leave to bring in a bill to enable the subjects of the Ionian States to hold military and naval commissions under the Crown, thus removing the anomaly which now exists. He also obtained leave to bring in a bill to alter the existing provisions relating to the ecclesiastical government of Norfolk Island, the object being to correct an error which took place two years ago, when certain colonial arrangements were made.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS moved that notices of motions on going into committee of supply on the estimates shall have precedence only on alternate days.—Sir GEORGE GREY opposed the motion, as tending to do away with a great constitutional privilege.—Ultimately, the motion was withdrawn.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT, &c.

Mr. HADFIELD, in the absence of Mr. ASPLEY PEL-LATT, obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of imprisonment for debt, to extend the remedies of

creditors, and to punish fraudulent debtors.—The bill was afterwards brought up, and read a first time.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past seven o'clock.

CONVOCAION.—The two Houses of Convocation of the province of Canterbury met on Wednesday, and again on Thursday and Friday, when they discussed several matters of technical interest. The Convocation of York was held on Wednesday, and adjourned to the 31st of March.

AMERICA.

VERY little political news of European interest reaches us from the United States this week. Congress is discussing financial matters, but has not yet come to any decision; and the Pennsylvania Legislature has presented a resolution instructing their Senators to vote for the admission of Kansas as a free state. At Albion, New York, a serious riot between the Irish labourers employed on the canal and the Americans was going on at the departure of the steamer. The Irish had got drunk, and became quarrelsome; knives and other weapons were used, and two Irishmen had been killed, and four Americans dangerously wounded.

Intelligence from Nicaragua received at New York reports that Colonel Lockridge, with two hundred and fifty men, had possession of Punta Arenas; but the Costa Rican force, of one thousand men, held every other point on the river. It is confirmed that General Henningsen had beaten the allies at Granada, and joined Walker at Rivas. Walker's army is reported to have been in good spirits and confident of success, while the allies were fighting among themselves. The steamship San Carlos left Virgin Bay with passengers on the 3rd of January, but was captured by the Costa Ricans soon after she got into the river. The Costa Ricans have also seized the river boats running from Greytown to Lake Nicaragua, and stopped the communication between that place and Walker's forces. In this they have been aided by a party of Americans sent out by Mr. Vanderbilt, who has been exasperated into this course by Walker confiscating his property in Nicaragua. An American steamer, arriving at Greytown with about one hundred and fifty men and some provisions for Walker's assistance, was obliged to remain there, having no boats in which to ascend the river.

Mexico is still in a state of revolution. The insurgents were posted at San Luis Potosi; but an army headed by General Parrodi has marched against them, and Vidaurri (lately at the head of the rebellion) has contributed 1800 men, commanded by himself, to aid in the suppression of the outbreak. The rebels have left the city of San Luis, and taken refuge in the Sierra. Alvarez, moreover, though according to the advice last received he had determined on supporting the Government of Comonfort, has again raised the standard of sedition. Thwarted by Congress in an attempt to extend his authority, he has excited some of his followers to ravage several of the principal districts of the country. Being himself a mulatto, he has committed several horrible atrocities upon Mexicans of purely Spanish blood, and upon such of the Spaniards themselves as are settled in the country. The cry of "Death to the Spaniards!" has been raised, and the menaced population have fled, leaving their property behind. Alvarez has long been known as "the panther of the South;" and his followers are notorious criminals. Señor Sorela, the Spanish *chargé d'affaires*, has intimated to the Government that the relations between the two countries will be seriously jeopardized unless vigorous measures of repression are at once adopted. The result of this state of things is that trade is in a deplorable condition, while the prospects of the foreign debt being redeemed grow less and less every day, all the money belonging to the bondholders being seized by the Government.—A diplomatic disagreement with the United States Minister, Mr. Forayth, seems to be imminent, owing to the determination of that gentleman not to fulfil certain forms of etiquette.—Peru is also in a state of revolution.

The allegations in the petition of the inhabitants of Carson Valley in the territory of Utah, praying to be relieved from the oppression of Mormon government by annexation to the state of California, have been published in the report of the Committee of Territories. The committee report against this suggestion, and speak of the proposed bill for the prevention and punishment of polygamy as the only cure for the scandals of Mormonism.

Mr. Sumner has been unanimously re-elected to the Senate of the United States by the Legislature of Massachusetts.

IRELAND.

THE ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.—The business of this court has been nearly brought to a stop, owing to the indisposition of the two commissioners, who have been fearfully overworked, and who, notwithstanding their zealous devotion to their business, have left very large arrears. It is stated that there are seven hundred petitions pending in Baron Richards's office, and five hundred abstracts of title lying in his chambers unread.—Mr. Justice Keogh, of the Court of Common Pleas, and other legal gentlemen, are also on the sick list.

YOUNG IRELAND BECOMING UNGALLANT.—The *Nation* has been upbraiding the Queen, the Duchess of Sutherland (sister of the Lord Lieutenant), and Lady Palmerston, for exercising an undue influence in the Government and in the filling-up of vacant offices. The writer acknowledges that maxim of the constitution which declares that the King can do no wrong, but adds that "the inerrancy is nowhere attributed to a Queen." This is like the argument of the toper in Fielding, who sees no objection to getting drunk with punch, because punch is a liquor "nowhere spoken against in Scripture."

THE KINGSTON ESTATES.—A case of alleged forgery of a lease has been argued before the Irish Court of Chancery. John Condon, a humble man of the farming class, filed a petition to enforce the specific performance of an agreement in writing for a lease, dated in 1840, of about thirty acres of land. The agreement was executed by the Earl of Kingston, and the defence advanced by him is that the signature is a forgery. The handwriting is nearly obliterated; and there was much swearing on both sides as to its authenticity. Finally, the Lord Chancellor said he would direct an issue, if the petitioner desired it, to try the genuineness of the document, when both Condon and Lord Kingston could be examined.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday contain little of importance; but, with the exception of the Manchester markets, the general tendency has still been towards increased employment and higher prices. The heaviness in cotton goods is chiefly consequent upon the caution induced by the uncertainty regarding the raw material. At Birmingham, the demand for iron is well maintained, and, with respect to the general occupations of the place, the only drawback appears to consist in the constant rise in copper and other metals. The Nottingham advices describe an animated colonial and home demand for hosiery, while the lace trade is also active. Many new factories are in course of construction, and there is a great scarcity of hands. In the woollen districts, the home and export demand has been equally good; stocks are low, and employment general. In the Irish linen-markets there has been a full business, in some instances at improved prices.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week, there has been a considerable falling off in the arrivals. The number of vessels reported inward was 109, being 45 less than in the previous week. The total number of ships cleared outward was 101, showing an increase of 16. The number on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 68, being 3 more than at the last account. Of these, 9 are for Adelaide, 5 for Geelong, 4 for Hobart Town, 3 for Launceston, 3 for Melbourne, 3 for New Zealand, 21 for Port Philip, 1 for Portland Bay, 17 for Sydney, 1 for Swan River, and 1 for Wellington.—*Idem*.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A MAN has died at Deptford under very painful circumstances. He was passing over the Creek-bridge, near Deptford Victualling-yard, on a rainy night, about three weeks ago. After he had proceeded some way over the bridge, a penny toll was demanded. He refused to pay, and was given into custody, being afterwards placed in a cell in his wet clothes. His wife, hearing of the fact, endeavoured to procure bail, but could not do so until five o'clock in the morning. By that time the poor man was extremely ill; and at the appointed hour he found great difficulty in attending before a magistrate, by whom he was fined five shillings. He then went home, took to his bed, and has since died. A question arises whether his imprisonment was legal.

Two farm labourers have been suffocated at Brompton, Chatham, by inhaling the fumes of Joyce's patent fuel, which had been taken into their bedroom in a stove, to warm the chamber. At five o'clock in the morning, both were found dead. The stove had frequently been used before without any ill effect.

A man suddenly dropped down dead on Wednesday night in the Wesleyan chapel, Kensington, where there was a temperance meeting. He had brought a friend with him to sign the pledge.

The body of a man named James Edwards was found on Thursday morning under the ice in the Serpentine. It is supposed that he had gone to the river during the night, with the intention of preparing accommodation for the skaters of the following day, as he had brought with him a bedstead and some chairs.

Mr. William King Norman, who has been for many years the secretary of the Reform Club, has died suddenly from the effects of an over-dose of laudanum, which he had taken, according to habit, to allay the pain arising from one of his legs which he broke some time since. A verdict of "Accidental Poisoning" was returned by the coroner's jury.

THE EXECUTION OF VERGER.

VERGER suffered on the morning of Friday week. The petition to the Emperor had no better success than the appeal to the Court of Cassation, and orders were given

on the night of Thursday week that the execution was to take place on the following morning. The order was conveyed to the prison of La Roquette at midnight by the executioner himself. By two o'clock in the morning the scaffold was erected in front of the prison, where a large crowd congregated, including several persons who had arrived in carriages. It is stated that several English went over to Paris to see the conclusion of this horrible tragedy, which has crowded within the space of one month an unusual amount of crime, misery, despair, violence, and dark suspicion against an important part of French society. The convict exhibited a great deal of feverish anxiety on the Thursday evening. He still clung to the hope that the Emperor would commute his punishment to banishment; but, on retiring to rest, his sleep for the first few hours was feverish and disturbed. From two to half-past seven, however, he reposed with great calmness. At the last-named hour, the Director of the Prison, the Inspector-General, the Chief of Police, and the Chaplain (Abbé Hugon), came to awaken him and prepare him for death. He looked from face to face, bewildered and terrified. At length he exclaimed that it was impossible he was then to die. He was assured that it was but too true; on which he became furious, exclaiming, "I will not die! I cling to life. My life is my own, and you have no right to take it from me." The chaplain endeavoured to console him; but he burst out into revilings, and implored the Director of the prison to grant him an hour—"but one hour"—in order that he might send an express to the Emperor. The Director told him it was impossible. "Impossible!" Verger repeated. "I will not die—I will not. I will defend myself to the last. You may murder me in this cell, but from it I will not stir." Throwing himself on the bed, he clung to it with desperate tenacity, and the gaolers were obliged to drag him off and dress him by main force. The convict then seemed to give up the struggle, and relapsed for a time into a state of prostration.

The executioner entered the cell at a quarter to eight, and prepared Verger for the scaffold. The convict threatened to kick him, and added, "Big as you are, you will not conquer me; you will see." The officer said he had means at his disposal to repress any amount of violence, and asked Verger whether he did not mean to die as a Christian. Verger then became calm; but an eye-witness states that the prison authorities remember no instance in which so much horror of death was exhibited, the criminal appearing to grow twenty years older in ten minutes. The chaplain exhorted him to think of his soul, and the two retired into a corner of the cell, where Verger knelt, joined in prayer, and, according to the Roman Catholic organ, the *Univers*, confessed his crime, abjured the opinions contained in his writings, and said that he accepted the sacrifice of his life in expiation. He then received absolution, but not the sacrament. During the passage to the scaffold, he repeated the words, "Vive notre Seigneur Jésus Christ! Vive le Dieu d'amour!" and implored God to take mercy on him. On mounting the scaffold, he knelt, and prayed, says the *Univers*, "for his family, for France, for the Church, for the whole world, and for the Emperor." Nevertheless, according to the *Times* Paris correspondent, he had again, on leaving the prison, begged for an hour's delay to write to the Emperor. He is also said to have exclaimed, "Amende honorable—jamais; plus tard." The moment of death approaching, Verger kissed the crucifix, embraced the Abbé Hugon, and gave himself up to the executioner. He was fastened to the plank at about half-past eight o'clock; the blade fell; and he was dead. It is probable that he had nearly lost all consciousness before the blow was struck.

The *Journal of Brussels* having published a letter from Paris, in which it was asserted that Verger's crime was instigated and plotted by the members of a secret society in Belgium, the subject was brought under the notice of Government in the Chamber of Representatives, when Count Vilain XIV. (Minister for Foreign Affairs) said an inquiry would be instituted. At the same time, he stated his belief that there are no secret societies in Belgium.

It is denied by many persons in Paris that Verger exhibited the signs of repentance attributed to him. They state that, whatever might have been his inclination, he was so entirely prostrated with fear that he had no power to signify his feelings with respect to the crime for which he suffered.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

SOME reductions are to be made in the expenses of the state. The army is to be gradually reduced by 46,000, thus, as it is calculated, effecting a saving of 26,000,000 francs. In the navy, reductions will be made by which 10,000,000 francs will be saved; and in nearly all branches of the administration cuttings down of expenditure will be enforced, so that it is anticipated the total gain to the nation will be about 100,000,000 francs.

M. Bonnechese, Bishop of Evreux, is named Archbishop of Tours, in place of M. Morlot, appointed to Paris.

The *Revue de Paris* has been suspended for a month, on account of an admiring notice of a book published at Leipzig, in which there were several covert insinuations against the King of Prussia. The work was published

in 1855, and was dedicated to the King, who was completely deceived, and ordered several copies of the book, placing the presentation copy on his shelf. When he found out his mistake, he was greatly angered; and the article in the *Revue de Paris* reopened the wound. Accordingly, he complained to the French Government, which saved the sore place by suspending the *Revue*.

Orders, it is said, have been despatched to Toulon for the immediate departure of a fleet for China.

With reference to the Count de Chambord's letter to M. Pugeot, one of the Orleans Princes has publicly denied that the word 'fusion' indicates anything more than a family reconciliation. It appears that it is utterly void of political significance.

The Tribunal of Correctional Police has commenced the trial of twenty-four persons belonging to a secret society.

The *Pays* announces that another collision has taken place on the frontiers of Persia, between the Russians and the Turcoman tribes.

The French Foreign-Office is engaged in examining the validity of the French claim to the island of Karrack, now occupied by the English troops.

The question respecting the liberty of distributing electoral tickets in France has again been before the Court of Cassation, by which the decision of the Imperial Court of Lyons in favour of the view that electoral tickets do not fall under the law of *colportage* has been put aside. This sends the case before another Imperial Court.

GERMANY.

An article that appeared in the last number of the *Catholic Sunday Paper*, which is edited by a priest and published at Munich, has produced a very great sensation. The murder of the Archbishop of Paris is not exactly justified, but it is excused, and Verger is represented as a kind of martyr. The late Archbishop is accused of undue severity towards the lower clergy, and it is said that the same charge may with justice be made against the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Germany. The article has made so much noise in Bavaria, that the Jesuits have considered it necessary to announce in the public papers that they are in no connexion with the above-mentioned paper.—*Times Vienna Correspondent*.

ITALY.

The condition of Naples appears, if possible, to grow worse every day. The prisons are overfilled, and the wretched captives are kept without any fire in damp cells, and are denied either chairs or pallets. A journalist who had been in prison, and who was about to be dismissed, as he was in fact a Royalist, injudiciously remarked that the treatment he had received was hardly to be matched at Tunis. He was thereupon subjected to a flogging. The police stop the most inoffensive passengers in the streets, search, insult, and beat them, and at the slightest murmur carry them off. In short, there is a complete Reign of Terror. The King has left Naples for Caserta; but fear and suspicion follow him, and he denies himself even to his ministers. He only allows the priests to enter his chamber; and even they are searched beforehand, to see that they have no concealed weapons. He is afraid of travelling by rail, lest he should be blown up, and gas inspires him with alarm. He has distributed money among the *lazzaroni*; so that, in the case of any outbreak, we may expect to hear of a repetition of the horrible massacres committed by those savage Bedouins of the streets in May, 1848. The Swiss soldiers show no sign of a desire to leave for their own country; indeed, some of the officers have been heard to say that they would be fools to leave a place where they are so well off. Except in these privileged circles, dismay and sadness darken the faces and weigh down the hearts of all. Mourning is very generally worn, and the Carnival is unheeded.

Some particulars of the precautions taken at Caserta by the King are given by the *Daily News* Naples correspondent. They will remind the reader of the way in which Louis XI. of France entrenched himself at Plessis-Tours. We read:—"A special police for the palace has been formed, it is said, and written instructions have been drawn up and consigned to an *employé* of the royal household, as to the mode in which these duties are to be executed. Eighty-four *sbirri*, picked men, and advanced in life (Calabrese and Sicilians being rejected), have been sent from Naples, with a number of the infantry body-guard. To these men is confided the delicate office of guarding the palace. At the same time directions have been given to the inhabitants of houses looking into the *boschetto* of the palace to have their windows closed at certain intervals of the day. A strong patrol of cavalry is always on guard in the vast piazza which lies before the palace, and another body is continually on patrol in the courts of the palace. Every person, again, who comes to Caserta is accompanied by a soldier, who watches over him till he leaves for Naples. It is forbidden, too, to traverse the road which leads directly from the station to the palace, and persons are compelled to go by another road, which passes close to the barracks."

An attempt has been made to stab the Archbishop of Acerenza and Matera, in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies; and at the same time one of the canons was actually murdered. The *Gazette de Lyon* says that the attempt was made during the forty hours prayers,

"while the Archbishop was on his knees on the steps of the altar, adoring the Holy Sacrament. A few moments before the benediction, a priest rushed from behind the altar, and stabbed the Archbishop with a poniard. One of the canons near the prelate pushed the arm of the assassin and broke the force of the blow. The poniard hung in the Archbishop's robes, and wounded him but very slightly. He at once took to flight, and then the priest, drawing a pistol from under his garments, shot the canon dead. No reason for this sacrilegious murder is yet known."

"One of the two frigates of the United States, the *Susquehanna*," says a Genoa letter, "has left for Naples, in obedience to the summons of the American Minister in that city, who does not think the political situation at all satisfactory."

The King of Sardinia has returned to Turin from Nice. While at the latter city, he received from the English residents there an address congratulating him on the liberal policy which he pursues. On his journey back to Turin, the King received numerous demonstrations of popularity.

A Turin paper alludes to an insurrection in Milan.

AUSTRIA.

"It is stated," says the *Times* Paris correspondent, "that the English and French Governments have instructed their respective ambassadors to intimate to the Austrian Government their great satisfaction at the conduct of the young Emperor at Milan, in granting so complete an amnesty. Some of the political prisoners have, it is said, refused to quit the place of their confinement. They are informed that if they do not wish to leave quietly they will be expelled by force."

At the instance of the Jesuits, a work written by an Austrian priest named Günther, the object of which is to show that revealed religion has a philosophical basis, has been placed by the Pope in the Index Expurgatorius. The book is very popular among the young Austrian priests, and the Pope had formerly refused to confirm the condemnation of it pronounced by the Austrian "Congregation of the Holy Index;" but the Pontiff has now succumbed beneath renewed requests.

Some details, throwing a strange light upon the alleged 'liberality' of the Emperor to the Italians, are given by the *Daily News* Vienna correspondent, who says:—"I have tried to apply the proper language to the occurrences. I designated the conduct of Baron Bürger 'brutal' when he told Count Littà that he ought to feel honoured if the Emperor condescended to insult him, cuff his ears, and then kick him. When the Emperor told Count Littà to warn his friends that if there was a revolution he would not protect the nobles, but leave them to the fury of the mob—when, in other words, he threatened Italian gentlemen as he had done the Galicians—I called such sentiments 'atrocious.'" The correspondent goes on to state that, on the night when the Emperor and Empress went to the Scala Theatre, Milan, and when the honours paid by the public are said to have been spontaneous, the police organized a body of five hundred villains, who, flushed with drink and money, went through the streets, shouting, "Light up! Long life to ourselves, and death to the gentry!" They also broke into houses and wounded several gentlemen.

PORTUGAL.

There has been some difficulty on the part of the Legitimist members of the Chamber of Deputies with respect to the oath which they are required to take, and which runs thus:—"I swear inviolable fidelity to the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion, to the King, the nation, and the constitutional charter, and that I will aid to the utmost of my ability the promulgation of just and wise laws, calculated to promote the prosperity of the people, the glory of the King, and the splendour of the State." The Legitimists say their scruples will be satisfied by the alteration in the oath previously proposed by Señor Pereira de Cunha, one of their number. According to this, the oath would stand as follows:—"In conformity with the powers which have been granted to me, and in the exercise of the functions of deputy, I swear that I will do all that may be conducive to the general welfare of the nation, within the limits of the constitutional charter and the act added to it." The President of the Chamber, in conciliatory language, intimated to the Legitimists that, as they refused to take the oath as it stood, they must retire; which they did, and it was then resolved that the proposed alteration should be submitted to a committee.

Many rumours of changes in the Ministry are in circulation.

Mr. Oliveira, M.P., has left Portugal for England. He has been making a tour for the promotion of a general reduction in this country of the duties upon wine. The British factors of Oporto gave him a grand dinner, and the Commercial Association of that city elected him an honorary member, and sent a deputation to compliment him upon his exertions in the cause. Indeed, he is stated to have been received everywhere with great enthusiasm.

RUSSIA.

The assertions of the English papers relative to the pretended acceptance of the British ultimatum by Persia are incorrect, according to a despatch from Berlin. A

Russian note protests against the pretensions of England, admitting, at the same time, the evacuation of Herat by Persia.

According to the *Czas*, there is some probability of the Russians marching into Central Asia.

A Russo-American company is about to navigate some of the Siberian rivers.

The concession for the Kärnthner Railroad has just been granted by the Emperor; but the "founders" have not yet been able to place shares of the nominal value of 15,000,000 florins.

SPAIN.

The *Madrid Gazette* of the 27th ult. publishes a Royal decree, authorizing the definitive constitution of the company for the construction of a railway from Madrid to Saragossa and Alicante, granting a month for commencing operations.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

APPLICATIONS by bodies of unemployed labourers have been made during the week at the Mansion House, Bow-street, Marylebone, Thames, Clerkenwell, and Lambeth police-offices, where the men complained that they had been refused relief by the various workhouses. At the Marylebone office they collected in such large numbers, and were so threatening in their demeanour, that it was found necessary to tell them the police would be sent for unless they became quieter; and at the Thames office, the attendants were obliged to close the outer doors. In all these cases, it appeared from the statements of the parish authorities, or from the admissions of the men, that the applicants had been offered work and food, but that they refused to enter the walls of the workhouses, and demanded out-door relief. The deputation to the Marylebone office carried a banner which stated that 150,000 men are out of work in London. Mr. Broughton, the magistrate, described this as a falsehood, and advised the men to call again at the workhouse and take the work offered them. The same advice was tendered at Bow-street and Lambeth; and the men dispersed. At the Thames office, a man was brought up charged with begging. He had been seen in company with some dozen others, carrying a shovel and soliciting money. This was held by Mr. Yardley to be intimidation; but he dismissed the man, observing that any repetition of the offence would be severely punished. The man's companions were at the back of the court; and two, advancing, stated that they had been refused relief; but it appeared that they had only been refused out-door assistance. One of them said he would rather go to prison than into a workhouse. Mr. Yardley told him he was talking nonsense, as no stain attaches to the pauper, while, on the other hand, "people will not employ gaol-birds." The magistrate, indeed, delivered himself with some of his usual roughness, talking in a rather high strain of the "inevitable" distress of the working classes at certain seasons, and of a portion of that distress being caused by the "improvidence" of labouring men. He added, however, that he sympathized with their distress, and he ordered the chief usher of the court to give the unmarried men of the gang a quarter loaf each, and the married men two loaves. Soon after this was done, a deputation of unemployed labourers entered the court, and, having stated their distresses, were relieved with sixpence or a shilling each. The same sums were given to other famishing individuals in the course of the day.—In the evening, a crowded meeting of the unemployed workmen was held at "the institution," Weston-street, Camden Town, for the purpose of receiving the reports of the deputations which had attended the various parishes in the morning. A disposition was here shown to adopt the parochial condition of going into the workhouses, and performing the allotted toil. The chairman (Mr. John Brien, a house painter) having exhorted his comrades to preserve order, the meeting peaceably separated. Another gathering in Smithfield had taken place early in the morning, when the proceedings of the day were arranged, and it was resolved that any one who should break the peace should be at once given into custody.—At a meeting on Wednesday of the directors of the poor of St. Pancras, Mr. Churchwarden Wyatt, alluding to the refusal of many of the applicants to work, observed that "the fact was the persons were not destitute, and there was some sort of political movement in the matter."—A young man is under remand at Marylebone, charged with assaulting the relieving overseer of the workhouse; and, on Thursday, at the Thames office, Mr. Yardley committed a man to a fortnight's hard labour for being concerned with others in intimidating a baker into giving bread.

REFUSING TO WORK.—Sixteen able-bodied paupers belonging to Christchurch workhouse, eleven of whom were considerably under forty years of age, were brought up at Southwark police-office last Saturday, charged with refusing to perform the work allotted them in return for their maintenance, and setting the parish authorities at defiance. They asserted that the food was insufficient, and that they had not the strength to work upon it. This was denied by Mr. Blake, the clerk to the guardians, who said they were liberally treated. Until

recently they had had meat three times a week; but some of the parishioners complained of the expenditure, and meat was now only served twice a week, pudding being supplied in lieu of the third day's meat. They had soup on other days, and supper after they had performed their day's work. Mr. Blake added that he would withdraw the charge if the accused promised to behave better. They replied that they would rather go to prison. They were therefore committed for fourteen days, with hard labour. Mr. Blake having remarked that he believed the men had an idea that they would be better fed in prison, the magistrate's clerk told them they were mistaken, as they would only have bread and gruel.

THE ROBBERY AT LORD SUFFIELD'S.—The two men charged with committing a burglary at Gunton Hall, Norfolk, the seat of Lord Suffield, on the night of the 12th of December, have been sent for trial at the next assizes.

ROBSON AND REDPATH IN NEWGATE.—The *Observer* denies that Robson has been out of his mind, but says that he is subject to effusion of blood on the brain, and that on one occasion he had a fit. Redpath, on first entering the prison, objected to do the usual work, thinking it absurd that a gentleman such as he should be compelled to perform menial offices; but he was soon made to understand that Newgate recognizes no distinctions of class. He and Robson sometimes see each other, but are never allowed to have any conversation.

OUTRAGE WITH VITRIOL.—Two men, named George and William Carpenter, have committed an atrocious outrage upon a servant girl, named Emma Burges, against whom they had a spite. Their mother had called at the house where the girl lived, and requested her to take into her mistress a begging message. The girl refused; and, as the woman would not leave the house, she was given into custody, taken before the magistrates, and sent to gaol, but was afterwards liberated on finding the required sureties. Since then, the sons have frequently placed under the door of the house very coarse and abusive letters, threatening to knock the girl on the head, and to throw vitriol on her. This they did last Saturday evening, as she was returning home. The vitriol was flung in her face, and she became insensible for a time, but was afterwards helped home by a policeman. Both the ruffians were afterwards apprehended.

CONVICT OUTRAGE AT PORTSMOUTH.—A warder placed over the convicts at Portsmouth has been stabbed in the neck by a criminal whom he was searching. The ruffian had been sentenced to transportation for life for stabbing a convict keeper at Bermuda while under sentence there. The warder in the present case lies in a very dangerous state.

A 'FAST' YOUNG GIRL.—A girl in the service of a farmer at Stoke Holy Cross, Norfolk, recently absconded with 90*l.* in notes belonging to her master, and, assuming the character and costume of a 'fast' young man, travelled twice by rail from London to Edinburgh, laid in a liberal supply of clothes, and purchased several books, including two Church Services! She incurred considerable expenses at taverns, smoked a good deal, and enjoyed herself in thorough rollicking fashion. When she was taken into custody, it was found she had spent nearly all of the 90*l.*

EXECUTION AT LINLITHGOW.—Peter McLean was executed on Monday morning at Linlithgow, for the murder of Thomas Maxwell.

ROBBERIES AT PLYMOUTH.—A great number of burglaries and street-thefts have recently been committed at Plymouth; and it has been found necessary to increase the police force. Two convicts on their way to the Dartmoor prisons escaped from the station, and passed through Plymouth in their prison dresses, handcuffed together, without being molested or pursued.

FANNY KAY.—Mr. Clark, the clerk of the Central Criminal Court, has received a communication from Mr. Baron Martin, directing him to make out an order for the Turkish Bonds that were found in the possession of Pierce, one of the bullion robbers, to be delivered up to Mr. Rees, the solicitor to the South Eastern Railway, in trust for the benefit of Fanny Kay and her infant child. This proceeding is believed to be quite contrary to the understanding that was come to when the matter was argued in the Court of Exchequer Chamber last week, and it is said that the Corporation of London intend to resist the making of the order.

MURDER AT MANCHESTER.—A handloom weaver at Manchester, named John White, has been stabbed in the stomach by another weaver, named William Collins. White walked to the Infirmary, and died there two days afterwards. The coroner's jury has found a verdict of Wilful Murder against Collins, who is committed for trial.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—The February sessions commenced on Monday, when the first persons tried were two men, who were indicted for stealing a hoifer; but the jury, being unable to come to an agreement, were locked up for the night, one of the jurymen protesting against their being kept without any food. This occupied the whole of the day in the Old Court. On the following day, the jurymen were discharged. In the New Court, Henry Myatt, a clerk, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment for embezzling 60*l.* from his master; and a boy, thirteen years of age, pleaded

Guilty to stabbing in two places a man who had boxed his ears for impertinence. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and hard labour.—John Plumley was found Guilty of uttering a forged 5*l.* note, and was sentenced to penal servitude for six years.—James Barber pleaded Guilty to charges of forging a deed and stealing and embezzling money, the property of his master. He begged earnestly for a lenient sentence, on behalf of his wife and children, saying he had been driven into the offences by great pecuniary pressure, arising from his having been unable to meet a bill he had given. Sentence was postponed.—Henry Edwards, clerk, pleaded Guilty to a charge of forging a power of attorney to transfer certain stock, value 350*l.*, with intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, and was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—George Thomas Sambrook, a labourer, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment for a murderous assault on Thomas Alexander Young, by whom he was employed. The particulars of this case have already appeared in the *Leader*.

THE FRAUDS ON THE CITY BANKS.—Anderson and Savard were further examined at the Mansion House on Thursday, and remanded till next Wednesday, when the depositions will be read over, and the prisoners committed for trial.

A LAWYER AND HIS SERVANT.—An action has been brought in the Court of Queen's Bench against Mr. Launcelot Shadwell, the barrister, by James Parker, formerly a butler at the house of that gentleman. The claim was for 6*l.* 10*s.* wages, and 11*l.* money paid, and also for indemnification for an assault and false imprisonment. The defendant pleaded never indebted, except 6*l.* 10*s.*, which he paid into court. He also pleaded a justification. Some plate was missed on the day when Parker was going away, and Mr. Shadwell said he must pay for it. Parker quitted the house, leaving his boxes behind him; and the next day he called with his wife, when Mr. Shadwell said, if they would compromise the matter and pay for the value of the plate, there should be an end of the matter. This was refused by Parker, who was then given into custody; but at the station-house his wife persuaded him to pay the money demanded, which she borrowed and handed over to Mr. Shadwell, and her husband was then released. Mr. Shadwell, in the course of the trial, said he felt fully persuaded of the guilt of Parker both when he gave him into custody and when he took the money; yet he afterwards gave him a character. The jury were of opinion that Mr. Shadwell really believed that Parker was guilty of theft when he gave him into custody, and a verdict was then given for the defendant on the count of false imprisonment. With respect to the other questions involved, the jury found that the plaintiff paid the 11*l.* to get rid of the criminal charge, but that it was not proved to their satisfaction that he was guilty, and they accordingly said he was not guilty of the felony. Upon this finding, Lord Campbell directed the verdict to be entered for the defendant upon the money count, giving to the plaintiff leave to move to enter the verdict in his favour for 11*l.*

MR. MAYHEW AND THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN.—Mr. Henry Mayhew, on Tuesday, attended at Marlborough-street, for a warrant against the presumed writer of a letter signed "Ned Salmon, Ticket-of-Leave Man," threatening him with garrotting if he persevered in calling public attention to ticket-of-leave convicts. The writer of the letter was presumed to be the speaker who violently abused Mr. Mayhew at the recent ticket-of-leave meeting; but, as this could not be shown, the warrant was refused.

TAMPERING WITH A REGISTRY.—The charge against a Mr. Thomas Green, barrister, of creating a disturbance at the house of the registrar of births and deaths for the district of St. Mary, Paddington, and of wilfully damaging one of the books, has been withdrawn.

BREAD DISTURBANCES AT ISLINGTON.—A gang of idlers, assuming to be labouring men out of work, has been creating great disturbances in Islington and Pentonville, by going about to several bakers' shops, and demanding bread. By these means, many of the bakers were intimidated into giving away loaves, and in some instances money. The men, however, being told at one place, where the owner of the shop was a widow, that if they robbed the place they would inevitably ruin her, desisted from making any attempt at plunder. As the police were soon on their track at Islington, they proceeded to Stoke Newington, where they became extremely riotous, and greatly alarmed the inhabitants; and, having entered the bakers' shops, they obtained money and bread from all of them, except one, where a young woman, seeing that the men were about to help themselves to the loaves, took up a large knife, and threatened to cut down with it the first man who attempted to touch anything. The mob was thus scared away. A police-sergeant, who was informed of these proceedings, went in pursuit of some of the gang, and in the Green-lanes apprehended three men, upon whom were found some of the loaves which had been stolen. They were afterwards twice brought up at the Clerkenwell police court, and finally sent for a month to the House of Correction.

A QUESTIONABLE CASE OF BANKRUPTCY.—In the Court of Bankruptcy, last Saturday, was held the last

examination meeting in the matter of Anton Leo, commission agent and merchant, of Jeffrey-square. The accounts showed a total of debts and liabilities of 29,000*l.*, and assets only sufficient to pay the expenses of the fiat. The bankrupt, when undergoing examination, gave answers so vague and unsatisfactory that the Commissioner said he could not pass him. Mr. Lawrence (who appeared for Leo) said that the bankrupt knew nothing of his own books, and that the clerks who had kept them were the proper witnesses. The bankrupt was quite a young man, and evidently a tool in the hands of experienced knaves. His Honour said he had no doubt the bankrupt was a tool; but the question was whether he was an ignorant or a willing one. Ultimately, the court adjourned the sitting *sine die*, with protection for three months; the protection not to be renewed unless the bankrupt cleared up his questionable transactions.

A HOPEFUL YOUTH.—A lad in a sailor's dress, about thirteen years of age, named Walter Smith, was charged at the Worship-street police-office with stealing three 5*l.* bank-notes and a quantity of coin in gold and silver from the residence of his father-in-law, at Lavender Villas, Dalston. The youth, who, though so young, appeared to be well versed in the art of crime, and quite incorrigible, was some time since imprisoned for two months by Mr. Yardley at the Thames police court, for robbing his mother and a distant relative of money and a revolver. He had likewise been three times in a reformatory, which he had as often robbed, and then ran away. His father-in-law afterwards sent him out to the Cape of Good Hope, and on his return from that place about a month ago, his relatives believed that a thorough reformation in his character had taken place, and they therefore consented to receive him again at home; but it afterwards transpired that he had plundered the ship in which he went abroad, of a considerable quantity of its stores. On the 18th of last month, Smith entered his father-in-law's bedroom during the night, and, having stolen from his trousers' pockets all the money he could find there, afterwards broke open a writing-desk and a bureau, in neither of which he found anything valuable. The young burglar then left the house by the back door, but returned to it in the dead of night, without, however, being able to obtain any further plunder. Mr. Hammill committed the accused for trial on the twofold charge of robbery and burglary.

SHOOTING ON BOARD AN AMERICAN SHIP.—Peter Campbell, second mate of the ship James L. Bogart, was brought up before the Birkenhead magistrates on Wednesday morning, charged with shooting James Christie, a coloured seaman, who at present remains at the Birkenhead Hospital. The facts, as previously stated, were proved, and Campbell was committed for trial. O'Furber, the first mate, who was knocked down by one of the crew after he had fired a revolver at him, is out of danger, and will be brought up in a few days under a similar charge.

FORGERIES BY A STOCKBROKER.—The Court of Bankruptcy had a sitting, on Tuesday, for the appointment of trade-assignees, under the bankruptcy of Edward White, of Cushion-court, Old Broad-street, stock and share broker. The bankrupt's debts and liabilities are nearly 20,000*l.*, and, after committing several forgeries, he absconded. After the admission of a number of proofs, trade-assignees were appointed.

EMBEZZLEMENT.—William Holtaway, a very respectable-looking man, is under remand on a charge of embezzling various sums, amounting in all to about 1000*l.*, from his employer, Mr. George Hyde, a stationer in Fleet-street.

SOME OF THE SECRETS OF MADAME DENIS'S 'ESTABLISHMENT.'—A large amount of systematic profligacy was revealed, on Wednesday, in the Court of Queen's Bench, in an action brought by one Adolphus Harrison, alias Adolphus Harrison Feistell, against the Marquis of Bath, for wines supplied and services rendered to him in the years 1853 and 1854. The sum claimed was 78*l.* The Marquis (as he himself stated in his evidence) was in the habit, during the years 1852 and 1853, in the first of which he came of age, of visiting an 'establishment' kept by a Madame Denis, in Denbigh-terrace, Piccadilly—a den which was brought into great notoriety, and broken up, in 1854, by the celebrated case of Alice Leroy. Harrison (who was employed about the house, but who assumed to be a wine-merchant) alleges that his lordship at various times ordered wine of him for the use of the 'establishment,' which he supplied. When the 'establishment' was broken up, Harrison was imprisoned for two years for complicity in the system of bringing over young Belgian girls. On leaving prison, he called on the Marquis, and received from him five pounds, at the same time handing over to him two letters which he had written to Madame Denis. Afterwards he made the demand for 78*l.*; but this was resisted, the Marquis asserting that he had given no orders for wine. To this he swore at the trial; and other facts strengthened his repudiation. Harrison gave a date to his alleged supply of wine, which was actually during the time he was in prison; and, on his finding out his mistake, he endeavoured to shift the date. He stated that the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Bateman, and Lord Somerton were among the frequenters of Madame

Denis's house; but those noblemen were in court, prepared to deny that assertion. He had written to several noblemen and gentlemen, making similar demands; and he had instructed a man named Barry, calling himself a solicitor, to inform them that he was in possession of the visiting book at Madame Denis's, and that he found their names down. This, in many instances, appeared to be false. A verdict was given for the Marquis of Bath.

CAMPBELL v. CORLEY.—This case was tried on Monday in the Court of Queen's Bench before Lord Campbell and a special jury. The charge against Mr. Corley was that, on the 11th of December, 1849, he delivered to the superintendent registrar of Marylebone a false notice of a marriage about to be solemnized between him and Mrs. Constantia Campbell (a widow), for the purpose of procuring the marriage; and that he made some other false representations with the same view, one, for instance, to the effect that Mrs. Campbell was only sixty years of age, whereas she was alleged to be at least eighty. Lord Campbell instructed the jury that, as the prosecution had not been commenced within three years of the alleged offence, it could not be sustained; and the defendant was therefore Acquitted.

THE CHILD-MURDER IN WALWORTH.—A further examination of Bacon and his wife on this charge took place on Wednesday at Lambeth, when the case was strengthened against the man, and both were once more remanded. The wife again carefully avoided meeting her husband's gaze.

ACCIDENTAL POISONING.—Joseph Burroughs, a young man employed by Mr. Budd, a chemist at Brompton, was on Thursday tried at the Central Criminal Court for the manslaughter of William Marcooley. The death ensued from a mistake committed by Burroughs, who gave prussic acid for castor oil. The jury Acquitted the accused, on the ground that the substitution was not wilful; but they accompanied their verdict with an expression of strong reprobation of the careless manner in which poisons were generally dispensed.

THE TRIAL OF JOHN PAUL.—John Paul, the person charged with forgery and stealing orders for the payment of money, the property of the City of London Union, was on Thursday tried at the Central Criminal Court. Our readers are already in possession of the facts of this case. The defence (by Mr. Serjeant Ballantine) turned upon a point of law, and also on the assumption that Paul only intended temporarily to apply the money to his own uses, and then return it by cheques of his own. Mr. Justice Wightman told the jury that, if they were satisfied that Paul, at the time he paid the Union cheques into his own banker's meant to appropriate the proceeds, they were bound to convict him. He was accordingly found Guilty, and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. This sentence he received with great composure.

THE ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER AT LEEDS.—The inquest on George Bedford has been held before Mr. A. Horsfall, deputy coroner, when, after the examination of several witnesses, the jury returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased died from the effusion of blood on the under surface of the brain, by the rupture of an artery (the large artery which supplied the brain), caused by the struggle, combined with the effects of liquor and passion." Bird was immediately afterwards discharged from custody.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

SHIPWRECKS.—The French sloop *Honorine*, Captain Letoy, was wrecked on the 26th of January when twenty miles south of the Isle of Wight; but the crew, consisting only of four men, escaped in the boat. However, they suffered greatly from want of food and from the cold; and they would probably have perished but for the assistance afforded by the brig *Amelie*, from Dieppe, of and for Newport. Mr. Jenkins, the master, fed and clothed the unfortunate Frenchmen, took them into Plymouth Sound, and put them in charge of their consul.—A French vessel, last Saturday morning, ran ashore to the eastward of Rye harbour, and went to pieces. Only one out of a crew of six persons was saved.—A sad calamity happened at Wick last Saturday night. The goods and passenger boats of the steamer were overtaken by a sudden rise of the sea, driven from their anchorage, and wrecked. Six men, five of them leaving widows and families, were drowned, and the goods, consisting of valuable merchandise, were washed ashore.

WRECKS IN JANUARY.—Two hundred and eighty-six vessels were wrecked during the month of January just concluded.

REORGANIZATION OF THE WAR-OFFICE.—The arrangements connected with the organization of the War-office are now completed, and the offices of Clerk of the Ordnance, Deputy Secretary-at-War, and Director-General of Army Clothing have been abolished. Colonel Mundy has been appointed Governor of Jersey, and Sir Benjamin Hawes, the late Deputy-Secretary-at-War, becomes the permanent Under-Secretary of State; Mr. Godley, the late Director-General of Stores, is appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State; Sir Henry Storks, K.C.B., is appointed Secretary for Military Correspondence; Captain Caslin, at present Naval Director-General of Artillery, is appointed Director of Stores

and Clothing, and the salary attached to the former office is saved to the public. Mr. Ramsay, who has hitherto been Assistant-Director-General of Clothing, will be Assistant-Director of Stores and Clothing, and, in consequence of the amalgamation, will undertake other duties connected with army stores generally in addition to those hitherto performed by him. Sir Thomas Troubridge is appointed Deputy-Adjutant-General, and, under the directions of his Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief, will perform the multifarious duties connected with the arrangement for the patterns of clothing, accoutrements, and necessaries supplied to the troops, and those purely military duties formerly undertaken by the Board of General Officers.—*Times*.

THE FACTORY DEPARTMENT OF WOOLWICH DOCK-YARD.—A reduction of one-third of the officers and men of the factory department at Woolwich has been commenced. The Factory Pay Office is to be merged in the General Pay Office of the Dockyard.

A YOUNG COMMANDER.—The brig *James*, of Leith, has been navigated across the Atlantic by a boy of fifteen, assisted only by coloured seamen, her captain and crew having all died of yellow fever at Demerara, with the exception of the lad himself, the cook, and mate. In the course of the voyage the mate fell from the yard, and was killed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The fourth dramatic performance at Windsor Castle, which consisted of *Richard II.*, took place on Thursday evening.

THE TURNER WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS.—One hundred water-colour drawings by Turner were privately exhibited at Marlborough House last Saturday.

"BIG BEN" OF WESTMINSTER, AND THE BIG CLOCK.—"Big Ben" was tried last Saturday, when it sounded for several hours. The four quarter bells are on the point of being cast, and all five will shortly be elevated to the top of the tower. The great clock has also been made; but, owing to a sort of Crimean blunder, it was made before the bells, notwithstanding that the Government was advised not to do so; and the result is that the machinery is not strong enough for the bells, and must be altered.

FIRES.—A very destructive fire broke out last Sunday evening on some large premises in West-street, Golden-square, occupied by a milliner and piece-broker. The plugs were frozen tight by the extreme cold of the weather, and the delay in obtaining water caused the fire to get a complete mastery over the house. A man rushed into some of the rooms, and rescued a woman and child, though he had to pass through a great deal of fire and smoke to do so. The engines having arrived, the flames were got under by half-past ten.—The ancient parish church of Wallasey, on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. The catastrophe is supposed to have been caused by the overheating of the flues.

THE BRITISH BANK ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Strand and Holborn branches of the British Bank were sold on Tuesday; the former for 6100*l.*, and the lease of the latter for 210*l.*

THE PRINCE OF WALES has been out hunting in the neighbourhood of Windsor; and of course all funkeydom is in ecstasies of delight at his admirable way of 'taking the fences.'

THE WEATHER.—Notwithstanding a thaw which set in last Saturday, a great number of persons, on Sunday morning, on the strength of a return of the frost, ventured on the ice in the parks, and several fell in, but no fatal cases occurred. Other ice accidents of the usual kind also took place. On Monday there was another slight thaw; but the cold increased on Tuesday, giving place to a further thaw on Thursday, which continued all through yesterday.

SHAKESPEARE'S HOUSE.—A meeting of the trustees of Shakespeare's house has been held at Stratford-upon-Avon, when several tenders were received for the demolition of the houses and cottages which surround the birthplace of the poet. The work will be effected through the munificence of Mr. John Shakespeare. The tender of Mr. William Holton was accepted, and a contract entered into for the removal of the premises within one month.

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.—Sir Frederick Currie will succeed to the Deputy-Chairmanship of the Court of Directors of the East India Company at the next election.

THE LICENSING SYSTEM AND THE BILLETING OF SOLDIERS.—A deputation from the Liverpool licensed victuallers has waited upon Mr. W. Brown, M.P., Mr. J. C. Ewart, M.P., and Mr. J. Bramley Moore, M.P., with reference to these objects; and each of those gentlemen expressed their disapproval of the proposed bill to throw open the trade of the licensed victualler.

THE LAST OF AN OLD FAMILY.—Edward Joseph Canning, Esq., the last male representative of the ancient Roman Catholic family of the Cannings, of Foxcote, is just dead. He was descended from an ancestor of William Canning, the founder of St. Mary Redcliffe Church in Bristol, in memory of whom our Turkish Ambassador has received the title of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

THE INCOME-TAX MOVEMENT.—Further meetings have been held at Berwick, Morpeth, Congleton, Worcester, Weston-super-Mare, and Chelsea.

BANKRUPTCY OF MESSRS. SYERS AND CO.—The examination in bankruptcy of Messrs. Syers, Walker, and Co., who failed in the India trade on the 4th of last April, with debts for 146,000*l.*, was adjourned on Monday. The balance-sheet has been prepared, but, under the advice of the official assignee, it has not been filed, accounts continuing to be received which alter the position of the estate. About 7000*l.* or 8000*l.* are in hand, and a hope is expressed that a dividend of about 2s. in the pound may be declared at the expiration of two months.

PERSIA.—According to a despatch from Constantinople, Haidar Khan, at the head of a cavalry brigade, has taken Furrah, and is advancing to attack the Persian army under Murad Khan. An English division, under Sir John Lawrence, is said to be marching towards Candahar. This latter piece of intelligence, however, is a mistake, inasmuch as Sir John Lawrence is a civilian, and Commissioner of the Punjab. We believe Sir John has gone to Peshawur (the extreme point, or nearly so, of our territories), where he expected a visit from Dost Mahommed. It is possible that, in order to do honour to the Ameer, he may have advanced some little way into his country to receive him, and thence may have arisen the blunder. It is quite certain that the civil administrator of the affairs of the Punjab cannot be the General in command of an army.—According to the French *Moniteur de l'Armée*, the most important province of Afghanistan has declared for the Shah, as well as the whole of Candahar; and the tribes of the Douranees have sent a deputation to Teheran, and offered their homage to the Persian sovereign. These statements must be received with caution.

THE POLITICAL DINNERS.—Lords Palmerston and Granville, on the part of the Government, and the Earl of Derby and Mr. Disraeli, as leaders of the Opposition, gave their respective dinners, customary to the eve of the Parliamentary session, on Monday.

DR. LIVINGSTON, in writing to say that he cannot at present accept the proffered freedom of the city of Glasgow, mentions that he is engaged upon a narrative of his travels, and must get the work finished before the end of April, as he has promised the Africans to visit them again in the course of the present year. But he adds that he shall certainly pay his mother another visit before leaving, and he shall then be happy to accept the offer of the Lord Provost, magistrates, and council of Glasgow. This will probably be about the end of April.

THE LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held its seventh annual meeting on Monday. The report, which appeared to be satisfactory, was adopted, and several speeches were delivered by various members.

THE WEST INDIES.—The mails for the West India islands speak of a continued depression of trade in Jamaica, and of an outbreak of cholera at Demerara, which, however, had not proceeded at any rapid or alarming rate, and was being held in check by energetic precautions. The House of Assembly at Barbadoes had met, transacted a few items of business, and adjourned for a fortnight. A great deal of wet had fallen in Trinidad. The Council of Government had made a favourable financial statement. The health of the island of Grenada continued good; the canes were in excellent condition; and the cocoa planters were hardly able to answer the demand upon them with sufficient rapidity. The season at Carriacou has been unfavourable, and, though the island is healthy, the cotton crop is suffering. A most disastrous fire has laid waste the town of Gros-Morne, one of the most important places of Martinique. The conflagration burst forth on Christmas-eve. A large number of houses, shops, and provision-stores have been swept away; many families have been utterly ruined, and are almost starving; and the town presents the appearance of a vast encampment. The disaster is said to have originated in a child imprudently lighting some matches in a garret: the flames spread to a bundle of dirty linen, the house was speedily in a blaze, and it was found impossible to check the mischief until it had attained immense proportions.

AUSTRALIA.—The Australian papers bring little news of interest besides reports of the death of three colonial celebrities—Mr. John Armstrong, of Grant county, Captain William Allen, and Mr. George Stevenson, justice of the peace, and coroner of the city of Adelaide. The latter gentleman had been in the colony twenty years. He arrived out from England in her Majesty's ship *Buffalo*, as private secretary to Captain Hindmarsh, the first governor of the colony, and was the first clerk to the Legislative Council, the first coroner, and one of the first bench of magistrates. Previously to leaving England, he had been connected with the *Globe* newspaper; and at Adelaide he set up the first journal the colony possessed; so that he was not only regarded as one of the pioneers of the new settlement, but was looked on as "the father of the South Australian press."

ALICIA RACE.—The case of the child Alicia Race came before the Court of Chancery last Saturday, on an application for a reference to chambers to approve of a proper person to be guardian for the girl. The case was postponed till next Monday, the child in the meanwhile to be perfectly unrestricted in her religious devotions, and not to be taken to any church.

EMPORIO ITALIANO.—A large meeting, composed of persons evidently belonging to the higher classes of society, was held last Saturday at the Hanover-square Rooms, to hear the particulars respecting an "institution for the patronage of Italian science, art, literature, commerce, and industry," which, under the name of "Emporio Italiano," has been projected by Count Lorenzo Montemerli, and has recently been a subject of frequent discussion in literary circles. A programme, setting forth in three languages full details of the scheme, was placed in the hands of every visitor. We may briefly state that the design of the "Emporio" is one of the most comprehensive that the imagination could conceive. To a museum filled with specimens of Italian art and industry are to be attached a hall, not only for experiments, but for musical and dramatic performances; a club-room, a library, a panorama, a cosmorama, a diorama, an amphitheatre for lectures, and a primary school. The benefit of the Italian people is the object for which all these various departments are designed, whether as means of instruction and amusement or as sources of revenue. Politics and religion are excluded from the project.—*Times*.

FLIGHTS OF LARKS.—An extraordinary succession of flights of larks, so immense in their numbers as to throw a shade upon the ground, passed over Regent's-park last Saturday at mid-day. This continued for upwards of an hour, and caused great surprise.

MR. CHARLES MATHEWS ON 'DELICATE GROUND.'—The subjoined letter from Mr. Charles Mathews appears in the *Times* of Monday:—"A few days ago, you kindly congratulated me on my recovery from my late accident, and complimented me on the fortitude with which I endured four dangerous operations; but you were probably not aware, nor indeed was I myself, that I had undergone a fifth, and that, sometimes, of a much more fatal tendency than the others—I have been married! A paragraph has 'gone the rounds,' as it is called, copied, I believe, from a Gloucester paper, headed 'Marriage of Mr. Charles Mathews,' stating that I had 'taken unto myself a second wife in the person of pretty Miss Oliver.' Allow me, in justice to that amiable young lady, to announce publicly that such is not the case, in order that her numerous admirers may be assured that, as far as I know, she is still open to competition. I am grateful for the credit given me, at all events, for the good taste of my selection, though I must express my wonder at so improbable a story having obtained belief. In the first place, I cannot conceive that any one could have the heart to give her away; and in the next, having only my left arm at liberty at present, which I am sure would not be sufficient to encompass half her charms, and my right hand being nearly disabled altogether, I could but at best offer her a left-handed marriage, and far be it from me to insult her with such a proposition. No, sir,—may she speedily obtain a husband of half my age and double my worth, and I shall be most happy, with the appropriate tears of affection in my eyes, to give my consent and bless her union."

THE SEWERAGE OF LONDON.—Dr. Thomas Hawksley has communicated to Sir Benjamin Hall a plan of sewerage based on the system by which in human bodies the various excreta are removed.

CONVICTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Some gentlemen connected with the colony of Western Australia have suggested to Mr. Labouchere the desirability of sending convicts to that locality, which they think is peculiarly adapted for a penal settlement.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AT MANCHESTER.—A conference took place on the evening of Friday week at the Athenaeum, Manchester, between the committee of the late Manchester and Salford Education Association, and certain gentlemen of the National Public School Association. The heads of a bill by Sir John Pakington for the extension of education were read, discussed, and accepted, subject to some modifications.

ROYAL DISPENSARY FOR DISEASES OF THE EAR.—The half-yearly meeting of this useful institution was held on Thursday last, at the Dispensary, Dean-street, Soho-square, Mr. W. T. Cooper in the chair. The secretary announced the amount of subscriptions received during the last six months. The Dispensary had afforded treatment to an increased number of applicants during the last half-year. The statistical account of the new admissions Mr. Harvey, the surgeon to the institution, stated to the meeting were 1058, cured 174, consisting of discharges from the ears, noises in the head and ears, nervous affections of the head, rheumatic deafness, diseases of the throat, with some aggravated forms of polypus in the ear, and other diseases of a kindred nature. A hope was expressed at the meeting that the usefulness of the institution would be more fully extended by an increase of funds, to which it was hoped their wealthy friends would contribute, upon the assurance that they would thereby benefit suffering humanity, and be aiding a valuable institution. Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman, and to Mr. Harvey, the surgeon, for his attention to the patients under his care; and the meeting separated.

ROYAL MUNIFICENCE.—Mr. James Rogers, the comedian performing at the Olympic Theatre, attended on Monday at the Lambeth police court, and handed to the magistrate the sum of 13s. 4d., with the following note:—"Sir,—Allow me to present to the poor-box the en-

closed 13s. 4d., being the amount I received for performing at Windsor Castle on Wednesday evening last.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,—JAMES ROGERS." This is not the first time we have heard of the astonishing meanness which is exhibited in the pecuniary management of the Windsor Castle performances.—Mr. Wigan has written to the *Times* to deny that he either actively or permissively sanctioned Mr. Rogers's donation, and to say that he looks upon it as "an exhibition of bad taste."

THE "LEGAL ACCIDENT."—This case continues to be debated in the *Times*; but Mr. Brady has somewhat modified his assertions, while still maintaining that the railway authorities were guilty of "scandalous impropriety." The publication of the notes taken at the trial by the Judge (the present Lord Wensleydale) seems greatly to strengthen the position of Mr. Brady's opponents, viz., that the verdict of Guilty was in accordance with the evidence.

MISS BURDETT COURTTS, on Tuesday evening, entertained the children of the five schools belonging to the parish church of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. Nearly five hundred partook of tea, &c., and having been addressed by the vicar, were amused with exhibitions of magic, and the performances of Punch, for about two hours, when, after singing the Evening Hymn, they separated.

HOW TO SING SCOTCH.—All that a Scottish song requires is a sweet, flowing voice, capable of swelling a note from the softest to the fullest tone; a feeling heart; a susceptible imagination; a perfect comprehension of the subject, and a thorough knowledge of the true meaning of the words of the song, so as to know the significant word to swell or soften the tone upon, as the sentiment may require. This is all, with the occasional embellishment of an easy *shake*; but even this should be very sparingly used. A Scottish song admits of no fanciful descant at the close of the tune either; for this destroys its character, and although it may bring applause to the singer for his voice and execution, with a judicious audience it would be at the expense of his understanding.—*The Family Mirror*.

THE EARL OF HAREWOOD lingers on; but his state is still very precarious.

MR. ROBERT WILBERFORCE.—The telegraph from Rome brings the painful intelligence that Mr. (formerly Archdeacon) Robert Wilberforce is in great danger, from gastric fever, at Albano, having been removed thither from the Academia Ecclesiastica, where he is completing his preparation for the Catholic Priesthood.—*Weekly Register*.

ROMAN CATHOLICS IN OFFICE.—The *Weekly Register* says that three of the newly-appointed High Sheriffs of England are Roman Catholics.

FIREWORKS ON THE ICE.—The last night of the frost (Wednesday) was signalized on the Serpentine by a display of fireworks at midnight. A great deal of skating was going on; several women were present; and the whole scene was very remarkable.

THE PAPER DUTY.—A deputation from the Society for the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday, to urge on him the importance of repealing the paper duty. Sir G. C. Lewis, after hearing a great many statements, said that the present moment is not favourable to entertaining the question, as the abolition would entail a loss to the revenue.

THE LATE STANISLAUS WORCELL.—This eminent Polish patriot, who in 1830 possessed the title of count and large estates in Volhynia, died last Tuesday, at 85, Hunter-street, Brunswick-square, aged fifty-nine. He was looked up to with great veneration by the Polish Republican party, his devotion to whom he had evinced in the most brilliant manner. When the revolution of 1830 broke out, he placed himself at the head of the inhabitants of his district, and joined a corps under Colonel Rozycki, which, fighting its way through the enemy's ranks, joined the national army at Warsaw, where Worcell sat in the Diet as representative for Volhynia. On the failure of the insurrection, he became an exile, and afterwards joined the Polish Committee. He was expelled from France in 1833, on the requisition of the Russian ambassador; then went to Belgium, and subsequently came to England. In 1845, he returned to Belgium, and in the following year to France, from which he was again expelled in 1849, on pretence of his having been concerned in the movements headed by Ledru Rollin and others which had for their object the prevention of the French expedition to Rome. Since then, he has resided in England, and has acted with the Republican refugees. He was universally beloved and esteemed.

ST. MARYLEBONE BANK FOR SAVINGS.—The 27th Annual General Meeting of this Institution was recently held at the Office, No. 76, Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square; Sir James John Hamilton, Bart., in the chair. It appeared from the several reports read to the meeting that the progress of the bank during the past year had been of a satisfactory description, no less than 2496 new deposits having been made in the last year; 20,423 deposit accounts remained open on the 28th of November last, of which 18,109 held balances averaging less than 2l. 19s. each. The balance due to depositors at that date, as per balance sheets produced, was 346,410l. 7s. 1d.: leaving a surplus of 1579l. 15s. 10d.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, February 7.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THEIR Lordships sat for ten minutes, but nothing took place worth recording.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRIT.

A new writ was ordered to issue for an election for the borough of Hereford, Sir Robert Price having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

THE ADDRESS.

LORD ERNEST BRUCE, the Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, brought up her Majesty's reply to the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne.

CONVOCAION.

In answer to Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, Sir GEORGE GREY said that any proceedings now going on in the Convocation of the province of Canterbury were not licensed by the Crown, and it was intended, that if the sitting was not soon terminated, the Government would advise the Crown to interfere so as to cause its prorogation.

THE POLICE IN COUNTIES AND BOROUGHES.

In answer to COLONEL BUCK, Sir GEORGE GREY said it was not intended to bring in any bill to compel the amalgamation of county and borough police.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA AND CHINA.

In answer to Mr. H. J. BAILLIE, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that an arrangement had been made with the East India Company that one half of the expenses of the Persian war should be borne by this country, and the other half by the Company. The settlement of the expenses of the former China war had been postponed, in consequence of a difference between the Government and the East India Company, until last year, when it was arranged that the extraordinary expenses should be paid by this country, so that 593,000l. was now payable by the Government to the East India Company. It fortunately happened, however, that a larger amount than that was owing by the East India Company to the Government; and there would, therefore, be no charge on the country for the sum he had mentioned in the present year.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, as the naval and military estimates must now be ready, there was any reason why there should not be an early, and indeed an immediate, statement of the financial plans of the Government with reference to income and expenditure, and, above all, taxation.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the earliest day on which the army and navy estimates could, by the rules of the House, be presented, would be next Tuesday. He felt a difficulty in mentioning a day for the financial statement until the estimates had been produced; but he would fix a day for that purpose next week.

THE TERMS OF THE ADDRESS.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL called the attention of the House to a departure from long usage in the terms of the answer to the Queen's Speech, inasmuch as by its wording it had bound the House to a favourable opinion on the war with Persia, and also that it was the conduct of the Shah of Persia which had caused hostilities—subjects on which the House could not judge till they had further information.—Sir GEORGE GREY said it was not the intention of the Government to commit the House to any opinion on the subject of the Persian war by the terms of the Address.

THE INCOME-TAX.

In answer to Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. DISRAELI said he should bring on his motion with regard to the Income-tax, without reference to any financial statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer might make.

THE BANK CHARTER ACT.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Charter of the Bank of England of 1844; the Bank Acts of Ireland and Scotland of 1845; and the operation of Joint-Stock Banks.

A discussion followed, in which Mr. DISRAELI, Mr. TITE, Mr. GLYN, Sir CHARLES WOOD, Mr. NEWDEGATE, and other members took part, but very briefly, the main point of debate being the limitation of notes by the Bank of England to 14,000,000l. The motion for the appointment of a committee was agreed to.

PASSING TOLLS.

Mr. LOWE obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish passing tolls.

The House then adjourned.

IMPERIAL COMMUNISM IN FRANCE.

"THE brochure against *les Propriétaires*," says a private letter we have received from Paris, "is said to be written by a certain M. Duveyrier, an ex-St. Simonien, founder of the *Société des Annoncees*, which failed, and at present a partner of M. Millaud, and one of the editors of the *Journal des Actionnaires*,

which is also a failure, and will probably be soon absorbed into *La Presse* as an organ of 'affairs.' This brochure is based upon one of those absurd and insane ideas which have made a large section of the Socialists the curse of the Republican party in France. These gentlemen would simply suppress the personality of the citizen, absorb the individual into the state, and convert France into a vast monastery, a huge phalanstery, or an immense barrack. This nation of ours is often *bien bâte*, but it still retains just good sense enough to understand the senseless barbarism of these pretended reformers, who are, thank Heaven, overwhelmed with the ridicule they have deserved. If it were possible that such idiocy could prevail—if it had the slightest chance of practical application—I, for my part, should 'pack up,' and obtain letters of naturalization in your hospitable land. It appears that the Minister of the Interior had refused his consent to the publication of this brochure. The author being a friend of M. Mocquard, the *secrétaire intime* of the Emperor, got it read to the Emperor, who immediately granted the authority to publish which the Minister of the Interior had refused. I cannot assure you that this story is correct; at all events it is not impossible. Not even improbable, for it is but a *pendant* to the case of M. Proudhon, which occurred four years ago. For my own part, I am far from blaming the publication; for the only way to convict these follies is to expose them to the public criticism. As for this grotesque St. Simonien, communist monstrosity, it would have perished unknown, had not a newspaper, in want of a subject, as all our newspapers are, revealed its existence in a solemn article.

PERSIA.

The English (says a despatch from Alexandria) are about to occupy Mohammerad and Bender Ali, two towns on the Persian Gulf. Bender-Abbas, an important post on the coast of the kingdom of Persia, being occupied by the Imam of Muscat, an ally of the English, will, it is supposed, be respected by the latter.—Intelligence from Constantinople says that Russia demands from Persia leave to occupy the province of Mazanderan. The Persian mountaineers have pillaged the rich sanctuary of Meragha Whild, the garrison having gone to Feroozabad to repress an insurrection. The fortifications of Bushire have been reconstructed by the English, who have left two regiments, and marched up the Kaub to attack Mohamora, which commands both the province of Fars and the road to Shiraz.

FRANCE.

Despatches from Berlin state that the Government meditates dissolving the Chambers, in consequence of the opposition to its financial projects. The intended assassin of the Archbishop of Matera has been arrested.

The French official journal has recently published an article advocating the union of the Danubian Principalities.

An official notification states that the Government, recognizing the justice of the complaints that the date previously fixed is too near at hand, has decided that the Universal Agricultural Exposition shall not be held this year.

MILLINERS AND DRESSMAKERS.—A great meeting to consider the oppressed condition of dressmakers and milliners' assistants will be held on Monday evening at Exeter Hall. The Bishop of London will be present. It is scarcely for us to say that we attach the highest importance to the movement, and expect that the meeting will be a conspicuous success.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, February 6th, including season ticket holders, 5858.

WRECK OFF HOLYHEAD AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The Sullie, Captain Giron, from Bordeaux, bound for Liverpool, was totally wrecked near Holyhead on Friday morning. The captain, mate, and twelve hands were drowned; only two hands were saved.

EAST SUSSEX.—The immediate resignation of Mr. Frewen, one of the members for East Sussex, consequent on his being a candidate for the representation of North Leicestershire, has taken the electors somewhat by surprise. The district of Brighton and Hove now represents a considerable portion of the constituency, and a severe contest between the present candidates, Viscount Pevensey and Mr. J. G. Dodson, to supply Mr. Frewen's place, may be expected.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—An explosion has taken place in a coal mine at Wyke, near Halifax, and four men have been killed.

A WORKING MAN'S FESTIVAL.—Messrs. Rippon and Burton, the London ironmongers, recently gave their workpeople at some print-works at Oakenshaw, Lancashire, which they have purchased, a very liberal entertainment. Two hundred of the artisans, with the wives of such as were married, sat down to a substantial repast, in a room which was adorned with evergreens and festoons. Toasts, appropriate addresses, and music followed the

meal; and the young persons belonging to the establishment were regaled in a separate room with the kind of fare suited to their juvenility. Mr. Rippon presided, and received an ovation.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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, FEBRUARY 7, 1857.

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.

POLITICAL PROSPECTS.

THE QUEEN has been superseded, to a great extent, by Mr. HAYTER. Her Speech, delivered by commission, contained little more than a retrospective glance at the recess, with a promise of certain Law Reforms, and an allusion to the inevitable debates on the Bank Charter Act. It was, even more than it usually is, a vague formality. The question with Russia has been settled; we may hope for a settlement between Prussia and Switzerland; we have suspended diplomatic relations with Naples; we have renewed our relations with America; Siam has undertaken to be friendly; Persia is at war with us; the Chinese have provoked a collision; the Bank Charter will speedily lapse, and Parliament must consider that subject; the law is in an unbearable state of incompleteness and confusion, and needs amendment. This was all that the faint oratory of the Commissioners announced to the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled. More explicit was Mr. HAYTER, who, admitting tacitly that the Royal Speech was a sham, anticipated the debate on the Address by a short account of forthcoming Government measures. An inquiry into the condition of the Hudson's Bay Territories, a bill for enabling Ionian subjects to hold commissions under the Crown, a scheme of ecclesiastical reform for Norfolk Island, a committee on the Bank Charter, new legal facilities for Reformatory Schools, and a substitute for transportation, are included in the Treasury programme. No reference to the Income-tax, to Church-rates, to Jewish Disabilities, to an amended representation of the people, to the local dues on shipping. The course marked out by the Government is not only destitute of the political element, but amounts to an abandonment of numerous measures proposed last session, and to the reintroduction of which the Premier was understood to be pledged. Of seven important proposals which emanated from the Cabinet in the spring of 1856, not one was carried—not one is recommended for reconsideration. With the exception of Norfolk Island, which, it seems, enjoys an ecclesiastical government, the Hudson's Bay Territories, and the Ionian Islands, our colonies and dependencies are left altogether unnoticed.

The prospects of the year, then, so far as the Ministerial announcements go, are confined to a few practical amendments of the law, a debate on secondary punishments, and a renewal of the Threadneedle-street Charter. From other quarters, however, come signs of Parliamentary activity. The Manchester party has declared the necessity of an immediate reform in the representation of the people. All classes in the House of Com-

mons, excepting the absolute Ministerialists, who have not yet broken silence, agree to condemn the extra Income-tax. There is an almost general concurrence in the expectation that Lord PALMERSTON will not work easily or pleasantly through the session.

It must be confessed that the effect of Tuesday's debate, in both Houses, was damaging to Ministers. If Mr. COBDEN or Mr. BRIGHT had been present, the result might have been still more serious; but, as it was, the Opposition, assisted to some extent by Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Mr. GLADSTONE, displayed itself in a position of power and dignity. Mr. DISRAELI, no doubt, was rash in his declaration concerning the French alliance with Austria, instigated by England. It was evident that part of his statement was based on information he had received, and partly on inferences which are probably incorrect in detail. Lord PALMERSTON'S denial may have been simply categorical—that is to say, Mr. DISRAELI had accused the Government of having connived at a Treaty securing the Italian dominions of Austria under a French guarantee. Such a compact may exist, but not in the form of a treaty. It would have been more strategic on Mr. DISRAELI'S part to have cross-examined the Premier, closely and severely, in a series of leading-questions, to all of which, perhaps, Lord PALMERSTON might not have been able to reply with an insulting negative.

In spite of Lord PALMERSTON'S negative, however, it is believed that Mr. DISRAELI has caught a glimpse of certain secret negotiations between France and Austria, approved by the British Government, and having for their object the consolidation of Austria's Italian sovereignty. With reference to the transactions in China and Persia, we do not anticipate that much effect will be produced by the oratory of the Opposition. The Government explanations on those subjects were clear and satisfactory, while the criticisms of Mr. GLADSTONE and Lord JOHN RUSSELL were little more than objections on technical grounds, which seldom affect seriously the deliberations of Parliament. It is not expected that the contest will, in either case, be prolonged for more than a few months; nor is it to be supposed that our operations in Persia and China, even if they take the proportions of systematic warfare upon a large scale, will weigh heavily on the estimates.

But it is on the question of estimates that the most formidable discussions may be raised. Evidently the Government must be swayed to some extent by the Opposition, or be encountered by a combination of Tories, Whigs, and independent Liberals, determined on recurring to a peace standard of expenditure. If political rumours are of any value, the Budget is at this moment in an unprepared state; the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER is calculating upon what terms he may obtain the assent of the House of Commons to a continued Income-tax, and there is not too much confidence in Downing-street as to the future events of the session. The sense of Parliament has been unequivocally declared in favour of a financial settlement on a peace scale. It is acknowledged by political leaders of every section that little increased expenditure is necessary to an improved machinery; that it would be an irrational and dangerous innovation to keep up such forces as would enable the country to enter at any time upon a continental war, and that the true policy for Great Britain to pursue is to promote the prosperity of the people at large, to maintain an efficient administration, and to insist upon being governed by Ministers chosen for their

merit and not on account of their family connexions. A wealthy and well-governed nation is always powerful; its fleets secure its safety: its militia constitutes, in times of emergency, the materials of a regular army; low estimates and economical administration are requisite to amplify the fund from which, on occasions of necessity, increased revenues may be drawn.

But, though Lord PALMERSTON has a battle to fight, and may meet with adverse votes, a change of Government is by no means among the prospects of the session. The question whether a general election is to take place this year or the next depends on the spirit of the House of Commons. If the Cabinet can retain a working majority until the autumn, it is not improbable that Lord PALMERSTON will defer his appeal to the country until the summer of 1858. We doubt his capacity in this respect, however. Parliament has already exhibited some restlessness; the Tory leaders have committed themselves to a systematic course of opposition; Earl GREY and Lord BROUGHAM in the Peers, and Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Mr. GLADSTONE in the Commons, seem disposed to aim at an active and hostile policy, and Lord PALMERSTON is in no way inclined to conciliate support by the adoption of a liberal programme.

We have gone back some steps since the session of 1853, and it would be well if, besides Mr. GLADSTONE'S Income-tax settlement, we could revive some other elements in the 'situation' of that date. Then, Lord ABERDEEN promised an extension of free-trade principles, a great measure of education, and an amendment of the representative system. What are the promises of 1857? A new Bank Charter Act, a scheme of secondary punishments, some legal improvements, and a revised State Church for Norfolk Island. In 1853 the Aberdeen ministry was counted a gain to the Liberal cause. It was an official consolidation of all parties in the House of Commons, excepting the Tory Protectionists. It engaged to carry on the work of reform. Sir JAMES GRAHAM declared that he would not have accepted office had not the Government pledged itself to revise the representation of the people. What says now the Knight of Netherby, and what say the electors of Carlisle? Unhappily, the Russian war intervened; but now that the Russian war is over, why not resume in 1857 the policy announced in 1853 and interrupted in 1854?

Nothing is to be expected from the actual Administration, unless it be compelled to adopt 'Reform' as an election cry. Nothing is to be expected from the Tories, who only offer to goad the Treasury on questions of finance. And nothing can be done by the independent Liberals, unless they strain with all their power upon the Government, and force it to choose between concession and defeat. It may be that Lord JOHN RUSSELL has a measure in reserve; but the time for submitting such a proposal will be when Parliament meets under the stimulus of a general election. Enervated, indifferent, and corrupt, the existing Parliament is unfit for its duties; and while it continues to sit, our political prospects can only be vague, narrow, and paltry.

PURITY OF THE SUFFRAGE IN FRANCE.

WE have seen another illustration of 'judicial' justice in France. The highest court of the Empire has decided that the unlimited distribution of electoral bulletins is not permissible by law. By a monstrous interpretation of a legislative enactment, it is declared that a card, or slip of paper, bearing simply the name of a candidate, comes under

the head of publications which may excite to hatred and contempt of the Government, and therefore may not be distributed without permission from the prefects of departments. That is to say, eighty-six departmental prefects are to take universal suffrage under their control, to nominate every candidate, to expunge the names of obnoxious persons, and virtually to elect the Legislative Chamber. This insolent mockery of representation must have the effect of undeceiving even those complacent dupes of success, who hold that France "enjoys more real freedom" under the Empire than under the constitutional government of LOUIS PHILIPPE or the Republic of 1848. What becomes, we demand, of the notion that LOUIS NAPOLEON is really the elect of the French people? Why, he declines to trust to universal suffrage; he objects to put his own nominees in competition with those of the Liberal, Bourbon, or Orleanist parties; with all the facilities of pressure and falsification at his disposal, he confessedly apprehends that certain citizens of Paris will print the one word "CAVAIGNAC" upon a card and distribute it to the electors. This is Imperial popularity, this is to be the representative of 1789.

For the moment, it appeared, after the judgment of the Court of Cassation, that the advocates of abstention had been supplied with a new argument. After two Courts of Appeal had displayed the courage and the justice to decide against the pretensions of the local prefects to control the distribution of electoral bulletins, it was, indeed, astounding to discover that the sources of equity in Paris had been so poisoned by official interest, that a card bearing only the name of a candidate was declared to rank among political pamphlets, manifestoes, addresses, and other publications amenable to police regulation. What is it to the purpose that twenty days before the election candidates may circulate their professions of political faith, and bulletins, inscribed with their names? These professions and bulletins, signed by themselves, must have been previously deposited at the office of the Procureur Impérial, whose function it is to prosecute all offenders under the law applying to political professions of faith. The Government thus obtains a grasp over the candidate, may condemn his manifesto, prohibit his bulletin, and prosecute him personally for employing language of a kind tending to excite to 'hatred and contempt' of the Empire. Besides, the electors may desire to nominate men who have not avowed their candidature, and whose names are principles.

The Court of Cassation professes to base its decision upon the purity of the suffrage—a purity which annuls, from every point of view, the very essence of political election. Morality, equity, common sense, alike declare that a public vote obtained under such influences is an imposture, a delusion, and a forgery. The advocates of abstention argue, then, that the Liberal party should not participate in an election thus radically vitiated, arbitrary, and illegal. But the party of action replies that, under all circumstances, abstention is a fatal policy; that a conflict, without immediate results, is preferable to that immobility which may be ascribed to acquiescence or to despair; that the inertness of the mass is the concrete basis of despotism; that timidity shelters itself under the pretence of reserve; and that corruption skulks in the disguise of scruple. It may be that some honourable and able men will be deterred from joining in the electoral movement by the flagitious judgment of the Court of Cassation; but the fact is to be deplored. The main body of

Liberals, we trust, will repudiate the policy of paralysis, and fulfil their duty to France and to themselves.

"CHURCH IN DANGER!"—FROM THE CLERGY.

UNLESS something be done to rescue the clergy from themselves, they will put the finishing stroke to the Church of England. They are committing slow suicide, and appear incapable of rescuing themselves from the rash act. According to their own confession, they cannot keep order, and they are obliged to seek the aid of the temporal power in a humiliating manner. In the House of Bishops, the Bishop of CHICHESTER brings forward a painful case. Clergymen find themselves under the necessity of reading the burial service, making an almost indiscriminate use of the service, even over persons who are unbaptized, excommunicate, or *felo de se*! The Bishop of OXFORD stated the case of a person notoriously living in deadly sin, over whom clergymen refused to perform the burial service, and they were threatened with action at law. Proceedings for excommunication are not always successful; but the Bishop of OXFORD thinks the Bishop has a power to shelter his clergymen from the infliction of punishment. "At all events," says Dr. WILBERFORCE, "he has a strong moral power; or if there be a doubt about the legality of the Bishop's power, the only remedy is to invest him with that power." It would be interesting to see a bill brought in "for the better prevention of the burial service in certain cases." Would it have effect in rendering the Church popular? Supposing the bill were carried, we should like to see the discriminating use which would be made of its enforcement. It is evident that the clergy in the diocese of Chichester and Oxford would be refusing to bury right and left; of course, to the great consolation of grieving relatives, and to the manifest extension of the Church! But we should like to know whether any clergy of either diocese, or even the Bishops thereof, would refuse to bury all persons "living in notorious sin" or excommunicate. Would they, for example, decline to perform the service over a nobleman belonging to a Unitarian creed? Would they object in the case of a Marquis living a 'fast' life; or make a stand against the performance of the service in the case of a Royal prince, who, according to the technical reading of the Church code, might be "living in notorious sin." Of course we know better; the act which the Bishop of OXFORD desires to obtain would be enforced against the poor, who already are excluded from church by the want of room, the supercilious classification of the richer orders, and the sense of their own degraded condition. In short, such an act would introduce into the graveyard, the same discrimination between the 'respectable' classes and the poor which is enforced in the church. The burial-ground would be limited to good society.

Another bishop, the Bishop of EXETER—and he does not stand alone—has been objecting to a wall in a cemetery, because it is no higher than eighteen inches, and not, therefore, he thinks, sufficient to divide the consecrated part from the Dissenting part. Evidently the Bishop of EXETER, who ought to know, thinks that there would be a practical difference between a wall of eighteen inches and one three feet high or more. A Dissenting soul might be capable, he thinks, of jumping over eighteen inches, but could be kept out by the height of a five-barred gate; souls being inferior to hunters in leaping, according to the episcopal estimate.

A greater danger threatens the Church councils, in the endeavour of some simple

reverend gentlemen to render them a *reality*. In the Convocation of York, the Reverend Canon TREVOR claimed the right to elect "our proctor;" but the Reverend Canon HARCOURT, sitting as Commissioner of the Archbishop, could only "receive a written document." He could not even hear it read—"I can hear nothing at present!" he cried.

"Before you prorogue, sir——" exclaimed Canon TREVOR.

"In the name of God, Amen!" rejoined the Commissioner. "We WILLIAM VERNON HARCOURT, &c."

The Rev. Canon TREVOR—"Now, sir, I claim to be allowed to elect a proctor."

The Commissioner—"You must not interrupt me. We prorogue this synod or convocation to Tuesday, the 31st of March; and we continue and prorogue the same——"

The Rev. Canon TREVOR—"I claim my right to——"

The Commissioner—"To that day, or any other day, if occasion should require."

The Commissioner had beaten the Canon. Convocation is a delusion, a mockery, and a snare. We know of no attitude in which the Commissioner ought to sit, save one which may be seen in the Egyptian hieroglyphics. It is also described by RABELAIS. It consists of putting the thumb to the tip of the nose and extending the whole of the fingers. The historical painter who portrays that scene in Convocation will depict the Commissioner thus extending the hand of fellowship to the Canon.

If we look into the sections of the Church, the picture is not much better. The gentlemen in black are cutting each other up, root and branch. The beneficed clergy in the diocese of Oxford met in St. Mary's Church to elect a Proctor in the Lower House of Convocation. It is evidently an election which should be free; and clearly, the Bishop, a member of the Upper House, ought not to preside. It is as bad, said the Reverend THOMAS CURME, Vicar of Sandford and Domestic Chaplain to the Duke of MARLBOROUGH, as if a Peer sat to preside over the election of a member of the House of Commons. Mr. CURME, therefore, objected; but the Bishop said that no one could interrupt the meeting until the Synod was formally opened; that is, until the Chairman was firmly established. Mr. CURME still protested; on which the Bishop brought forward a very strong argument; he *sent for a policeman!* The peremptory Chairman, thus protected, opened the Synod, and declared himself "willing to hear any beneficed clergyman who wished to address the meeting." Mr. CURME wished to hand in his respectful protest. "But," said the Bishop, "you cannot protest at this stage of the proceedings; it must be at the close;" that is, we presume, when the Bishop and the clergy had broken up and departed. It seems that the conscientious clergy must stand in terror of the police. If they attempt, on the one side, to introduce reality, some Bishop or Commissioner will introduce the police. A clergyman who vindicates freedom of election is placed on a footing with the ticket-of-leave men; and it is the superior clergy who set up this *régime!*

We do not wonder that there is no 'Church extension' under these circumstances. The Church, for all its wealth, confesses its own beggarly incapacity to carry out self-extension. It seems capable only of self-extinction. In the parish of Stepney there are 80,000 persons, and in the whole parish there is church accommodation for 6000. Besides, the poor are kept away, as we have already said, by shame at their own poverty-stricken garb, and at the super-

cilious treatment which they receive. Is the Bishop able to open the church to them? He has no such power. He contrasts himself with many of his brother clergy, by a really generous act, when, in connexion with a local incumbent, he opens a poor school to be used as a place of worship, in which the poor Christians may not be ashamed of their poor dress.

The real Church, it seems, even in our own day, is to be found amongst publicans and sinners, in stables and catacombs. As to the High Church, its clergy are kept in order by police, and its denizens are an offence to the very burial-ground.

THE MINISTRY—GLADSTONE—DISRAELI.

MR. GLADSTONE'S disposition to coalesce with Mr. DISRAELI is only too clear. It may be that the new compact does not extend beyond the question of the estimates, the great battle-ground of the session; Mr. GLADSTONE is obviously and naturally eager to revive the principles of his own settlement, and seems to have been enticed by the adroit declarations of the Tory leader. But we put it seriously to him and to his friends, whether he will not lose in prestige and in position by consenting to any actual alliance with the DISRAELI connexion. Are his motives their motives? Is their morality his? Would he become the member of such an Administration as that which Lord DERBY introduced to the QUEEN at Windsor, and which dragged itself through a general election more corrupt than any that had taken place for thirty years? Constitutional Government would, indeed, appear under an eccentric aspect, with the Byzantine subtlety, the refining and mystifying intellect of Mr. GLADSTONE in combination with the Asian mystery of his new-found friend. Such a political union, it must be evident, could not be the offspring of public spirit; it bears, at least, the appearance of intrigue; it would be characteristic on the part of Mr. DISRAELI; but on the part of Mr. GLADSTONE it would be something more than a paradox. He might remember his own definition of Tory finance on a former occasion; and now that he hears Toryism exclaiming against the immorality of Lord PALMERSTON'S Government, its habit of blustering to the weak, its systematic complicity with the powerful, its half-way meddling and insincere professions of Liberal sympathy, he might with great propriety ask himself what have the Tories done, since 1846, but display incompetence when in office, and malignity when in opposition? The promises of the *Quarterly* are old cards turned up again. Lord DERBY played and lost with the same suit in 1852, when Mr. GLADSTONE derided Mr. DISRAELI'S Budget as a shopman's scheme, and suppressed with merciless ridicule his pretensions as a finance Minister. What were Mr. DISRAELI'S criticisms on Mr. GLADSTONE in 1853, when the gall of the Coalition still rankled in the Tory mind? Not of a character to induce the expectation that we should see these two ex-Chancellors of the Exchequer, in 1857, exchanging flatteries across the floor of the House of Commons, and combining to defeat a nominally Liberal Government. We are not concerned to solicit sympathy for Lord PALMERSTON. His liberalism, as we have repeatedly said, is, in our international relations at least, more damaging to the cause of freedom than all the prejudices that encumber the Tory benches. But we had hoped to see the political heirs of Sir ROBERT PEELE giving their aid, as the great Minister would have given his, to the construction of the Liberal party upon a basis more honourable than that of Whig egotism and in-

sincerity, broader and more enduring than that of Whig survivorship.

Tory adventurers and Conservative doctrinaires are not a hopeful confraternity.

THE GHOST OF ALICE LEROY.

WHEN the case of ALICE LEROY was exposed, the whole public was suddenly made aware of the proceedings of a Madame DENIS, a Frenchwoman, who imported girls from France and Belgium, and who rendered herself liable to a criminal prosecution. In the story of the time an 'old marquis' figured. There was an old nobleman who is understood not to have been a marquis, and it now turns out that there is a marquis who is not old. The case was again brought before the Court of Queen's Bench on Wednesday. Two stories were told in court, and we must carefully discriminate between them.

A man named HARRISON, said to have been a partner of one DENIS, seems to have been either the husband, or some other connexion of Madame DENIS. This person represents himself as a wine merchant. He avows to have frequented the house, now notorious, No. 3, Denbigh-terrace, Pimlico, and he says that to that house came various noblemen—the Marquis of BATH, Lord SOMERTON, Lord BATEMAN, and others; the Duke of CAMBRIDGE being of the number. These persons, in 1852, gave him orders for wine, for it seems he did not serve Madame DENIS, but professed to be the creditor of the individual visitors at the house. He also alleged that he had conveyed letters to various ladies, some apparently in Paris, for the Marquis of BATH, who had paid him 10% at a time. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE was subpoenaed as a witness, and was in court. At first HARRISON swore to the identity of the Duke; afterwards he said that a gentleman came to the house who was called "CAMBRIDGE." He came there as a friend of Lord BATEMAN. The Duke said to Madame DENIS, "My name is CAMBRIDGE!" and when Lord BATEMAN was present, he said to the person in question, "Hallo, CAMBRIDGE!" Subsequently, however, HARRISON thought he would not swear it was the Duke of CAMBRIDGE; he would only swear that the person was *like* the Duke, and was *called* CAMBRIDGE. Again, he swore to the persons of Lord SOMERTON and Lord BATEMAN, both of whom have denied the story; and actions against them as debtors to HARRISON have been withdrawn. The Marquis of BATH denies the debt for wine. He admits having paid HARRISON 5% on one occasion, and probably a sovereign on others, but it was as a gift. These discrepancies in the evidence of HARRISON and of the persons whom he charged as his debtors, created, of course, a strong feeling in court. The jury gave a verdict for Lord BATH; the Chief Justice declared the claim to have been "a most unfounded and infamous demand." The whole claim took the shape of an attempt to extort money under fear of exposure—a most base and cowardly mode of attack; and the Marquis of BATH obtained some credit for resistance. That is one story.

We now come to the story which is not contradicted. It is told by the Marquis of BATH himself. He came of age on the 1st of March, 1852. "I was induced," he says, "to visit the house of Madame DENIS." He owed nothing to HARRISON. "I have always paid for the wine, if not at the time, on my second visit." "I used to give Madame DENIS presents occasionally, and I understood they covered everything." The Marquis "never sent HARRISON with letters to any place, but Madame DENIS sent letters to me to the different clubs, and no doubt HAR-

RISON carried them." When he gave the 5l. it was because HARRISON produced two or three letters which Lord BATH had written to Madame DENIS. "I never," said the Marquis, "drank much wine at Denbigh-terrace: there may have been three bottles placed on the table—one of port, one of sherry, and one of champagne; and I paid for all. There were no supper parties. I merely ordered some wine, some little supper, and maybe, two or three women at the utmost have partaken of it. I should think Madame DENIS took some of it." Lord BATH did not meet noblemen and gentlemen of rank and position at the house. "I may have accidentally met as much as one; I met him on the stairs as I entered. And on another occasion I took a friend with me in the afternoon to show him the house." That is the second story.

We entirely abstain from comment on the case. We have limited ourselves to repeating just what was told in the court. Every line above is compilation, nothing more. Far be it from us to condemn the Marquis of BATH. We say that the peculiarity in his case is, not that he should visit a Madame DENIS, but that he should be found out. If he is to be condemned, it is for falling in with the manners and customs of the country—of the class to which he belongs. The peculiarity in this case is, that such occurrences should be found out contemporaneously. They are seldom completely related until many years after the occurrence. There has been lately a severe raid by the police upon houses not unlike that of Madame DENIS. We will observe, however, that Madame DENIS would never have come to England, and would not have found the means of stopping here for a single week, if she had not been visited by Marquises, old and young, and if there had not been at least the chance of an encounter once or twice upon the stairs. The case is only one of a hundred such, which establish our position, that, underneath the surface, the manners and customs of the English people are different from the manners and customs which they profess, and which, when they discuss subjects of morals, they ingenuously pretend not to know.

The result of the case of HARRISON *versus* the Marquis of BATH, at all events establishes one important principle—that men like HARRISON will find great difficulty in recovering any claim at law. Such claims, therefore, must remain what are called debts of honour—just the class which the Bankruptcy Court considers to be most certain of recovery.

A VOICE FROM BENGAL.

THE proposed amalgamation of the Supreme and Sudder Courts of Calcutta, to which we had occasion to allude in the *Leader* some months ago, appears to be regarded with considerable dissatisfaction and distrust by the European residents in the lower provinces of Bengal. So deeply rooted, indeed, are their objections to the contemplated innovation, that Mr. W. THOROLD, a distinguished member of the Calcutta Bar, has been deputed to this country, charged with a petition to the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled. The petitioners complain that in the Company's service neither magistrates nor judges are qualified for the judicial office, either by a professional education, or by practice at the Bar. The civil administration of Bengal is confided to two classes of public servants, the Covenanted and the Uncovenanted. The former, within a few months after their arrival in the country, are entrusted with duties of great significance, and within a very few years are often called upon to

administer justice in districts comprising from six to eight thousand square miles, and containing a litigious population of, perhaps, a million of inhabitants. The functions of the Covenanted servants are twofold, judicial and fiscal, and the same officer may be employed in both departments at the same time. At a first glance it may seem to English eyes a strange confusion of ideas to select a magistrate from the Customs and Excise, or to choose a collector from the bench of magistrates. But in India there is one great advantage to be derived from such a practice. It is in the revenue department that the most familiar knowledge is acquired of the manners, customs, social institutions, and prejudices of the natives. At the same time, it must be admitted that serious inconvenience often arises from the promotion of a zealous revenue officer to some high post in the judicial department, or of an able magistrate to some responsible charge in the receipt of custom. Nevertheless, the system has been found, practically, to answer exceedingly well, so far as the natives are concerned. But the question now arises as to its applicability to the European community. The petitioners insist that they can have no confidence in the decision of magistrates and judges imperfectly acquainted with law and devoid of legal experience. And they object in still stronger terms to being placed at the mercy of the Uncovenanted servants of the East India Company, who are, for the most part, Natives, or Eurasians, or Europeans of an inferior grade, intellectually and socially. But even if the local and lower courts should be reorganized and improved, they maintain that the existence of the Supreme Court, as at present constituted, would be indispensable for the security of their lives and property; nor, indeed, does it appear that its preservation is at all incompatible with the reform of the Company's courts.

"The abolition of the Supreme Court," says the Secretary to the Indigo Planters' Association, "is proposed under the name of an Amalgamation, and the benefit to be gained is the introduction of the three Supreme Court Judges to the Sudder Court, and their incorporation with the East India Company's Judges in that Chief Court of Appeal. It is obvious that these three professional judges are wanted for their forensic training and knowledge of English law and general knowledge of practical jurisprudence. But the Supreme Court may be preserved, and the object alluded to obtained, only by doubling the number of the judges of that court, and establishing a *rota* among them to sit in the Court of Appeal, or by some other slight modification of this plan. The Supreme Court Bar and different Bars—English, Scotch, and Irish—of the United Kingdom, would be amply sufficient to supply the demand."

Of the amplitude of the supply we have no doubt; it is of greater moment to determine the expediency of maintaining a multiform code and distinct, sometimes antagonistic courts, or having throughout the length and breadth of the land one code and one system of administration. It is, of course, evident that even in an otherwise uniform code there must be some variety of action allowed in particular cases. For instance, a plurality of wives is regarded by Mahomedans as not even an inconvenience, while the less impassioned, or more sarcastic Christian, deems it a crime to indulge in a second wife until he has disposed of the first. The laws of inheritance, too, vary according to the three pervading forms of religion; but these are matters of detail and capable of special provision, and by no means sufficient to counterbalance the advantages of simple and impartial justice. Besides, the improvement of the lower courts will naturally mitigate the labours of the High Court of Judicature. In a former article we briefly stated the constitution of that court and its mode of operation, and have since seen no reason to modify the favourable opinion we then expressed. It

has seemed otherwise, however, to those who are likely to be most affected by the projected changes,—the European community of Calcutta and the adjacent districts being described as greatly agitated and excited at the prospect of being subjected to the new code, administered by the Company's servants. Under the influence of this excitement they have engaged the eminent professional knowledge and ability of one of the foremost members of the Calcutta Bar, and have entrusted to him the following mission:—

"To secure a parliamentary opposition to the amalgamation of the Supreme and Sudder Courts in the manner proposed by the Law Commissioners in England;

"To preserve with an unimpaired jurisdiction the Supreme Court as a Court of English Law, and with a distinct and separate existence, as it has been for the last eighty years and upwards, which is necessary for the security of British and Christian inhabitants, and the commerce and various enterprises in which they are concerned;

"To preserve trial by jury of Christian inhabitants, for the British and Christian inhabitants, and to preserve their exemption from the criminal jurisdiction of the Mofussil courts, as at present, in cases involving the graver punishments, until those courts have qualified judges;

"Without prejudice, however, to any plans of reform for bringing the criminal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court nearer the homes of the Mofussil people;

"To promote the establishment of English law as administered in the Supreme Court as the *lex loci* of India, for all classes of persons and all kinds of interests not governed by a special law, like the Hindu and Mahomedan law; and

"To promote the prayers and declared principles of the Petitions recently sent home from the Indigo Planters' Association and European community generally."

It is certain that they could not have selected a more zealous champion of their supposed interests, but it is not at all equally certain that there are any just grounds for their anxiety and horror.

WHERE SHALL WE GET OUR COTTON?

WHAT have our manufacturers been thinking of since it was announced to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce that the supply of cotton in the warehouses of the kingdom is rapidly failing? The question comes with great force from the Midland counties. But are any practical steps being taken to cultivate the cotton of India? Is Indian cotton used largely in Manchester fabrics? If not, why? The calculation has been made, and not been disputed, that India could supply cotton equal in staple to that of America, and twenty-five per cent. cheaper. Yet our Indian staple remains inferior, our cotton exports from the East cannot compete in the European markets with those of America; roads are few, taxes high; machinery is scarce, agriculture unprogressive. We must not be understood, of course, to imply that the cotton-growing capabilities of our Oriental possessions have been altogether neglected. A regular trade in that product, the raw material of our most important branch of industry, has been established between the districts of Broach and Surat and England. These territories lie along the sea-coast, the cotton lands being in no case more than twenty miles from water-carriage to Bombay, where the shipments are made; but the produce is not of a high quality owing to the small demand, and the consequent limitation of price. A larger demand and higher prices would act naturally as encouragements to native agriculture.

The lowest average price of American cotton is threepence-halfpenny per pound,—sufficient to act as a powerful stimulus to its cultivation in India. Future scales of prices would, of course, depend on the assessments, the means of carriage, the introduction of machinery, the education of the husbandmen; but there can be little doubt that the

wretched indigenous cotton of Hindostan, as now yielded by badly cultivated fields, might in a short time be thrown into commerce in formidable rivalry with the best crops of America. It has been clearly shown, however, that reduced assessments are not in themselves sufficient to accelerate and extend the supply. They have rather tended, as in the Deccan, to encourage a slovenly system of agriculture, and to glut the market with low-priced grains. Rentals and taxation will fall lightly on the natives when their lands increase in value, when the fifty per cent. of available soil, now lying waste, is brought under the plough; but it is worse than useless to attempt the development of a cotton-trade with our Oriental ports until adequate machinery and convenient roads and canals have been constructed to improve the native system of agriculture, and to facilitate inland transit. Above all, superior qualities of cotton must be introduced. The indigenous cotton has a short, weak, and generally impoverished staple. On this subject a well-informed and suggestive writer remarks:—

"The American cottons grown in India are larger yielders than the indigenous cottons, and give a greater proportion of wool to seed; and hence it follows, that were even the prices of indigenous and exotic cottons equal, it would be more profitable to grow exotic than indigenous in India. That there is but a limited demand for ordinary Indian cottons in the English markets, and that were one million bales imported (of common Indian cotton) it would have no sale at all, its staple being inferior."

We may add that when the British Government sold a quantity of Dharwar New Orleans seed cotton and the best native Khandesh, both cleaned, prepared, and saw-ginned for the English market by Government servants, that although the native cotton sold in Bombay at fifteen or twenty per cent. higher than the Dharwar New Orleans seed, in consequence of the native cotton being extravagantly lauded by its advocates, its purchasers lost fifty per cent. on it when it got to Manchester, the Khandesh best native selling there for 3½d., the Dharwar New Orleans seed at 6½d. per lb.

Successive experiments have proved that New Orleans and exotic cottons can be raised by ryots, as ordinary crops. What then remains to be done? Apathy and indolence are charged upon the natives of India; but indolence and apathy seem to prevail elsewhere. Perhaps it will not be until they have only a month's supply of cotton in their warehouses that our manufacturers will remember the half-cultivated fields of a vast empire in the East, open to their enterprise, and capable of supplying their whole demand.

A UNITED SERVICE AMENITY.

THE Duke of CAMBRIDGE is a very popular Commander-in-Chief. He deserves his popularity. He has already done good work, and promises, to all appearance sincerely, to do more. But he was very unpopular at the United Service Institution last Wednesday. He had convened a meeting of officers to consider the most appropriate means of erecting a public memorial of Lord HARDINGE. There was a crowded meeting, but no Duke of CAMBRIDGE. The gallant gentlemen assembled were kept two hours in expectation, with nothing to do but to look at Sir WILLIAM FENWICK WILLIAMS. Ultimately the crowd in the Club-room dispersed in a very orderly manner, as United Service crowds generally do; but the heroic bosoms beat with a little irritation caused by "the contemptuous forgetfulness" with which his Royal Highness had treated them. Surely it was worth while to send a messenger with

the information that his Royal Highness would be unable to attend. But no:—for two hours the originator of the meeting was expected, and he never came.

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

CONVICT-CONVERTS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—A disgraceful immorality is constantly exhibited whenever a convict is hanged. I do not now refer to the drunkenness and theft amongst an idle crowd, but to something worse than this, because those who are guilty are religious men, or, at any rate, pretend to be so. No sooner is it known with certainty that a man has murdered a couple of children or a wife, or ended his career as professional villain by beating in a man's skull with a life-preserver, than he becomes an object of special anxiety to the Church. All her artillery is brought to bear upon him. He is regularly besieged night and day by a storm of addresses, exhortations, Scripture readings, and prayers, and then, after a time, in nine cases out of ten we are told that the efforts of the worthy clergyman "had a most beneficial effect" upon the wretch; that he was observed to be frequently perusing his Bible or sedulously repeating hymns. Occasionally, as was the case with a man just executed for cutting the throat of the woman with whom he had cohabited, the murderer will shake hands with and kiss his attendants, hoping to meet them in heaven. We will not stop to inquire why all this attention should be shown to such a reprobate when thousands more hopeful than he are perishing bodily and spiritually every day. Perhaps, though, the care may not be genuine. Perhaps the poor felon is delivered over to the parson before execution much in the same way as his body is sometimes delivered over to the doctor afterwards, and for the same reason, because subjects on which to operate and refresh one's skill are scarce. However, this we do not care to investigate. We merely ask, is it not a monstrous thing that it should be publicly preached in this manner, that by some ecclesiastical hocus-pocus or legerdemain all the laws of nature can be controverted, that by some religious juggler a devil can be transformed into a saint, and in a 'hey, presto!' whisked out of hell into heaven? The magic is complete. We see the prison-gates close on the fiend—and a darkened, miserable, sin-steeped fiend he is, too—and then, in a trice, they open again, and, by a most Wizard-of-the-North-like transformation, we are presented with a humble, pardoned angel, with his seraph wings almost budding. We simple people are utterly at a loss. We know that it takes us months, and sometimes tedious years, to save ourselves from a single crime. We know full well what every step which we take heavenward costs, and that, poor fools, we are ready to weep with delight when, after long toil, we have climbed near to those "shining table-lands to which our God Himself is Sun and Moon." What must be our astonishment, then, to see heaven taken at a flying leap; to discover that by some covenant a whole life of vice can be effaced by the momentary assent of the understanding to a few propositions. Comforting truth this, for a besotted crowd to know that a twisted, useless career can be unravelled and re-woven in an hour or two before death! And the evil does not end here. Hypocrisy and cant, like a Nebuchadnezzar image, are openly set up on the scaffold and paraded before the multitude. The people know it is all a sham, and when an honest man attempts to teach them afterwards sincerity and truth, he finds that the ground has been cut away from under his feet by those who have publicly executed these noble qualities along with the murderer. People learn to laugh at virtue, telling you that it is all cant, and that the clergyman talks about all that. Who can tell how much of the infidelity of the masses has been caused by the infidelity of religious men? It would be far better to dispense with the services of the clergyman and all these religious theatricals. We should then in effect be proclaiming the great doctrine that crime renders a man such a slave, that nothing we can do in a fortnight or month can have any influence on his character. We should not, then, rob the execution of half its horror by the softening thought that most likely repentance and the mediation of Christ have procured salvation. Neither would imposture be branded with the Church's approval, nor would the mob below have an additional opportunity for fortifying itself in the belief that of all humbugs in the world religion is

the biggest. The reason why we do not like to act in this way is that we have a theory upon eternal punishments, which divides the future world by an impassable partition into two great compartments, one of which is filled with the lost and the other with the saved. Now, people very naturally revolt from the thought of burning a man for ever. It is all very well to condemn men to perdition by thousands and millions, as is done in the pulpit every Sunday. That is easy enough. We are condemning imaginary thousands and millions, and do not realize what we are doing. But when the Rev. A. has to stand face to face with the man B., he naturally shudders more at sending that one poor flesh and blood felon to hell than he does at sending thither all those infidels and atheists over whose awful fate he grows so eloquent every Sabbath. What, then, is to be done? The theory must be saved, and the human instinct saved, too; and so we can do nothing but declare both to be true. There is a hell, but the convict is not going there. The mediation of Christ, &c. &c. Now if we are content to say that the Great Future is in darkness except so far as present analogies throw a dim light forward upon it; if we say that the only thing we know is that crime ruins here, whatever it may do hereafter, we shall then feel that we are not launching the murderer into a sea of fire, but into the unknown world; we shall be silently saying that he is too bad for us to mend, and so we commit him to his Maker. This would be sincerity and true religion just on the occasion when it is most wanted.

Yours truly, W. H. W.

THE MOON'S ROTATION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Mr. William Kenward, for I will not stoop to imitate his discourtesy, would never have been troubled with any letter from me, had he in his first letter to Mr. Best been less discourteous and more argumentative. His attempt to bring in question the "mental state" of Mr. Best, and say that he, Mr. Best, would find the "straw to present always the same end to his nose," was a very poor substitute for a series of geometrical proofs as an answer to those of Mr. Best. Is Mr. William Kenward still so obtuse as not to perceive the difference between *true axial motion*, where the centre of that motion is within the revolving body, and that species of revolution so lucidly proved by him in his experiment of the bason, &c. Is he so wedded to the old dogma as to ignore all that has been said relevantly on the other side of the question. In all scientific questions, ought not the establishing of truth to be paramount to that of a victory? As to whether I am in a "quagmire" in asking the real question at issue, I appeal not to Mr. Kenward, but to the reading public. I perceive that he has glided into the same error as Lieut. Morrison, in confounding velocity with axial rotation. In the name of common sense, what two things can be more dissimilar? Is it not possible for a shot propelled by gunpowder from the cannon's mouth to progress without revolving? And is there anything very revolting to our understanding to suppose that the moon revolves round the earth without turning on an axis within herself, somewhat like a suspended ball swung round the hand, the swung ball having no *true axial motion within itself*. Yet, to an observer, at a right angle to the motion, the ball makes similar revolutions to those made by the "bason" in Mr. Kenward's experiment. Some people seem so affected with the idea of the immense velocity of the earth through space, it being 68,000 miles an hour, that they appear bewildered, and ready to imagine any tortuosity of movement.

No rational evidence has yet been advanced by the pro-axial-rotatory theorists to account satisfactorily for the moon at all times presenting the same face to the earth.

Yours respectfully,
JOHN TAYLOR.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES, IN AUSTRALIA.—The number of births registered in the colony during the last ten years—viz., from 1846 to 1855 inclusive—was 40,590 males, 39,432 females. The proportions of the respective sexes in each 10,000 births were, in ten years, 5072 males, 4928 females. The deaths registered during the same period numbered 18,429 males, 12,368 females. The average mortality of males during 1851 to 1855 was 1 to 61; that of females 1 to 66. The net gain to the population by the excess of births over deaths was:—

	1846-50.	1851-55.	Total.
Births	35,614	44,408	80,022
Deaths	11,883	18,914	30,797

Excess of births ... 23,731 ... 25,494 ... 49,225
The number of marriages returned from 1846 to 1850 were 7814; during the next five years they numbered 12,185, being an increase of 4371, or 56 per cent. The number of births, deaths, and marriages in the colony last year averaged daily—births, 28; deaths, 11; marriages, 8.—*Sydney Herald*.

* "Can India grow Cotton of a sufficiently good Quality to compete with the Produce of the United States?" (Woodfall and Son.)

Literature.

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

NATURAL History is gaining more and more favour with the general public, and as an indication of this increasing favour we observe periodical writers more frequently choosing Natural History topics. In the *Quarterly* there are three articles on this many-branching subject—one on "Ferns," one on "Salmon," and one on "Rats"—all interesting; the last is unusually so, and will make even the gentle reader think of Rats with something less of horror, and more of sympathy than heretofore. Many of the details are very amusing; e. g.:

When rats have once found their way into a ship they are secure as long as the cargo is on board, provided they can command the great necessary—water. If this is well guarded, they will resort to extraordinary expedients to procure it. In a rainy night they will come on deck to drink, and will even ascend the rigging to sip the moisture which lies in the folds of the sails. When reduced to extremities they will attack the spirit-casks and get so drunk that they are unable to walk home. The land-rat will, in like manner, gnaw the metal tubes which in public-houses lead from the spirit-store to the tap, and is as convivial on these occasions as his nautical relation. The entire race have a quick ear for running liquid, and they constantly eat into leaden pipes, and much to their astonishment receive a douche-bath in consequence.

Nor is the rat without a touch of Christian feeling, as a Sussex clergyman testifies in the following:—

Walking out in some meadows one evening, he observed a great number of rats migrating from one place to another. He stood perfectly still, and the whole assemblage passed close to him. His astonishment, however, was great when he saw amongst the number an old blind rat, which held a piece of stick at one end in its mouth, while another had hold of the other end of it, and thus conducted its blind companion. A kindred circumstance was witnessed in 1757 by Mr. Purdew, a surgeon's mate on board the *Lancaster*. Lying awake one evening in his berth, he saw a rat enter, look cautiously round, and retire. He soon returned leading a second rat, who appeared to be blind, by the ear. A third rat joined them shortly afterwards, and assisted the original conductor in picking up fragments of biscuit, and placing them before their infirm parent, as the blind old patriarch was supposed to be.

Then, as to sagacity, what think you of this?—

Incredible as the story may appear of their removing hens' eggs by one fellow lying on his back and grasping tightly his ovoid burden with his fore paws, whilst his comrades drag him away by the tail, we have no reason to disbelieve it, knowing as we do that they will carry eggs from the bottom to the top of a house, lifting them from stair to stair, the first rat pushing them up on its hind and the second lifting them with its fore legs. They will extract the cotton from a flask of Florence oil, dipping in their long tails, and repeating the manoeuvre until they have consumed every drop. We have found lumps of sugar in deep drawers at a distance of thirty feet from the place where the petty larceny was committed; and a friend saw a rat mount a table on which a drum of figs was placed, and straightway tip it over, scattering its contents on the floor beneath, where a score of his expectant brethren sat watching for the windfall.

But the writer is guilty of a strange oversight when he adds that the rat's "instinct is no less shown in the selection of suitable food." There is nothing in the selection of food more intelligent than in the union of an acid with a base.

Rats are worth three shillings a dozen for "sporting purposes;" consequently rat-catching is a branch of human industry:—

The underground city of sewers becomes one vast hunting ground, in which men regularly gain a livelihood by capturing them. Before entering the subterranean world the associates generally plan what routes they will take, and at what point they will meet, possibly with the idea of driving their prey towards a central spot. They go in couples, each man carrying a lighted candle with a tin reflector, a bag, a sieve, and a spade; the spade and sieve being used for examining any deposit which promises to contain some article of value. The moment the rat sees the light he runs along the sides of the drain just above the line of the sewage water; the men follow, and speedily overtake the winded animal, which no sooner finds his pursuers gaining upon him than he sets up a shrill squeak, in the midst of which he is seized with the bare hand behind the ears, and deposited in the bag. In this manner a dozen will sometimes be captured in as many minutes. When driven to bay at the end of a blind sewer, they will often fly at the boots of their pursuers in the most determined manner.

In Paris there is an annual hunt of the rats:—

We are informed that they have established a company in Paris, upon the Hudson's Bay principle, to buy up all the rats of the country for the sake of their skin. The soft nap of the fur when dressed is of the most beautiful texture, far exceeding in delicacy that of the beaver, and the haters consequently use it as a substitute. The hide is employed to make the thumbs of the best gloves, the elasticity and closeness of its texture rendering it preferable to kid.

We must not draw further from this amusing paper, which no reader should pass over in scorn. He may turn from it, if he please, to the more dignified literature of "Homer and his Successors in Epic Poetry;" to the gossip of county history in the article on "Northamptonshire;" to biography in that on "Sir Charles Napier," or to politics in the closing article; but after all the "Rats" will probably remain longest in his mind.

A lively writer in *Blackwood* deplores in his "Letters from a Lighthouse" the dulness of our periodical literature, contrasting it with the piquancy and stirring interest of the literature formerly contributed to Reviews and Magazines:—

I protest to you, Ebony, that I have a very great regard in the abstract for the ancients, and am willing to take (or affect) as much interest in their quondam doings as can possibly be expected from a gentleman whose fortune it was to be born some two thousand years or so after their time; but is it reasonable to expect me to wade through some thirty or forty mortal pages devoted to the subject of the Peloponnesian war? I like the Orientals, who, after all, have some sound notions on the subjects of coffee and tobacco; but why should I be solicited to bother my brains with criticisms upon the Coptic grammar? My chief objection to Egypt is its fleas; but,

at a pinch—or rather in spite of innumerable pinches—I might bring myself to submit even to that nuisance, and enjoy in comparative tranquillity the really salubrious air of the heritage of the Pharaohs, provided I were not perpetually pestered by jabbering about hieroglyphs, and monoliths, and Orus, and Osiris, and the beetles, and the ibis, and the leeks, and the crocodiles, and Necho, and Psammis, and Rhameses (who was no relation of the Dalhousies), and other myths, reptiles, vegetables, and divinities, who at one time molested the Delta.

Again:—

Next comes an ecclesiastical monomaniac, maundering—O me—about the Council Chalcedon! I thought we really had done with councils. Most of us of the Protestant way of thinking, are well pleased to be rid, once and for ever, of a controversy which was understood to have been settled at the Reformation; and we are entitled to object to its revival. So about Italian history. We don't want to hear about Duke Sforza this, or Count Paolo that;—the record of their crimes, intrigues, murders, rapes, and adulteries ought to have no manner of interest, and really has none, except to a few antiquarians with diseased appetites;—and if deeds of this kind are worthy of promulgation at this time of day, I am serious in thinking that we do injustice to such native heroes as Turpin and Abershaw, by giving the foreigners a decided quarterly preference. Next I observe that an awful deal of drivel is current about Niebuhr and the Romans.

"Ticket-of-Leave Men" are twice brought forward in this number of *Blackwood*—once too often, surely? There is humour as well as good counsel in the following suggestion:—

Chains, bolts, and locks are of little use, except to make a noise. Bells are troublesome for the servants to put up, and give false alarms in windy nights. I propose three things. A little dog, a big dog, and a revolver. The little dog to wake the big one, who sleeps soundly, especially after dinner, and the big dog to wake the many-mouthed barker, and assist in a scuffle, if a scuffle ensues. As a further precaution, I would suggest some rather unintelligible notice, such as "Burglars decimated on these premises," large enough to be read by moonlight; if in Runie characters, so much the better, for crime is naturally superstitious.

Imagine Ticket-of-Leave spelling out the threat of "decimation," and puzzling himself with its vague horrors!

The second part of "Scenes of Clerical Life" closes the story of the "sad fortunes of the Rev. Amos Barton," and closes it with a pathos so exquisite that we do not remember anything in fiction more touching or more lifelike. There is a capital scene of half a dozen parsons dining together, a scene lambent with good-humoured satire; and the 'flare-up' of the rebellious maid-servant against the intrusive Countess is also humorously written; but nothing in the story approaches the quiet truth and beauty of Milly's death, and the desolation which it leaves behind.

Mr. FROUDE, in an admirable article in *Fraser*, "Gleanings from the Record Office," expresses the wonder he has felt, in reading modern histories, at the facility with which men will fill in the chasms of their information with conjecture; will guess at the motives which have prompted actions; and will pass their censures, as if all secrets of the past lay out on an open scroll before them. Indeed, the facility of historical verdicts is only surpassed by the facility of journalist divinations into the 'intentions' of foreign statesmen. *In vacuo* movement is easy. Strange also the harshness of our historical verdicts:—

There are many reasons for this harsh method of judging. We must decide of men by what we know, and it is easier to know faults than to know virtues. Faults are specific, easily described, easily appreciated, easily remembered. And again, there is, or may be, hypocrisy in virtue; but no one pretends to vice who is not vicious. The bad things which can be proved of a man we know to be genuine. He was a spend-thrift, he was an adulterer, he gambled, he fought a duel. These are blots positive, unless untrue, and when uncorrected tinge the whole character.

Moreover:—

All men feel a necessity of being on some terms with their conscience, at their own expense, or at another's. If they cannot part with their faults, they will at least call them by their right name when they meet with such faults elsewhere.

How inaccurate our judgments may be is well suggested in the following:—

Historians are fond of recording the supposed sufferings of the poor in the days of serfdom and villanage; yet the records of the strikes of the last ten years, when told by the sufferers, contain pictures no less fertile in tragedy. We speak of famines and plagues under the Tudors and Stuarts; but the Irish famine, and the Irish plague of 1847, the last page of such horrors which has yet been turned over, is the most horrible of all. We can conceive a description of England during the year which has just closed over us, true in all its details, containing no one statement which can be challenged, no single exaggeration which can be proved. And this description, if given without the correcting traits, shall make ages to come marvel why the Cities of the Plain were destroyed, and England was allowed to survive. The frauds of trusted men, high in power and high in supposed religion; the wholesale poisonings; the robberies; the adulteration of food—nay, of almost everything exposed for sale—the cruel usage of women—children murdered for the burial fees—life and property insecure in open day in the open streets—splendour such as the world never saw before upon earth, with vice and squalor crouching under its walls—let all this be written down by an enemy, or let it be ascertained hereafter by the investigation of a posterity which desires to judge us as we generally have judged our forefathers, and few years will show darker in the English annals than the year which has so lately closed behind us. Yet we know, in the honesty of our hearts, how unjust such a picture would be.

In the same Magazine, SWEDENBORG is made the subject of an enthusiastic article by a writer who declares, in all the emphasis of italics, that SWEDENBORG is the greatest psychological observer that the world has yet produced perhaps so; but the writer has, strangely enough, refrained from citing even one specimen of this psychological sagacity, although he cites several specimens of his pretended clairvoyance.

"The Three Numbers" is a translation from the French, not acknowledged, but betrayed by its badness as a translation. "Little Lessons for Little Poets" is an admirable and well-timed criticism of the main defects in the volumes of verse which claim the rank of poetry. We must find room for the following remarks on criticism:—

The institution might be of great service to literature and art; even now, impaired as its utility is by the action of personal regards and literary partisanship, it is of service in maintaining a higher acknowledged standard of taste and morals, than would be maintained without it by the simple action of unaided public opinion; and so far as it does this service it is by being administered in a strictly judicial spirit. And as our national experience of the value of judicial integrity and strict impartiality has developed among us such a regard for these qualities, that it would surprise us to hear of a man being offended with a judge for giving a decision against him, so in time the same feeling might be expected to grow up about literary criticisms: and, personal regards once habitually banished from the literary judgment seat, we should find poets and painters no more offended with the individuals who pronounced unfavourable judgments on their works, than in their civic capacity they would be angry with the judge who found the law opposed to their claims, and gave judgment against them. If we valued as we ought the influence of literature and art upon the nation, if we remembered that bad books displace good ones, for a time at least; that faculties uselessly exercised on literary employment might do the State good service if properly suited with occupation; that the standard of excellence is lowered by the toleration and laudation bestowed upon bad books and stupid writers,—we should, perhaps, begin to see that a strict judicial temper of criticism was no unimportant element in the vigorous and sound mental health of the nation, and should look upon the critic who ignorantly or wilfully misplaced his praise and blame, as we do upon the judge who, from ignorance of the law or corrupt intention, perverts justice and undermines the bulwarks of social order and prosperity.

LIFE OF MICHAEL ANGELO.

The Life of Michael Angelo Buonarroti; with Translations of many of his Poems and Letters. Also, Memoirs of Savonarola, Raphael, and Vittoria Colonna. By John S. Harford, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S. 2 vols. Longman and Co.

THAT Mr. Harford has spared no pains in collecting the materials of this biography will very soon be apparent to the reader; but that he has little more than diligence and love of the subject to qualify him for the task he has undertaken, will be equally apparent. In every higher quality demanded by such a subject he is found somewhat wanting. His style is conventional; his mode of grouping facts, without felicity; his criticisms vague and commonplace. We regret to be forced thus to qualify the praise which his diligence elicits; but for the reader's sake we are bound to indicate the deficiencies in this biography, which, in spite of its varied materials, presents no picture of the great artist, no picture of his times, not even a satisfactory account of his works. The volumes are illustrated with many portraits, with copies of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, of the pulpit of the Baptistery at Pisa, of the Basilica, and of St. Peter's as it actually is and as Michael Angelo designed it. They contain, moreover, memoirs of Savonarola, Vittoria Colonna, and Raphael, which, although misplaced, will not be without interest. Had Mr. Harford, instead of inserting separate memoirs, bethought him of painting an historical picture, in which these celebrated persons might be seen standing in their real relation to Michael Angelo, he would have conferred a boon on the reader, who now will only regard these memoirs as so many interruptions.

Interesting the volumes certainly are. They contain so many details about a great man that we cannot read them unmoved. Even the well-known anecdotes find welcome. We like again to read of the impetuous student, so diligent amidst his impetuosity, so careful even of details that

His biographers mention, among other instances of his assiduous application, his special care in attending to the minutest details which entered into his subjects: for instance, in painting a picture founded on a design of Albert Durer, or Martin Schoens, representing the temptations of St. Anthony (to which he had added many grotesque figures of demons and monsters), he had to introduce a group of fishes, and wishing to be true to nature, he went to the fish-market, and made drawings of the eyes and fins of various species both living and dead, which he transferred with the greatest effect to his canvas. It was thus that, even in his early youth, he aimed at uniting vigour of design with correctness of detail.

This love of truth is the distinguishing mark of a real genius. Only your second-rate men believe that 'imagination' is superior to truth. Michael Angelo had imagination enough, and yet we read:—

He was intimate with the prior of the monastery of Santo Spirito, and about this time executed for its church a crucifix in wood of a size rather less than the natural. The prior, who highly appreciated his talents, accommodated him with an apartment for the prosecution of his anatomical studies. He soon took to the dissecting knife; but the use of it so painfully affected his nervous system, that for a time it seemed as though he must cast it away for ever. Nothing but an unquenchable desire to render himself a complete master of design, could have enabled him to overcome this difficulty. At length he was able to use it with more indifference and with almost surgical precision, and subjects were frequently supplied to him from the hospital of the monastery.

"We have in this great master," as Sir C. Bell justly observes, "a proof of the manner in which genius submits to labour in order to attain perfection. He patiently, and painfully to himself, underwent the severe toil of the anatomist, to acquire a power of design such as it is hardly to be supposed could be duly appreciated either then or now."

Bell adds, that he made careful examinations of the anatomical studies of Michael Angelo while at Florence, and found that he had avoided the errors of artists of less genius, who, in showing their learning, deviate from living nature. He recognised the utmost accuracy of anatomy in his studies, particularly in his pen-and-ink sketches of the knee; for example, every point of bone, muscle, tendon, and ligament, was marked, and perhaps a little exaggerated. But he found, on surveying the limbs of the statues for which some of these drawings had been made, that this peculiarity was not visible: there were none of the details of anatomy, but only the effects of muscular action.

The following anecdote, which is new to us, well illustrates Michael Angelo's mastery:—

Blasio di Vignere, who had been admitted to his studio, has left behind him the following graphic description of the energy and certitude of stroke with which Michael Angelo was wont to pursue his sculptural labours:—

"I may say that I have seen Michael Angelo at work after he had passed his sixtieth year, and although he was not very robust, he cut away as many scales from a block of very hard marble in a quarter of an hour, as three young sculptors would have effected in three or four hours,—a thing almost incredible to one who had not actually witnessed it. Such was the impetuosity and fire with which he pursued his labour, that I almost thought the whole work must have gone to pieces; with a single stroke he brought down fragments three or four fingers thick, and so close

upon his mark, that had he passed it even in the slightest degree, there would have been a danger of ruining the whole; since any such injury, unlike the case of works in plaster or stucco, would have been irreparable."

We may close our notice with the following story:—

It is often expedient, on public occasions, to humour the little caprices of self-important but amiable functionaries. A pleasant anecdote of this kind is told of the gonfaloniere Pietro Soderini. When, on the appointed day, the ceremonial of elevating the statue into its proper position had been gone through in the presence of a vast crowd of spectators, Michael Angelo himself superintended the removal of the guard-boards. Soderini, who was at this moment just beneath the statue, expressed himself as perfectly enchanted:—"There is, however," he added, "one slight defect, which can easily be corrected,—the nose is rather too thick." Michael Angelo saw that the worthy magistrate was so placed as to be incapable of really judging of this feature, but, as there was no time for discussion, he seemed to assent to the criticism, and catching up, unperceived, some marble dust, and mounting a temporary bridge on the side of the statue, affected to work lightly on the nose with a file, letting fall at the same moment some of the dust in his hand on the head of Soderini. He then called out, "How does it look now?" "I am perfectly satisfied," replied the gonfaloniere. "You have actually imparted life to it." The artist descended quite as much pleased with the success of his stratagem as the worthy functionary with his own critical discernment.

HENRIETTA MARIA.

Letters of Queen Henrietta Maria, including her Private Correspondence with Charles the First. Edited by Mary Everett Green. Bentley.

It would not be easy to overpraise the industrious zeal of Mrs. Everett Green. This volume, not large or pretentious, is the result of toil and patience, of a kind very uncommon in our days. Mrs. Green has ransacked the public archives and private libraries of England and France. First, while searching the French State-paper Office, she exhumed a variety of the Queen's letters; others were furnished by individuals interested in her literary objects, but the greater part of the correspondence has been dug out of the Harleian collection, in the British Museum. Here she found a volume containing the letters to Charles I., ninety-nine folios, transcribed by an English copyist totally unacquainted with the French language, partly in the ordinary character, but principally in cypher. The scribe had obviously copied from the originals as they lay in a heap before him, without regard to date, place, or unity:—

Several which evidently occupied different sheets of paper, are separated in the transcripts, and the commencement and termination are many pages apart; sometimes the sense of a letter will break off abruptly, without any seeming break in the MS., the copyist having proceeded with an entirely different letter, as though it were a continuation of the same. Added to this, the words are often run into one another, or one word is divided into two: those letters of the alphabet which the queen formed somewhat alike, as v and r, are perpetually interchanged, and the misspellings are abundant.

Mrs. Green had to compile her keys from the deciphered passages, but as three or four cyphers were used, this process was tedious in the extreme. She then translated the letters, arranged them chronologically, and published them with slight annotations. Her laborious and conscientious performance of this task deserves the warmest commendation and the most unreserved encouragement.

The letters themselves are important materials of history. They illustrate much that was previously indistinct in the annals of the period, but they do not serve to qualify in the least the judgment that had been passed by all competent writers on the character of Henrietta Maria. The daughter of Henry IV. was a vain, arrogant, selfish intriguer; cold-blooded, vicious, and animated by that sensuous pride which degrades its possessor. She was the evil genius of her husband's court, the instigator of some of the king's worst crimes, the flatterer of his follies, the self-seeking accomplice of his treasons. Her first thought after his death, as expressed in her letters, was in connexion with her own personal loss—not of her husband, but of her dignity. She had been "unqueen'd," she did not say "widowed." Not only was it her constant effort to fortify Charles in his obstinacy, she frequently urged him only to make such compacts as he could annul and disavow upon a favourable opportunity. Mrs. Green is justified in saying that in strength and decision of character Charles was far surpassed by Henrietta Maria; the husband and the wife, however, were probably equal in the wickedness of their designs. Their correspondence, as now published, commenced in the spring of 1642, when the queen went to Holland to obtain the assistance of the Prince of Orange, and to pawn her own jewels, as well as those of the Crown, embezzled for that purpose, among the opulent Low Country merchants. From that moment it becomes apparent how she goaded on the king in his course of illegality and violence. "My whole hope lies in your firmness and constancy, and when I hear anything to the contrary I am mad." The king's pearl buttons, and ruby collar, and the queen's chain and cross, were haggled for by the Jews of Amsterdam, while Henrietta Maria continued to apply the spur: "Remember your own maxim, that it is better to follow out a bad resolution than to change it so often; to begin, and then to stop, is your ruin:—"

I understand they are willing to give you tonnage and poundage for three years. I repeat to you, that if you cannot have it as you ought, that is to say, in your own power to dispose of it, you pass a thing against yourself: you see it by experience, for all that has been hitherto done with it, has been against you.

While Hull was being invested, she wrote:—

You must have Hull, and if the man who is in it does not submit, you have already declared him a traitor, you must have him alive or dead; for this is no longer a mere play. You must declare yourself; you have testified your gentleness enough, you must show your justice. Go on boldly: God will assist you.

And again, still more vigorously:—

I have wished myself in the place of James in Hull; I would have flung the rascal over the walls, or he should have done the same thing to me.

She supplied the king actively with money, men, horses, cannon, pistols, carbines, muskets, and gunpowder; she was the living incentive of the civil war; she objected to every compromise. When Charles informed her that he had been counselled to send and ask the advice of the judges, she told him that, without jealousy, she considered such a plan ridiculous; the throne was the fountain of legality; neither the legislature, nor any court,

could interpret the law to the king. When Charles had set up his standard at Nottingham, Henrietta Maria became so terribly excited and anxious for tidings that she is even said to have put on a disguise and gone alone into the shop of a Dutch bookseller to inquire the latest news from England, when her agitation betrayed her, and she was glad to make a precipitate retreat. Her agitation, however, was less on account of her husband than on account of her crown:—

I never in my life did anything from fear, and I hope I shall not begin by the loss of a crown.

Some of her advice to the king was, nevertheless, admirable:—

If you abandon your servants, it will be worse than your crown; for as long as you have [friends] there is still hope of getting it again, but if you abandon them, you will never find them again, as I understand for certain, and no crown neither.

Yet her queendom was the uppermost interest in her mind. "To die of the consumption of royalty is a death which I cannot endure."

It is impossible to ascertain how far the letters indicate self-deception, and how far they indicate hypocrisy. The most private cyphers abound so profusely in appeals to Heaven and Justice, that it is easy to believe Henrietta Maria to have been intoxicated by prerogative and enslaved by vanity. Nevertheless, she displays so much craft, such familiarity with the baser elements of human character, so much disposition to bribery, intrigue, and subterranean bargains, that we may justly assign a large proportion of her language to the deeply-rooted and characteristic hypocrisy of her nature. From amidst these miserable attributes the virtue of courage, which, with pride, was the predominating quality of her heart, shines out conspicuously. Upon returning to England, in February, 1643, she landed at Burlington, and, soon afterwards, four parliamentary ships arrived opposite that place:—

In the morning, about four o'clock, the alarm was given that we should send down to the harbour to secure our ammunition-boats, which had not yet been able to be unloaded; but, about an hour after, these four ships began to fire so briskly, that we were all obliged to rise in haste, and leave the village to them; at least the women, for the soldiers remained very resolutely to defend the ammunition. In case of a descent, I must act the captain, though a little low in stature, myself.

One of these ships had done me the favour to flank my house, which fronted the pier, and before I could get out of bed, the balls were whistling upon me in such style that you may easily believe I loved not such music. Everybody came to force me to go out, the balls beating so on all the houses, that, dressed just as it happened, I went on foot to some distance from the village, to the shelter of a ditch, like those at Newmarket; but before we could reach it, the balls were singing round us in fine style, and a sergeant was killed twenty paces from me. We placed ourselves then under this shelter, during two hours that they were firing upon us, and the balls passing always over our heads, and sometimes covering us with dust. At last, the Admiral of Holland sent to tell them, that if they did not cease, he would fire upon them as enemies; that was done a little late, but he excuses himself on account of a fog which he says there was. On this they stopped, and the tide went down, so that there was not water enough for them to stay where they were.

The Parliament now fully understood to what extent Henrietta Maria was implicated in the treason of the king. After the battle of Naseby, a number of her letters were discovered in Charles's private cabinet and the "serpentine subtlety" of her counsel was exposed. She reprobated his policy of negotiating with the Oxford Commissioners; but when the Parliament demanded from herself whether she would advise a settlement of terms, she was artful enough "to show a desire for peace," utterly inconsistent with her real views. We have only space to quote, further, one passage from a letter addressed by the queen, after the king's execution, to her son. Its authenticity is not so clear as that of the rest of the correspondence; yet there seems no reason to doubt that it was, in substance, dictated by Henrietta Maria to her Secretary:—

Dearest yet most unfortunate son,—Your most loving letter, with all its force of reason to console your most wretched mother, would have disinvolved the misfortunes of my life, but my horizon is too far from the poles: losing the title of queen, I have lost all my happiness in this life. I should scarcely know that I am a living woman, were it not for the affliction which, agitating my expiring body, destroys me by degrees. Our misfortunes are many; they would overwhelm hearts greater than ours, if any there were of nobler birth.

It was not to be expected that Henrietta Maria should appreciate the policy of the statesmen who condemned Charles I. to death. Even the de-throned queen, however, had she been less bigoted, would not have so wildly raved against the "parricides" who had judged her husband. It was not so much as a woman, but as "a daughter of the great Henry," that she deplored and resented the act of the regicides.

Few volumes more important than this have been contributed to the historical literature of the Commonwealth by the researches of the present century. What a contrast, however, between Cromwell's letters, which stamp him as the foremost man in English history, and these of Henrietta Maria, exposing her selfish, blind, and immoral lust of power.

A NEW EDITION OF WORDSWORTH.

The Poetical Works of William Wordsworth. A New Edition. 6 vols. Moxon. *The Earlier Poems of William Wordsworth, corrected as in later Editions. With Preface and Notes showing the Text as it stood in 1815.* By W. Johnston. Moxon.

This new and elegant edition of Wordsworth is the first complete edition, including not only the "Borderers" and the "Prelude," but also some Notes in which the poet narrates the history of many of the poems, the occasions out of which they grew, and the circumstances which furnished the imagery. Some of these Notes are interesting, some very trivial; but they do not much increase the bulk of the volumes, and are on the whole very acceptable. The single volume of "Earlier Poems" which Mr. Johnston has edited is not only acceptable in itself as a pocket companion, but is interesting to poetical readers on account of the changes Wordsworth made in the text—changes, as the foot-notes show, sometimes greatly improving the original expression, sometimes substituting an abstract expression for the more poetical concreteness originally conceived.

That Wordsworth is one of the greatest of English poets is now universally acknowledged, even by those who least sympathize with the nature of the

man, and who are most sensitive to his poetical deficiencies. The ridicule and contempt which met his theory and practice of poetical diction have passed away; and with it has also passed away the passionate fanaticism of disciples. But although ridicule is no longer directed against Wordsworth's "babyish incidents and fantastical sensibilities," we must not suppose that Wordsworth has gained the battle against Jeffrey. Both were wrong; both also right. Jeffrey admired heartily what all men admire in Wordsworth, although he ridiculed certain novelties and audacities of expression and feeling. In the anger of contest he was often led too far; but that Wordsworth also was led too far in the execution of a false theory of poetry, even Coleridge admitted, and Wordsworth himself at length admitted it also, as is proved by his silently relinquishing the style which had provoked this ridicule. Not only did he cease to write such poems, he even altered those he had published. "Reflection and the maturity of his taste," says Mr. Johnston, in the Preface to the "Earlier Poems," "led him to alter in the later editions of his works almost all the passages to which such epithets as those cited above ['coarse, inelegant, or infantine'] could with any show of reason have been applied. The alterations shown in the notes to the present edition from the edition of 1815 will be found to be almost all in the direction of greater dignity and refinement."

This is an important fact in the history of our poetic literature. It shows that Wordsworth himself felt a compromise was necessary; no sooner did he cease to offend, than critics ceased to laugh, and ceasing to laugh they had every reason to admire. Not only as regards Wordsworth's fame is this retraction of the offensive passages important; it affects the whole controversy of poetical diction, and gives Jeffrey and the scoffers *gain de cause*. For clouded as the question hitherto has been with personalities and partizanship, writers have overlooked the real points involved. On the one side Wordsworth's trivial peculiarities have been selected as marks for ridicule, on the other his great qualities have been brought forward with emphasis. Mr. Johnston, writing so late as this year 1857, can bring himself to say that the "blemishes were eagerly seized upon and held up to ridicule by critics who hated the simple yet elevated sentiment and the pure moral philosophy of Wordsworth's writings." This is a specimen of the tone fanaticism adopts. Do, reader, notice its insolent attribution of the lowest motives: a question of taste is reduced to a question of morals: critics who objected to passages so absurd that even Wordsworth himself was forced to cancel them, are said to have been actuated by hatred to elevated sentiment and pure morality. Is not this the tone adopted by irreverent orthodoxy towards men whose scrupulous consciences will not permit them to say they believe what they do not believe—are not they also insolently told that it is their hatred to the moral purity of the doctrines which makes them dissent?

Quitting recrimination, however, and contemplating the theory of Wordsworth from higher points of view, it becomes clear to us that Wordsworth did not produce the revolution in taste usually attributed to him. In all essential points Wordsworth's poetry is the continuation of Cowper's; he departs from Cowper only in those prosaisms and infantile expressions which called forth ridicule, and which he subsequently retracted. Let any one read the "Task," and then read the "Excursion" and the "Prelude," and he will see that, differences in the mental constitution apart, the two poets are in the same category, and similarly stand apart from the conventional circle of poetry which, from Dryden to Hayley, prided itself on its "correctness and elegance." Now, as Cowper was immensely popular before Wordsworth became known, it is evident that whatever is novel in Wordsworth's protest against the conventional school, had already been exhibited by Cowper, who, however, wrote no theoretical preface to defend his views. Strip Wordsworth of those "blemishes" which Jeffrey ridiculed, and of the celebrated "Preface to the Lyrical Ballads," in which he proclaimed his theory, and you have Cowper.

This is not meant to imply that Wordsworth introduced no novelties into poetry; only to imply that he did not introduce the 'new school.' His brooding meditative spirit, wandering for ever amid mountain solitudes, caught something of the pantheistic feeling which Cowper's intensely human sympathies would have made alien to him. His marvellous power of depicting cloud-architecture and the sublimer forms of Nature, were peculiarly his own. He made man subordinate to Nature; a mere accessory in the picture; and this tendency to neglect human passion for scenic splendour, life and its daily needs for Nature and her infinite appearances, he has transmitted to the poets of our day. And this it is, mainly, which creates in so many ardent sympathetic minds a certain uneasy and repugnant feeling for Wordsworth; admire him as they may, and as they cannot help admiring poetry so exquisite, they feel for it, and for him, an undefined repugnance. "I have read my Wordsworth," said one of the most thoughtful and most sympathetic of living writers to us, the other day, "but I do not think it possible I should ever open him again." He admitted the beauties—but he firmly maintained the general impression of Wordsworth being disagreeable. *De gustibus!* The great poet will continue to gain admirers: and here are two publications craving a place in all well-selected libraries.

A DRAMA BY A CONVICT.

Bianca. A Play in Five Acts. By William James Robson. Author of "Love and Loyalty," "The Selfish Man," &c. &c. London: Lacy, 1856.

WHEN William James Robson was first discovered to be a member of the illustrious modern order of the "Knights of the Golden Fleece," it was mentioned in this journal that he was the author of several plays, one of which, bearing the title mentioned above, was at that time in rehearsal at Drury Lane, though the manager of course found it necessary to withdraw the promised drama when the unsuspected character of its author was disclosed. Robson was a man not unknown to the stage, of which he was a sort of patron; and, among other of his productions, *Love and Loyalty* (which was recently acted at Miss Kelly's theatre) was produced some few years ago at the Marylebone—the theatre with which, though not at that time, the swindler Watts was connected, until the discovery of his frauds on the insurance-office, where he was a clerk, broke up his prospects, sent

him to a gaol, and finally led to his committing suicide. Now that a similar fate, with the exception of the termination, has befallen Robson, it may not be uninteresting to glance into the latest of his dramatic productions. It is a somewhat novel position to review a play which has been written by a gentleman who is now picking oakum for the good of society in one of her Majesty's gaols.

Although in some measure thrown into the shade by the doings of a later and still more stupendous criminal, the career of Robson was so singular as to seem in itself a startling drama. His commencement of married existence in something like sheer poverty—his living with a young wife in a single squalid room in Chancery-lane, and precariously supporting himself and her by copying legal deeds at a low rate of remuneration—his rapid ascent in the course of three or four years into the position of a man of fashion and pleasure, a dandy 'upon town,' residing in a sumptuous house, eating and drinking of the best, riding his blood mares, sporting his broughams and 'dog-carts' in the eyes of an admiring world, maintaining separate establishments for his auxiliary wives, speculating in the funds, buying and selling shares in commercial companies, sitting on committees, lounging at theatres, patronizing the race-course, the jockeys, the omnibus drivers and the cabmen—thence passing on into the shadow of discovered crime; his evasion of the accountant at his own house; his rapid flight; his brief and frantic revelry for five days at Copenhagen (the last desperate debauch of the ruined man, determined to fling a fierce defiance in the face of unescapable doom); his capture, conviction, and condemnation, followed by the cropped head, the prison dress, the blank walls, the bare yards, the coarse fare, and the dull monotony, that are to abide for twenty years;—all these incidents crowded within a narrow space of time, and succeeding each other with the strongly-contrasted lights and shadows of the stage, present admirable matter for a future dramatist, and must, to Robson's mind, have made his own dramatic fictions somewhat tame.

A strange vein of remorse—of anguish for lost honesty—of overwhelming sense of present shame—runs through this play of *Bianca*, and suggests the reflection that the author did indeed draw from his own experiences and his own position, and filtered through his characters some of the hot outpourings of his conscience. But, before we proceed to note a few of the passages which contain this all-pervading sense of crime and repentance, we will introduce the reader to the Dedication, which is in itself curious:—

To those who, believing in the realization of the highest aspirations of the human mind, claim for the Drama the proud position of being one of the chief means by which that realization is to be attained, this Play is respectfully dedicated by their very humble and obedient servant,

WILLIAM JAMES ROBSON.

On the very first page of the drama, one of the characters asks a friend (in good stage fashion), "How goes the day?" To which the other replies:—

'Tis jogging on; 'tis jingling on;
Fighting on; robbing on; and lying on;
And, thanks to woman, that sweet merchandize
The devil dealeth in, 'tis loving on;—
For a common sort o' day, the day goes well.

That is to say, a day which is "robbing on" (or Robsoning on), and "lying on," "goes well." "Common day!" exclaims the querist. "Ay, common day," replies the interlocutor,—

For, 'mid this whirl and blast,
We eat and drink, and tinkers mend their pots.

At page 5, Gonzaga, Duke of Tuscany, exclaims:—

Age! age! thou time-crown'd skeleton of youth,
Thou shaking citadel, tooth-worn of years,
Fall! fall! and in thy ruins bury thought.
And ghastly shame.

A little way further on, we come to a scene between Bianca (the Duke's daughter) and one Ludovico, who is passionately in love with her, but whom she jilts:—

LUDOVICO. How nobly rose my yesterday; to-day
Hath come, with storms and whirlwinds horrible,
On which my soul runs madly to the waste.
Oh! had I died in battle's front. Oh! had I died
In happy ignorance; I should have gone
My unknown journey with the happy thought
That thou would'st weep—would'st pray—would'st mourn for me!—
But now I see, as through a dim obscure,
My road surcharged with grief and strewn with crimes.
My all that tells of God-made man—lost!—lost!—

It is my soul that sobs! They are not words!
Oh! had I words as burning as my pain,
The very air would quiver as I spoke.
Yesterday! Yesterday!

For reasons of state, the Duke wishes his daughter to marry Lorenzo Vitelli, one of the most successful captains in the wars of the Florentines against the Genoese; and Bianca is, in fact, already in love with the valiant young soldier, and therefore seconds her father's project with a degree of heat and fervour rather irreconcilable with our cold northern ideas of propriety, and in language of a nature which induces the author to state, in a preliminary notice: "Several passages and sentences are judiciously omitted in the representation." But Lorenzo loves another lady, and rejects Bianca, after much importunity from that Italian-blooded maiden. Thereupon, her love turns to wrath; she resummons the discarded Ludovico, and literally sells herself to him at the price of his putting Lorenzo's mistress, Aura, within her power. Ludovico does so, and also captures Aura's father, an old patriot, who has been banished the state, but who has returned because he thinks he can help to drive back the Genoese. In the meanwhile, in revenge for his disappointment, the Duke endeavours to arrest Lorenzo and some of his companions; but, by a prodigious display of stage tact and courage, they contrive to escape from the soldiers, and, flying to Genoa, join the war against Florence. The Duke and Bianca determine to put Mario (the old patriot) and his daughter Aura to the rack; but, at the

opportune moment, Lorenzo and the other rebels return, release the captives, and seize Gonzaga, the Duke. The people then give the ducal crown to Lorenzo, but he declines it, and reinstates Gonzaga in power. Something like friendship is now restored between the belligerents; and it is determined that, on a given day, Bianca shall be wedded to Ludovico, and Lorenzo to Aura. But the Duke has become crazed with age, disappointment, and tumultuous passions; and a fierce, wasting unhappiness desolates the mind of his daughter. Nevertheless, the wedding proceeds. Bianca has brought herself to look upon Aura with a sort of pitying kindness; but her evil nature is again suddenly awakened, and she resolves to present her former rival with a poisoned rose at the marriage feast, the mere odour of which shall carry death with it. This brings us to the climax of the drama. Bianca comes forward with the rose; several times presents and withdraws it; and at length, in a passion of remorse, smells it herself, and dies, with expressions of penitence.

Having thus sketched the plot, we resume our quotations from those parts which seem to bear upon the author's present position. Here is one of Bianca's soliloquies:—

BIANCA. The talk of Florence, by-word, mock! The mark
For scornful ones to leer and whisper at.
Eyes which before embraced my garments' hem,
Now boldly stare into these upper lights;
Lights fever-bright, once calm with innocence,
That sent forth holy messengers of joy
To bring into my bosom pleasant thoughts.
But now they gather from each human face
The poison'd honey of conceal'd contempt.
The world, with all its beauty, loveliness,
To me is one vast scene of punishment,
Fiercer than shame—than death more terrible!
In one short madder moment so to sink;
And so to grovel 'neath the haughty heels
Of those proud, weak, untempted ones.
Oh! I do clutch at good, as some poor wretch
Who, falling from a height, doth wildly grasp
At weeds which mock him from the sun-lit rock!
Fall! fall! fall! Crush'd! mangled! vulture-food!

In another speech, Bianca says she is "hurl'd back" upon
The rough, hot beach of mine own self-contempt.

The same character thus laments her lost goodness. The reader will see that the passage is one of great beauty and pathos, with something of the rich, exuberant imagery of Marlowe, and of the fainting sweetness "long drawn out" of his versification:—

BIANCA. Oh, Summer! Summer! come thou back again;
Uncrown this dismal ice-king in my heart:
Not flower-crown'd Summer, who doth bear
Within her ample lap, from dying Spring,
The sweet inheritance of folded buds—
No, not that Summer, who, with wanton eye,
The young fruit woos for lusty Autumn's arms—
No, not that Summer, who doth burn and glow,
Until she breed corruption with a kiss—
But that young Summer of my life, when I,
With careless steps trod on my happy way,
And dared to look good people in the face;
When my to-days were ripen'd joys which hung
Upon the golden boughs of yesterdays!
Why did he come, to mar this holiday?
Why did he come, and with his presence make
To-days, to-morrows, yesterdays—pale mutes
Who wait upon my perish'd goodnesses,
And strew with bitter herbs the dead, dead past?

Several expressions to the same effect are scattered through the volume; but we have quoted sufficient for the purpose we had in view. It will also have been seen that the play contains evidences of poetical beauty and dramatic power. Had it been produced, we have little doubt that it would have succeeded; and in some degree it even meets the severer test of reading. It has many faults, however, both of omission and commission. From the author being, to use an expressive piece of modern slang, a 'fast man,' and a frequenter of green-rooms, he had acquired a large amount of vulgar common-place and stage conventionality. He would seem, also, to have written hastily and carelessly. We note inconsistencies and contradictions in the course of the story; pattern phrases and lax versification—sometimes overrunning its limits, sometimes catalectic; a too great heaping-up of imagery and of poetry for poetry's sake, to the injury of the dramatic action and of the truth of characterization; artificial tricks of dialogue for the purpose of creating stage 'points'; and, generally, an excess of vehemence, as in this conclusion of the second act:—"The Duke is so overcome with rage that he can do nothing but grasp Bianca's arm, and stamp, and point to the entrance where Lorenzo and his friends have retired." Fancy some energetic actor, with a strong pair of legs, bringing down the drop-scene after this fashion! Again: this same very fiery Duke thus upbraids the patriot Mario:—

I tell thee, sir, thou bad, unwholesome heart,
That, by this letter, sir—this letter, sir,
Thou art discovered as a traitor, sir,
A monstrous traitor, sir, a heap of lies,
A bold and rampant villain, sir—

But I, I, I—grey-bearded, shaken, worn,
Will hunt thee, sir, catch thee, sir, hang thee, sir.

This is uttered before the Duke has gone absolutely mad, though the reader might suppose the contrary.

But, with many of the faults of the old dramatists, Robson has some of their genius. We have compared a passage quoted above to Marlowe; but the general character of "*Bianca*" rather reminds us of the fantastical irregularity, the fierce, volcanic bursts of passion, alternating with passages of lulling beauty, the gorgeous extravagance and heaped-up horrors, of

Webster, Middleton, Ford, Cyril Tourneur, and some other of the dramatists who wrote in the first half of the seventeenth century. The last act is very impressive, and is wrought up, not only with poetic feeling, but with skill. The combination of revelry with remorse—of festal marriage ceremonies with the yet smouldering fires of revenge—of the pageantry of the ball-room with the muttered wanderings of madness and the delusions of uneasy conscience—all moving about in an Italian atmosphere of hot, swarthy, and wicked splendour, and terminating in a sudden and frightful death—these are elements which we do not often find entering into the composition of modern plays. And the language, which in the previous acts has been diffuse, here becomes, with but few exceptions, rapid, intense, poetically truthful, and sustained. It is painful to think of the man who could write thus (and who doubtless could have written still better had he dedicated his time to art) consenting to sacrifice himself to a miserable, flashy idea of 'life,' and being, while we write this testimony to his faculty, a condemned criminal in a gaol.

Our space will not permit us to make any further long quotations; but we append a few felicitous lines:—

This trumpet's breath blows cold on me.

The mutter'd oaths

Of distant drums.

To follow crime without the penalty
Is still the bitter attribute of kings!

(Doubtless, Robson now wishes that it was his bitter attribute too.)

When, like a wanton, I did hurl myself,
All shivering with hate, into thine arms.

There is an essence,—love,—engolding
Life's harsh excrescences, as doth the moon
The continents of clouds, which threat with waste
The labour of the husbandman.

My goodness with my childhood fled.
They hand in hand in dimmer beauty fade
Along the distant vista of my memory.

Or did she wail, like winds a-thro' the aisles
Of mournful firs?

The pilot guiding with his palsied hands
That old ship through its dreamy waste of years.

(Spoken of the Duke after his madness.)

—These grey hairs, which have a foolish way
Of falling o'er mine eyes to hide my tears.

(Spoken by the Duke.)

She looketh like a sunset, Guido, when
There is a tempest brooding in the west.

CONVICT LIFE IN BERMUDA.

Bermuda, a Colony, a Fortress, and a Prison; or, Eighteen Months in the Somers Islands. By A Field Officer. Longman and Co.

"Give me leave to tell you," said Sydney Smith, wishing to deter his countrymen from indulging in too hopeful dreams of the bliss of convict life, "transportation is no joke. Up at five in the morning, dressed in a jacket, half blue, half yellow, chained on to another person like two dogs, a man standing over you with a great stick, weak porridge for breakfast, bread and water for dinner, boiled beans for supper, straw to lie upon, and all for thirty years." Such is the vague, fanciful vision which floated in the mind of the facetious canon of St. Paul's. Whether the picture is exaggerated, or whether this is a faithful transcript of things as they were, what a charming change, at least for garotters, burglars, and homicides, has taken place. We have only to study the actual condition of such felons as represented in the pages of "A Field Officer," to become acquainted with the difference. Thirty years! Can anything be more illusive? The prisoner as well as the judge knows, when sentence is passed upon him, the penalty is nominal. It has so long become the practice to commute punishments, that the most hardened villain may calculate upon the following composition: Transportation for life means ten years; for fourteen years, perhaps six; ten means four; and seven, three. We are informed that by far the greater number of the prisoners at Bermuda are still upon this footing.

It is as well that our traditional notions of the severity of convict life should be corrected. The public seems pretty well convinced by this time that our system of penalties has altogether broken down. It has not served the purpose of repressing crime; neither has it effected any moral change in the condition of those who are its objects. Can we hope that the happy medium between extreme leniency and extreme severity will ever be hit upon? Can we hope that such a course of training shall be adopted that the prisoner, when sent adrift upon the world, shall have cast aside his old propensities. If ever such a consummation be achieved, it can never be by the ridiculously short periods of confinement above mentioned, nor by allowing the law such unequal application as is to be found in the commutation of sentences.

These observations we casually throw out as incidental to the volume under review. "A Field Officer" dwells with some emphasis upon convict discipline. From him we have a forcible contrast to the exaggerated picture of Sydney Smith. To go into the daily existence of the prisoners. Instead of rising at five o'clock, their labour commences at half-past seven in summer and eight in winter. At mid-day they are marched off to their dinners, to which agreeable task they devote themselves for an hour and a half. The greatest care is taken that they shall work in the shade, and in the summer there is a total cessation of labour from eleven to two o'clock, the heat being too oppressive. At six in the evening during summer, and five in winter, the prisoners return to the hulks or the barracks. The labour of the day is then over. Chains, except for mutiny, are never used. Thus, nine hours is the maximum of labour to which these tenderly-treated

malefactors are condemned. Again, instead of the dismal "weak porridge" and "boiled beans," &c., each convict is allowed daily nearly two pounds of bread, one pound and a quarter of meat, and half a gill of rum. Cocoa, sweetened with sugar, is also supplied him for breakfast and supper. The luxuries of such a diet will be better understood if we compare it with the rations doled out to the soldier. The soldier's allowance is limited to one pound of bread and one pound of meat per diem, besides which he has to buy his own groceries and other articles *de luxe*. The convict also reposes in a comfortable bed at night. What a contrast is all this to the life spent by thousands of honest toiling labourers in this country. Liberty, it is true, is sweet. It may, however, be doubted whether the dread of returning to such a state of bondage acts very strongly upon those who are annually disgorged upon these shores from our delightful, balmy, lovely convict colonies, where the amenities of nature are not too much interfered with by the severities of prison discipline. No less than five hundred and fifty convicts returned to England from Bermuda alone during the past year to be let loose upon society. Amongst these were men convicted of heinous crimes, and who had been sentenced for long periods of transportation. Few of them, we can safely assert, remained out the legal term of their sentence. There is one more fact which we must allude to. The sense of justice inherent in the British public refuses to allow the convict to labour without remuneration. He is, therefore, never without pocket-money with which to add to his little luxuries, or, if he be economical, to save up. The sum thus accumulated proves a little capital on his discharge. The amount, however, is very inadequate to establish him in England, and is not uncommonly squandered away within a week after his arrival.

Besides describing Bermuda as a convict colony, "A Field Officer," after indulging in some gross indiscretions of criticism, general and particular, notices it as a naval and military fortress, the value of which as an outpost facing the American continent, he deems not sufficiently appreciated by our government. Further, Bermuda is treated as a colony. Its remoteness, its primitiveness, the beauty of its scenery, and the salubrity of its climate, all give it a particular claim to the attention of Englishmen. The Bermudas, too, were the first islands in the Western Hemisphere which received colonists from England. Their loveliness was much dwelt upon at the time, that is, the latter days of Shakspeare, and some are willing to suppose that Shakspeare laid the scene of *The Tempest* in one of them. But whether Ariel warbled here or not, the calabash-tree is still shown beneath which the poet Moore reclined and sang, mourning over his exile from those gay circles in which he loved to shine.

Though the question of convicts has occupied the principal portion of our notice, being peculiarly appropriate at the present moment, the reader must not suppose the book of "A Field Officer" is devoted essentially to this subject. He will find whatever is interesting in the colony agreeably described, though the present volume may add little to his previous knowledge of these remote islands. The writer enters into a description of the natural features of this cluster of three hundred and sixty-five islands—the orthodox number, according to the patriots who wish to square the number with the days of the year—into their trade and commerce, resources and capabilities, local governments and native authorities. He also raises the veil of social life, and lets us see some of the peculiarities of existence in a country fifty miles in circumference, whose greatest excitement is the arrival of a bi-monthly mail or the presence of a ship of the line. The spot finds favour in his eyes, and he recommends it as a place of residence to certain classes. Who these are, and what are the grounds of his recommendation, we leave the reader to learn from the book itself. We ought to notice that some very well-executed coloured illustrations accompany the work.

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

MANY a book must be noticed briefly, or not at all. We have, on our table, a large variety of such publications—novels, tales, sketches, and other miscellanies—which it would be unfair to ignore altogether while it would be impossible, and not very interesting, to treat them separately at any length. The author of *Hidden Links; or, the Schoolfellows*, 3 vols. (Newby), for instance, claims a paragraph. His book is a mistake. It is all confusion and inconsistency; the links are continually snapping; the love is cold, the passion pale, the heroes and heroines are people of deadly dullness, who seduce, and gamble, and forsake conjugal roofs, and are brought to miserable ends, in that sad, silly way in which some novelists will persist. More reformers are needed in the department of fiction, or the reader will shun a three-volume novel as he shuns a haunted house, or a man of one idea. An example of a book with one idea is Miss Bessie S. Turner's *Niobe: a Tale of Real Life* (Saunders and Otley). It is a story in which a hard-mannered husband scowls a proud wife from his home to a retirement at Dulwich, where Niobe is born unto her. Niobe, the central lady of the group, ultimately marries, and that is Miss Turner's conception of romance. However, she is not guilty of three volumes; her 'tale of real life' is told modestly in one, and is pleasingly written. Other fictions we have, multitudinous and varied:—*The Torchlight; or, Through the Wood* (Sampson Low), by Harriet A. Oleott, a dim, religious story, quietly and sweetly narrated; *Victoria; or, the World Overcome* (Sampson Low), by Caroline Chesbro, also on a religious basis; *Claremont; or, the Undivided Household* (Trübner), intensely devotional; *Autumnal Leaves* (Trübner), by L. Maria Child, a series of spirited and amusing sketches; and *The Ladder of Life: a Heart-History* (Routledge), by Amelia B. Edwards. This last is an uncommonly spasmodic production. Miss Edwards belongs to the startling school, which rises above sense and grammar. Her pages coruscate with phosphoric figures of speech, miraculously brilliant eyes, lightning glances, strange fire, blue-branching veins, streaking pale brows, under piles of rich, glossy hair. Miss Edwards seems to have been infected with wide wide worldism. Miss Maria McIntosh, who writes *Violet; or, Found at Last* (Routledge), is far more inventive and entertaining, and far less intent upon thrills and cornet-à-piston variations. *Violet* is a really clever picture of wild life on the New Jersey Coast, with glimpses of more polished society in the interior.

While we are dealing with ladies who write, let us anticipate the publication, in a volume, of "Florentia's" graceful and sprightly sketches of Italy in *The New Monthly Magazine*—her glances at the *demi-monde* at Florence, her very entertaining notes, social and picturesque, at the Baths of Lucca. Mr. Charles Rowcroft's rattling novel, *George Mayford, an Emigrant in Search of a Colony*, has been reprinted (Hodgson). It is a book the popularity of which increases continually. The same publisher issues, in the "Parlour Library," *Aubrey*, by the author of "Emilia Wyndham." One of the most notable reprints of the season is an elegant volume (Chapman and Hall) of Mr. Thackeray's Christmas Books, containing *Mrs. Perkins's Bull*, *Our Street*, and *Dr. Birch*. This is a publication which it is only necessary to announce. To the library of Magic-land we have a most charming contribution, *Fairy Gold for Young and Old*, in eighteen Tales, translated from the French of Savinien Lapointe, by Henry F. Chorley (Routledge). The volume is a gem. Mr. Chorley informs us that Lapointe is a shoemaker of Paris, and a teller of stories. When he published this collection, Béranger wrote to him, confessing that Lapointe had succeeded, far better than himself, in walking in the steps of Bérault, King of Children. "I expect a second volume with impatience," he added. "Be quick over it. I am seventy-three, and children of my age have not time to wait." Mr. Chorley has translated Lapointe's "exquisite whimsies" with grace and humour. *Harry and his Homes* (Routledge), by the author of "Amy Carlton," is a book for the young; conventional in the manner of its morality, but agreeable and amusing. The Rev. James White has compiled a pleasant and useful little book, *Landmarks of the History of Greece* (Routledge). It is a carefully-arranged narrative, well sifted, always instructive, and never dull. It purports to be an introduction to the Grecian annals, and as an introduction, is admirable. The student will advance his views, as he advances his researches. *Faust* (Boston: Ticknor and Field) is an attempt by Mr. Charles T. Brooks to interpret in English the great German tragedy. There is, at least, vigour in the language of the translation. *The Crystal Sphere: its Forces and its Beings*, by Professor Milton Sandars (Baillière), is a remarkably interesting illustrated treatise, somewhat affectedly named, on water, and the creatures that haunt it. To young and amateur students Professor Sandars's explanations will be particularly welcome. Perhaps not so welcome, though excellent in its purpose and contents, is a simple little volume, *Duty to Parents* (Hope and Co.), in which a variety of maxims and reflections are set forth in favour of the text "Honour thy father and thy mother." Next, we have a new book by the endless and incorrigible "Fanny Fern"—*the Play-Day Book; or, Little Stories for Little Follies* (Knight and Son). And now we take up a volume, the name of which will attract the 'young-eyed' generation. It is *The Story of Reynard the Fox* (Bogue), according to the version of David Vedder, illustrated by Gustav Canton of Munich. The narrative and the pictures are alike admirable. There is, besides, an interesting treatise on the genesis of the story, on which Goethe wrote, which Kaulbach illustrated, which has been reproduced in every European country, and enjoys the most unbounded fame. Among new editions we have Mr. Robert White's *Madeira, its Climate and Scenery: a Handbook for Invalid and other Visitors* (Edinburgh: A. and C. Black), a manual which it is unnecessary to recommend, and a third volume of *Essays, Critical and Imaginative*, by Professor Wilson (Blackwood), containing his treatise on the Genius and Character of Burns, his criticism on Coleridge, and his "forty stripes" with a prickly rod, adjudged to the unfortunate Tupper. From Scotland we receive also a volume of special interest to a numerous class of readers—*Patrick Hamilton, the First Preacher and Martyr of the Scottish Reformation*—an historical biography, is compiled from original sources by the Rev. Peter Lorimer (Constable and Co.). Messrs. Low publish *The Rifle, Axe, and Saddle-Bags*, and other Lectures, by W. H. Milburn, the blind American preacher, whose writings have been competently edited by the Rev. T. Binney. A strange sort of book, intitled *Immortelles from Charles Dickens*, by "Ich" (Moxon), is a compound of vague criticism and miscellaneous extracts from the works of Mr. Dickens. "Ich" sits at the feet of his favourite novelist, and eccentric is the form in which he bodies forth his admiration. A plainer book, with a plainer meaning, is *The Gates of the East* (Ward and Lock), by C. L. Kenney. It is a plea in favour of the Suez Canal, clear, brief, and readable, though to us not convincing. Still plainer, and still more practical, is a volume published for the London and Brighton Railway Company (Waterlow and Sons), containing the *By-laws, Rules, and Regulations to be observed by the Company's Servants*. We must not omit from our catalogue *The Year-Book of Science and Art for 1857* (Bogue), one of the universally useful, well-stored, companionable volumes prepared by Mr. John Timbs, "with power to add to their number." Another, in fact, comes to hand—*Curiosities of History, with New Lights: a Book for Old and Young* (Bogue)—a cabinet volume, by Mr. Timbs, well stored, well arranged, pleasant to read, useful to consult—a book of historical varieties. It contains a multitude of historical elucidations, neatly stated, and judiciously grouped. Who was the Man with the Iron Mask? is a tea-table question of the commonest occurrence. Take down Timbs. Matthioli, the Mantuan Senator, imprisoned for having deceived Louis XIV. What was the story of Essex and Queen Elizabeth's ring? In Timbs you find it explained, clearly enough, that the whole story, the Countess of Nottingham's treachery included, is as fanciful as "Midsummer Night's Dream." Also, that Wolsey is by no means proved to have been the son of a butcher. Also, that Jane Shore did not perish of hunger, or give a name to *Shoreditch*; that Clarence was not drowned in malmsey; that Joan of Arc was alive eight years after history says she was burned, history fixing 1431 as the date of her martyrdom, whereas, in 1439, she received a public reward from the Council of Rouen. We must note, also, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. By Edward Gibbon. Abridged by William Smith, LL.D. (Murray.)—Dr. Smith has incorporated with his abridgment the researches of recent commentators—his notes to the complete addition with those of Milman and Guizot. He has entirely omitted Gibbon's dissertation on the causes of the spread of Christianity, and his accounts of the theological disputes of the Oriental sects. In fact, he has mutilated Gibbon instead of epitomizing him. Better have written a new book; for this is neither Gibbon's nor Smith's, but a

compound of both, the one being very unlike the other. Mr. Murray has published, moreover, *The Poetical Works of Lord Byron*, in one volume, "a new edition, carefully revised, with a portrait." The type is small, but clear, and the form of the volume is very convenient. We recommend this volume to all readers who have no "Byron."

GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICA.

Black's Atlas of North America. A Series of Twenty Maps. Drawn and Engraved by John Bartholomew. Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black.

No North American atlas in existence can compete with this. The maps are complete, careful, beautifully executed, and furnished with an elaborate index. The first represents the region of North America generally, the second, British America, with all the discoveries in the Arctic up to 1856. The third and fourth are devoted to the several provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. The United States are then arranged in groups, and occupy fourteen maps, an additional sheet containing Central America, with a distinct plan of the Panama railway, Mexico, and the West Indies. A chart is appended, in which are traced the lines of communication between Europe, North America, and the Pacific. The work must be invaluable in political, commercial, and professional libraries, no less than to tutors in colleges and schools. It is difficult to realize in the mind an adequate conception of the vastness of the territory known as North America. The Danish possessions in Greenland appear paltry in comparison with the massive continent itself, yet its bulky coast, heaped almost for ever with white ice and snow, stretches, in an unbroken line, nearly twelve hundred miles along Baffin's Bay. How disproportionate, however, its area to its population. Not many more than nine thousand souls, including about two hundred and fifty Danes and other Europeans, inhabit its frozen immensity. Far different are the natural and social aspects of the Hudson's Bay empire—for an empire it is, in its magnitude. Over Labrador, over the prodigious extent of country round Hudson's Bay, to the Arctic and Pacific, the jurisdiction of this extraordinary company has been established. Parliament has been incited by Government to investigate the condition of the territory and the settlements it comprises; such an investigation is, indeed, necessary, for very little is reported in England, from Hudson's Bay, except as to the enterprise of the trappers and traders in fur. The area of the Hudson's Bay dominion includes two millions and a half of square miles, or considerably more than a fourth of the whole surface of North America. The United States are scarcely more extensive. The western parts of the dreary region are occupied or intersected by numerous rivers, lakes, and marshes; the ground, though in some places densely wooded, is generally barren; the contiguous sea is only open from June to October; the water in the lakes freezes eight feet thick in winter; brandy congeals; the solid rocks are split by the cold. Nevertheless, a great variety and abundance of berries and culinary herbs are yielded by this rigorous soil, and in this capricious climate. Barley and similar crops flourish along the Red River borders. Buffaloes, reindeer, fallow deer, musk oxen, beavers, wolves, foxes, and other animals find plentiful pastures in the plains; on the northern and eastern coasts, the Esquimaux tribes are numerous, in the interior and the south, the American Indian still retains possession. The Hudson's Bay Company, itself, has its head-quarters at York Factory, five miles from the mouth of Hayes River. About a thousand persons are employed in its service, the retired officers and servants having formed a distinct settlement far up the Red River. The whole territory is distributed into districts, each administered by a governor, who, presiding over a local council, is vested with a criminal as well as a civil jurisdiction over the inhabitants. It is time that some exact information should be obtained as to the spirit in which these privileges are exercised, and as to the extent to which the available resources of the Hudson's Bay region are developed.

The introductory description prefixed to *Black's Atlas* is only an outline; but is, nevertheless, a very creditable performance. It is at once concise and satisfactory. But the maps themselves are admirable, and we commend them to all students of modern geography.

The Arts.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

A DRAMA in three acts, called *The Black Book*, was produced at DRURY LANE on Monday night. It unfolds a story of disputed possession of some estates in Germany, to which a young lady named *Mina*, performed by Miss OLIVER, has the rightful claim, but is unable to prove it, because there is a doubt about her father's marriage with her mother. A benevolent gentleman, in the person of Mr. CHARLES MATHEWS, who appears at a masquerade in the costume of a friend, contrives by several ingenious methods to establish the young lady's ownership and her mother's marriage. Finally, in dramatic fulfilment of the gossip which he has denied in its matter-of-fact bearing, he marries Miss OLIVER—that is to say, the young Baroness, *Mina*.

Mr. and Mrs. BARNEY WILLIAMS returned to the ADELPHI on Monday evening, and received a hearty welcome.

A play in three acts, by Mr. LEIGH HUNT, entitled, *Lovers' Amazeings, or How will it End?* is to be produced at the LYCEUM. There are but four characters, which are to be performed by Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES DILLON, Miss WOOLGAR, and Mr. LEIGH MURRAY. The play has already been printed in the pages of a periodical. All lovers of delicate poetry, generous emotion, and fine wit, will rejoice in this announcement, though they would have been better pleased if Mr. HUNT's satisfaction at again delighting a theatrical audience were not at the present moment contradicted by a heavy domestic affliction.

THE HAYMARKET, on Wednesday, completed the One Thousandth night of its season, which, during a period of more than three years, has been continued without any other interruptions than those prescribed by law. Mr. BUCKSTONE and his company may be congratulated upon this evidence of their success. Within those three years some changes have come over the great world—and some over the HAYMARKET world, since, in the first months of that long season, Mrs. FITZWILLIAM had not yet succumbed to cholera.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths registered in the week that ended last Saturday were 1209, which is nearly the same as the number returned in the previous week. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1167; and if this is raised for the purpose of comparison proportionally to increase of population, it will become 1284. The rate of mortality that now rules is not high, as compared with that of previous seasons, although it has lately shown that tendency to increase which is to be expected at a period of the year usually the most fatal to human life.—Last week, the births of 879 boys and 883 girls, in all 1762 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks 1847-56, the average number was 1572.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

PUBLIC PARKS FOR THE METROPOLIS.—It has been determined by a large majority of the Metropolitan Board of Works to take immediate steps for the establishment of two parks, one in the eastern and the other in the northern parts of the metropolis, the expense to be equally assessed upon the whole of London. It was also resolved to communicate with the Government about the purchase of Hampstead-heath, and to support in the House of Commons the bill having reference to Finsbury Park. The City Commissioners of Sewers, on the other hand, have unanimously determined to oppose that bill, on the ground that it will lay an additional charge on the City ratepayers.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF JOHN PAUL.—The Court of Bankruptcy, on Wednesday, was occupied with the adjudication against John Paul, the clerk of the City of London Union, charged with embezzlement. The adjudication was disputed, and, after the case had been partially entered into, the proceedings were adjourned.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

STEVENS.—At Delamere-street, the wife of Major J. F. Stevens: a daughter.

YOUNG.—At Southsea, the wife of Lieut. Chas. H. Young, R.N., H.M.S., Blenheim: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BYRON-KINDERSLEY.—At St. James's, Paddington, the Hon. and Rev. William Byron, son of Lord Byron, to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of the Vice-Chancellor Sir R. T. Kindersley.

KEYS-KEMP.—At Fulham, George Francis Keys, M.R.C.S.L., Warwick-street, Regent-street, to Caroline, widow of John Kemp, late of H. M. Inland Revenue Office, and Acton, Middlesex.

DEATHS.

LLOYD.—At Plymouth, Francis Lloyd, Esq., of Bathurst, River Gambia, in his 26th year, son of the late Captain Edward Lloyd, who went out to Africa with the late Mungo Park, and was one of the first English settlers at Bathurst.

MATSON.—At Rodmersham, Kent, Mary, wife of John Matson, Esq., in her 87th year.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 3.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN BRYAN, Dyer's-buildings, Holborn, electro-plater—SAMUEL BAKER, Birmingham, ironfounder—JOSEPH CURTIS WHARTON, Stourbridge, licensed victualler—WILLIAM TYLER, King's Bromley, miller—GEORGE WOODALL, Carlisle, grocer—JOHN ALFRED HATFIELD, Bradford, Yorkshire, draper—JOHN HOLMES, Bramham, Yorkshire, builder—JOHN WILKS, Whitby, butcher.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—W. DONALDSON, Edinburgh, tailor—J. CHALMERS, Blairgowrie, draper—J. FERGUSON, Logie, Stirlingshire, grocer.

Friday, February 6.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—JOHN FRANCIS DALBY, Birmingham, scrivener.

BANKRUPTS.—THOMAS EDWARDS, Eversholt-street, Oakley-square, china and glass dealer—CHARLES ASHFIELD, Home-terrace, Hammersmith, boot maker—WILLIAM PEACH, Derby, coal merchant—CATHERINE HUMPHREY, Baker-street, Portman-square, bookseller—ALEXANDER OLDFIELD, 17, Devonshire-street, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, bookbinder—FRANCOIS PERRIN, Cleveland-street, Fitzroy-square, Middlesex, dealer in foreign woods—JOSEPH DICKENSON, Harrogate, lodging-house keeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—PETER TAYSEN, Leith, merchant—JAMES HAMILTON, Glasgow, grocer—EVAN CLARK, Corcarnistimore, Kingussie, Inverness, tacksmen—GEORGE AUGUSTUS TASSIE, Glasgow, chemist—ROXBURGH AND COMPANY, Glasgow, milliners and dress-makers.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, February 6, 1857.

In the Stock Exchange this week there has been a decided downward tendency. There has been a gradual fall in most of the markets, with scarcely any reaction. Consols have been dealt in at prices varying from 93 to 93½ for money, and for the March account at 93 to 93½. The February account was settled yesterday (Thursday) in a very satisfactory manner; the rate for carrying over was generally ½ per cent., that is, 6 per cent. per annum.

Very little business has been done in Railway Shares, but they have nearly all shown great weakness, with the exception of Caledonians, which have risen about 12 per share.

In the Discount Market there has been a steady demand, which has been well met, notwithstanding that, as is always the case on the 4th of the month, a great number of bills became due.

The principal closing prices in the Stock Exchange to-day are:—

Aberdeen, —: Caledonian, 92½, 93; Chester and Holyhead, 35, 36; Eastern Counties, 94, 94½; Great Northern, 93½, 94; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 111, 113;

Great Western, 65½, 66½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 96½, 97; London and Blackwall, 64, 64½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 106, 108, 108½; London and North-Western, 106, 106½; London and South-Western, 106, 107; Midland, 82½, 83; North-Eastern (Berwick), 84, 85; South-Eastern (Dover), 73½, 74½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6, 6½; Dutch Rhenish, 4 dis., 4 pm. 1d.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 32, 32½; Great Central of France, 4½, 4½ pm.; Great Luxembourg, 5½, 5½; Northern of France, 36½, 37; Paris and Lyons, 54½, 54½; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 4, 1; Sambre and Meuse, 8, 8½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, February 6, 1857.

SINCE our last report, we have received no flour, and only 620 quarters of Wheat have arrived from abroad. The exports this week from the port of London will, therefore, considerably exceed the imports; nevertheless the trade is most inanimate, though holders will not submit to any decline. Maize continues in demand for France and Spain, but there is nothing offering. With moderate supplies of Barley and Oats, the trade is slow, and prices are barely maintained.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	216	217½	217½	.....	217½	217½
3 per Cent. Red.....	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	93	93½	93½	93½	93½	93
Consols for Account	93	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
New 3 per Cent. An.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
New 2½ per Cents.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860.....	2½	.....	2½	.....	.....	.....
India Stock.....	218½	.....	219	.....	220	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	.....	.....	par	1 p	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	3 d	par	.....	par	1 p	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	par	par	3 p	1 p	par	3 p
Ditto, £500.....	par	1 p	3 p	.....	2 p	1 p
Ditto, Small.....	par	1 p	3 p	2 p	1 d	1 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds.....	102½	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ....	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents ..	.....	Russian Bonds, 5 per	.....
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	.....	Cents.....	109
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents.....	96½
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	65	Spanish.....	.....
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf.	98½	Spanish Committee Cer-	.....
Equador Bonds.....	.....	of Coup. not fun.....	6
Mexican Account.....	21½	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	93½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.....	79	Turkish New, 4 ditto.....	.....
Portuguese 3 per Cents.....	43½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents..	37½

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

On Monday and Tuesday, the performances will commence with DELICATE GROUND: Mr. G. Vining, Mr. Leslie, and Mrs. Stirling. After which an entirely new and original Fairy Extravaganza, called YOUNG AND HANDSOME: supported by Miss Swanborough, Mrs. Melfort, Miss Thirlwall, Miss Clara St. Casse, Mr. F. Robson, Mr. J. Rogers, Mr. Franks, &c. To conclude with the new Farce called CRINOLINE, in which Mr. F. Robson, Mr. G. Vining, Mr. H. Cooper, Mr. Danvers, Miss Maskell, Miss Bromley, &c., will perform.

Wednesday, and during the Week,

DELICATE GROUND.

A New and Original Farce, by Bayle Bernard, Esq., called

A SPLENDID INVESTMENT.

Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, E. Cooke, H. Cooper, White, Misses Castleton, Marston, and Stephens. To conclude with the Extravaganza

YOUNG AND HANDSOME.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, containing upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men, &c. Lectures delivered at Twelve, Two, Four, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Sexton; and a new Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at a Quarter past Eight, p.m.—Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Lectures as delivered by Dr. Kahn, gratis.

BARON FOUQUIER,

Professor at the University of Paris, Physician to his late Majesty Louis Philippe, &c., &c.,

ON DR. DE JONGH'S

LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

"You have rendered an eminent service to science, by acquainting practitioners with the cause of the frequent irregularity in the effects of Cod Liver Oil, and directing their attention to a proper choice. It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I pay my tribute of well-merited praise to the successful efforts of the learned physician and chemist, whose researches after truth have cost him so many sacrifices, and who has shown us the way of rendering highly effectual the administration of one of the most powerful medicines we are acquainted with."

DR. DE JONGH'S COD LIVER OIL

Has now, in consequence of its marked superiority over every other variety, secured the entire confidence and almost universal preference of the most eminent Medical Practitioners as the most speedy and effectual remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, DIABETES, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, NEURALGIA, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, GENERAL DEBILITY, and all SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS.

Sold ONLY in IMPERIAL Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.; Quarts, 8s.; and bottled and labelled with DR. DE JONGH'S Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by most respectable Chemists throughout the United Kingdom.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEPOT.

ANSAR, HARTFORD, & CO., 77, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,
DR. DE JONGH'S SOLE BRITISH CONSIGNERS,
By whom the Oil is daily forwarded to all parts of the Metropolis.

ALLESOPP'S PALE ALE IN IMPERIAL PINTS.

HARRINGTON PARKER & CO. are now delivering the October brewings of the above celebrated Ale. Its surpassing excellence is vouched for by the highest medical and chemical authorities of the day. Supplied in bottles, also in casks of 18 gallons and upwards, by HARRINGTON PARKER & CO., 54, Pall Mall.
November 24th, 1856.

SALT and Co.'s EAST INDIA PALE and BURTON ALES. BREWERY—BURTON-ON-TRENT.

STORES:

LONDON.....Hungerford Wharf.
LIVERPOOL.....52, Henry-street.
MANCHESTER.....37, Brown-street.
SHEFFIELD.....12, George-street.
BIRMINGHAM.....Old Court House, High-st.
BRISTOL.....13, Small-street.
DUBLIN.....4, Crown-alley.
EDINBURGH.....Porthopetoun Warehouse.
GLASGOW.....St. Vincent-place.

THE CONTINENTAL WINE COMPANY, BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL.

Are enabled, by their connexion with the principal wine growers, to supply every description of WINE of the finest qualities at prices for cash far below the average, including their

Alto Douro Ports, at 42s. per dozen.

Genuine ditto, 34s. per dozen.

Superior Pale or Gold Sherries, 30s. to 36s. per dozen.

Champagne, from 42s. to 72s.

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Post orders must contain a remittance.

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SOUTH AFRICAN PORT. SOUTH AFRICAN SHERRY.

"Having tasted these Wines, we say to those who like wine possessing Richness without Sweetness, Dryness without Acidity, and Body without Brandy, by all means give them a trial."—*Vide Bell's Weekly Messenger*, January 17, 1857.

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Terms Cash.

A Sample Bottle for 24 stamps.

Country Orders must contain a remittance. Cheques to be crossed "Bank of London."

J. L. DENMAN, Wine and Spirit Importer, 65, Fenchurch-street, London.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.

LIES.—By her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent (the only patent for these preparations). Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession. **ADNAM'S IMPROVED PATENT GROATS** and **BARLEY** are manufactured by a process which entirely removes the acidity and unpleasant flavour, so universally found in similar preparations. They produce Gruel and Barley Water in the highest perfection, and being manufactured perfectly pure, yield food of the most light and nourishing quality for the Infant, the Invalid, and the Aged. The Barley also makes a delicious Custard Pudding, and is an excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c.

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

(Copy.)

"Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital,

February 19, 1855.

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

(Signed)

"A. S. TAYLOR.

"Messrs. Adnam and Co."

CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each package bears the signature of the Patenteses, J. and J. C. ADNAM.

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

DR. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS

Give instant relief, and a rapid cure of asthma, coughs, and all disorders of the breath and lungs.

TO SINGERS and PUBLIC SPEAKERS they are invaluable for clearing and strengthening the voice. They have a pleasant taste. Price 1s. 14d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per box. Sold by all medicine vendors.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AN EXTRA-ORDINARY REMEDY FOR LIVER AND STOMACH COMPLAINTS.

Mark Drewell, of Milsom-street, Bath, was afflicted for seven years with a disorder of the Liver and Stomach, Indigestion, Loss of Appetite, and extreme Debility; consequently, quite unable to follow his occupation, he had consulted the most eminent medical men in town and country, without any beneficial result. At last he had recourse to this valuable remedy, which, in a short time, effected a wonderful change for the better, and in three months his health was re-established.

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

LOST! LOST!—LOST HAIR can be RESTORED by using a stimulant, such as ALEX. ROSS'S CANTHARIDES OIL.

It has now been before the public a long time, and has proved efficacious to an extraordinary extent. A treatise sent gratis, describing its action on the scalp, and on the fine short hairs, which are sometimes hardly visible.—Sold at 3s. 6d.; sent free by post for fifty-four stamps, by ALEX. ROSS, 1, LITTLE QUEEN-STREET, HIGH HOLBORN, proprietor of the Face powder, Hair Destroyer, and Hair Dye.

MAGNIFICENT VELVET MANTLES.

The Proprietors of the SPONSALIA have purchased the Stock of an eminent French Manufacturer, who has retired from business. The magnificent works of France in their highest perfection form a considerable portion of this stock, which will be sold at a REDUCTION of ONE-THIRD from the established prices. The BERNOUS, with the Patented Frontlet, invented by JAY and SMITH, and which cannot be purchased elsewhere, is acknowledged still to be the most graceful and the most comfortable Winter Cloak. The price is marked upon each article in plain figures.

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The FORTY-SEVEN SHILLING SUITS, made to order, from Scotch, Heather, and Cheviot Tweeds, all wool and thoroughly shrunk.

The PELISSIER SACS, 21s., 25s., and 28s.

THE BENJAMIN CLERICAL and PROFESSIONAL OVER or UNDER COAT, from 30s. The ALBERT LONG FROCK or OVER COAT, from 35s. to 55s. The REVERSIBLE WAISTCOAT, buttoning four different sides, 14s. The TWO GUINEA DRESS and FROCK COATS, the GUINEA DRESS TROUSERS, and the HALF-GUINEA WAISTCOATS.—N.B. A perfect fit guaranteed.

WHEATSTONE'S TEN GUINEA HARMONIUM.

MONIUM, manufactured expressly for Churches, Chapels, Schools, &c., is made on a greatly improved construction, combines all the latest improvements, and is manufactured solely by them; it has the compass of five octaves, an expression stop, and possesses a powerful rich quality of tone, answers with the greatest rapidity to the touch, and can be produced loud or soft at pleasure. It has a substantial oak case, can be warranted in every respect, and is indispensable to the school-room, singing-class, &c. The Ten Guinea Harmonium will be taken in exchange for any more expensive ones at full price if required. The more expensive Harmoniums, with from three to ten stops, range from 15 to 30 guineas. They are equally adapted to the church or drawing-room; for the former, it will be found most valuable, and in many respects preferable to the organ.

Messrs. WHEATSTONE obtained the only Great Exhibition prize for Harmoniums in 1851.

The MECHANICAL and FINGER HARMONIUM, which can be used mechanically or not, without any preparation. This is a perfectly new invention of Messrs. Wheatstone and Co., and can be seen only at their warehouses. This instrument will be found to be particularly useful when the Harmonium performer cannot always attend.

The PIANO HARMONIUM is made expressly for playing by the same performer with the Pianoforte.

Messrs. WHEATSTONE and CO. have just received a large assortment of the ALEXANDRE HARMONIUM, for which Messrs. Alexandre et Fils received the French medal of honour. Including the different instruments with and without the percussion action, and that with the expression à la main, at Reduced Prices.

These Harmoniums have been brought to the greatest perfection, and are equally adapted as an accompaniment to the voice or pianoforte, and have been pronounced the best by Adam, Auber, Liszt, Rossini, Thalberg, &c.

Also the SIX GUINEA HARMONIUM, or rather Seraphine, with 4 octaves, suitable for Sunday Schools and small Singing Classes.

WHEATSTONE and CO., 20, Conduit-street, Regent-street, London.

J. W. BENSON'S

WATCH, CLOCK, and CHRONOMETER MANUFACTORY, 33 and 34, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON. Established 1749.—J. W. BENSON, Manufacturer of GOLD and SILVER WATCHES of every description, construction, and pattern, invites attention to his magnificent and unprecedented display of Watches, which is admitted to be the largest and best selected Stock in London. It consists of Chronometer, Duplex, Patent, Detached Lever, Horizontal, and Vertical Movements, jewelled, &c., with all the latest improvements, mounted in superbly finished engine-turned and engraved Gold and Silver Cases. The designs engraved upon many of the cases are by eminent artists, and can only be obtained at this Manufactory. If the important requisites, superiority of finish, combined with accuracy of performance, elegance, durability, and reasonableness of price, are wished for, the intending Purchaser should visit this Manufactory, or send for the ILLUSTRATED PAMPHLET, published by J. W. BENSON (and sent post free on application), which contains sketches, prices, and directions as to what Watch to buy, where to buy it, and how to use it. Several hundred letters have been received from persons who have bought Watches at this Manufactory, bearing testimony to the correct performances of the same.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the *Morning Post*, Oct. 30, 1856.—"Exhibits exquisite artistic feeling in ornamentation, and perfection of mechanism in structure."—From the *Morning Chronicle*, Oct. 30.—"Excellence of design and perfection in workmanship."—From the *Morning Advertiser*, Nov. 1.—"The high reputation which Mr. Benson has obtained for the qualities of his manufacture stands second to none."—From the *Morning Herald*, Nov. 3.—"The high standing of Mr. Benson as a London manufacturer must secure for him a large amount of public patronage."—From the *Globe*, Nov. 3.—"All that can be desired, in finish, taste, and design."

GOLD WATCHES, Horizontal Movements, Jewelled, &c., accurate time-keepers, 3l. 15s., 4l. 15s., 5l. 15s., to 15l. 15s. each. Gold Lever Watches, jewelled, and highly-finished movements, 6l. 6s., 8l. 8s., 10l. 10s., 12l. 12s., 14l. 14s., 16l. 16s., to 40 guineas.

SILVER WATCHES, Horizontal Movements, Jewelled, &c., exact time-keepers, 2l. 2s., 2l. 15s., 3l. 15s., to 5l. 5s. each. Silver Lever Watches, highly finished, jewelled movements, 3l. 10s., 4l. 10s., 5l. 10s., 7l. 10s., 8l. 10s., 10l. 10s., to 20 guineas.

A Two Years' Warranty given with every Watch, and sent, carriage paid, to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, or any part of the kingdom, upon receipt of Post-office or Banker's order, made payable to J. W. BENSON, 33 and 34, Ludgate-hill, London.

Morhants, Shippers, and Watch Clubs supplied. Old Watches taken in Exchange.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied assortment of TABLE-CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on SALE at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales—3½ inch ivory-handled table-knives, with high shoulders, 12s. per dozen; desserts to match, 9s. 6d.; if to balance, 6d. per dozen extra; carvers, 4s. 3d. per pair: larger sizes, from 14s. 6d. to 26s. per dozen; extra fine ivory, 32s.; if with silver ferrules, 37s. to 50s.; white bone table-knives, 7s. 6d. per dozen; desserts, 5s. 6d.; carvers, 2s. 3d. per pair; black horn table-knives, 7s. 4d. per dozen; desserts, 6s., carvers, 2s. 6d.; black wood-handled table-knives and forks, 6s. per dozen; table steels from 7s. each. The largest stock in existence of plated dessert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish-carvers.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR SILVER.

The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced twenty years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when plated by the patent of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

	Fiddle or Old Silver Pattern.	Thread or Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Table Spoons and Forks per dozen	38s.	48s.	60s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	30s.	35s.	42s.
Tea ditto	18s.	24s.	30s.
Tea and Coffee Sets, Cruet, and Liqueur Frames, Waiters, Candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of replating done by the patent process.			

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

	Fiddle.	Thread.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks per dozen	12s.	28s.	30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	10s.	21s.	25s.
Tea ditto	5s.	11s.	12s.

DISH COVERS and HOT WATER DISHES in every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherche patterns. Tin dish covers 6s. 6d. the set of six; block tin, 12s. 3d. to 28s. 9d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 34s. to 58s. 6d. the set; Britannia metal, with or without silver-plated handles, 76s. 6d. to 110s. 6d. the set; Sheffield plated, 10l. to 16l. 10s. the set; block tin hot water dishes, with wells for gravy, 12s. to 30s.; Britannia metal, 22s. to 77s.; electro-plated on nickel, full-sized, 11l. 11s.

The additions to these extensive premises (already by far the largest in Europe) are of such a character that the entire of EIGHT HOUSES is devoted to the display of the most magnificent stock of GENERAL HOUSE IRONMONGERY (including Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated Goods, Baths, Brushes, Turnery, Lamps, Gaseliers, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, and Bed-hangings), so arranged in Sixteen Large Show Rooms as to afford to parties furnishing facilities in the selection of goods that cannot be hoped for elsewhere.

Illustrated Catalogues sent (per post) free.
39, OXFORD-STREET, W.; 1, 1A, 2, and 3 NEWMAN-STREET; and 4, 5, and 6, PERRY'S-PLACE, LONDON.

TEETH.—By her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent.

THE PATENT PNEUMATIC PALATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

Messrs. MOGGIDGE and DAVIS, Surgeon-Dentists to the Royal Family, 13, OLD BURLINGTON STREET, BOND STREET, PATENTEES of the self-sustaining principle of fixing Artificial Teeth.—From One to a Complete Set, upon their peculiar principle of self-adhesion, which can be adapted to the most tender mouths, without any operation whatever, and possess the desired advantages of preserving their natural colour and protecting the adjoining TEETH—of never decaying or wearing out, and so arranged as to render it impossible to distinguish ARTIFICIAL from the NATURAL TEETH, and restoring to the countenance a younger and improved appearance.

The PNEUMATIC PALATE has excited the greatest admiration of the most eminent PHYSICIANS and SURGEONS OF ENGLAND and the principal cities of the CONTINENT, who constantly favour them with their distinguished recommendations, and who consider their system to be greatly superior to any in use, as by it the greatest possible firmness and security in the mouth is attained. It also renders the articulation clear and distinct, and the unpleasant whistling, so long complained of, impossible.

—This to public speakers is invaluable.

An upper set, 10 Guineas; a lower set, 10 Guineas; a full set of Artificial Teeth, 10 Guineas; a single tooth, 1 Guinea. STOPPING, CLEANING, &c. ATTENDANCE, 10 TILL 5 O'CLOCK. ALL CONSULTATIONS FREE.

MESSRS. MOGGIDGE AND DAVIS, SURGEON-DENTISTS TO THE ROYAL FAMILY, No. 13, OLD BURLINGTON STREET, BOND STREET, LONDON.

Mr. A. J. Davis attends at the Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey, the first and third Thursday in every month, from 11 to 4 o'clock.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

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

Price of single truss, 10s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.—Postage, 1s. Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d.—Postage, 1s. 8d. Umbilical Truss, 42s. and 52s. 6d.—Postage 1s. 10d.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c. for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. 16s. Postage, 3d.

Manufactory, 228, Piccadilly, London.

UNITED MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 54, Charing-cross, London.

Whole Profits divided annually. No charge for Policy Stamps. Every description of Life Assurance effected on equitable terms.

THOMAS PRITCHARD, Resident Director.

SIX PER CENT. INTEREST.—DEBENTURES bearing Six per Cent. Interest are now ready to be issued for sums of 20l. and upwards; interest payable half-yearly.

LIFE ASSURANCE TREASURY INCORPORATED, and DEPOSIT, DISCOUNT, and ASSURANCE BANK. The EARL OF DEVON, Chairman. G. H. LAW, Manager.

6, Cannon-street West, E.C.

THE HOUSEHOLDERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.**DIRECTORS.**

Wm. Ashton, Esq., Horton-house, Wraysbury, Staines.
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This Company enables persons, without speculation, to invest large or small sums, at a higher rate of interest than can be obtained from the public funds, and on as secure a basis.

Forms of application to deposit sums of money, at 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly, or to purchase shares (the present interest on which is 6 per cent.), may be had on application to R. HODSON, Sec.

15 and 16, Adam-street, Adelphi.

ITALIAN AND FRENCH LANGUAGES.

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

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

BEDS, MATTRESSES, and BEDSTEADS.

WILLIAM S. BURTON'S NEW LIST of BEDS, BEDDING, and BEDSTEADS is NOW READY, and can be had gratis.

The quality of beds, mattresses, &c., of every description he is able to guarantee; they are made on the premises, in the presence of customers; their prices are in harmony with those which have tended to make his house ironmongery establishment the most extensive in the kingdom.

Feather beds.....	from £1 5 0 to £8 0 0
German spring mattresses.....	" 2 8 0 " 7 0 0
Horse hair mattresses.....	" 0 16 0 " 5 0 0
Wool mattresses.....	" 0 7 6 " 4 9 0
Flock mattresses.....	" 0 6 6 " 0 18 0
Best Alva and cotton mattresses.....	" 0 6 6 " 0 19 0
Sheets.....per pair	" 0 7 6 " 2 6 0
Blankets.....	" 0 3 0 " 1 4 0
Toilet quilts.....each	" 0 4 0 " 1 7 8
Counterpanes.....	" 0 2 6 " 0 15 0
Portable folding bedsteads	" 0 12 6 " 4 15 0
Patent iron bedsteads, with dove-tail joints.....	" 0 15 0 " 9 0 0
Ornamental brass ditto.....	" 2 10 0 " 20 0 0
Children's Cots.....	" 0 15 6 " 5 0 0
Bed hangings, in every variety.....per set	" 0 14 0 " 10 0 0

39, Oxford-street, W.; 1, 1A, 2, and 3, Newman-street; and 4, 5, and 6, Perry's-place, London.

FURNISH YOUR HOUSE

WITH THE BEST ARTICLES AT

DEANE'S**IRONMONGERY and FURNISHING WAREHOUSES.**

A Priced Furnishing List sent Post Free.

DEANE DRAY, & CO., LONDON-BRIDGE.

Established A.D. 1700.

RUPTURES EFFECTUALLY CURED

WITHOUT A TRUSS.—DR. BARKER'S celebrated REMEDY is protected by three patents, of England, France, and Vienna; and from its great success in private practice is now made known as a public duty through the medium of the press. In every case of single or double rupture, in either sex, of any age, however bad or long standing, it is equally applicable, effecting a cure in a few days, without inconvenience, and will be hailed as a boon by all who have been tortured with trusses. Sent post free to any part of the world, with instructions for use, on receipt of 10s. 6d. by post-office order, or stamps, by CHARLES BARKER, M.D., 10, Brook-street, Holborn, London.—Any infringement of this triple patent will be proceeded against and restrained by injunction of the Lord High Chancellor.

TEETH.—Messrs. GABRIEL supply COMPLETE SETS, without Springs, on the principle of capillary attraction, avoiding the necessity of extracting stumps or causing any pain.

SILICIOUS ENAMELLED AMERICAN MINERAL TEETH, the best in Europe—guaranteed to answer every purpose of mastication or articulation—from 3s. 6d. per Tooth.

Sets, 4l. 4s.—Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent have been awarded for the production of a perfectly WHITE ENAMEL, for decayed FRONT TEETH, which can only be obtained at Messrs. Gabriel's Establishments.

33, LUDGATE HILL, five doors from the Old Bailey; and at 112, DUKE-STREET, LIVERPOOL.

Consultation and every information gratis.

LONDON AND COUNTY JOINT-STOCK BANKING COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE, 21, LOMBARD-STREET.

DIRECTORS.

Philip Patton Blyth, Esq. Wm. Champion Jones, Esq.
J. Wm. Burmester, Esq. James Laming, Esq.
William Cory, Esq. John Henry Lance, Esq.
James Andrew Durham, Esq. William Lee, Esq., M.P.
Jos. C. Ewart, Esq., M.P. William Nicol, Esq.
Aubrey Alex. Houghton, Esq. Richard Springett, Esq.
General Manager—William McKewan, Esq.

At the ANNUAL MEETING of PROPRIETORS, held on Thursday, February 5, 1857, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, the following report for the year ending the 31st December, 1856, was read by the Secretary.

WILLIAM NICOL, Esq., in the Chair.

REPORT.

This being the time prescribed by the Deed of Settlement for the Annual Meeting of the Company, your Directors proceed accordingly to lay before the Proprietors a general statement of the affairs of the Bank for the half-year ending the 31st of December last.

It will be shown by the Balance Sheet, signed by the Auditors, and certified by Mr. Coleman, Public Accountant, that the gross Profit of the Bank for the last half-year, including balances amounting to 20,992. 9s. 2d. brought forward from the last Account, and after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, amounts to 119,257. 3s. 4d., leaving, after deductions of all Expenses, Interest, and Rebate, a net Profit of 38,081. 9s. 6d.

From this sum your Directors recommend that a Dividend be now declared of 6 per cent. for the half-year, free of Income-tax, which, with 6 per cent. previously paid for the six months ending the 30th June last, will be 11 per cent. for the year 1856.

Your Directors likewise recommend that an addition of 500*l.* be now made to the "Provident Fund" of the Bank, for the year 1856, being the same in amount as the sum granted with this object for the previous year.

Should these recommendations be adopted, there will remain a Balance of 7795*l.* 14s. 3d. to be carried to Profit and Loss New Account.

As suggested at the meeting of the Proprietors in August last, your Directors further recommend that the limitation placed on the Reserve Fund at the last Annual Meeting be removed.

The Directors retiring by rotation are—John William Burmester, Esq., Richard Springett, Esq., and William Champion Jones, Esq., who respectively offer themselves for re-election.

BALANCE SHEET OF THE LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, 31st DECEMBER, 1856.

Dr.			
To capital paid up	£498,032	10	0
Reserve fund.....	100,000	0	0
Customers' balances, &c.....	3,543,826	6	4
Profit and loss balance brought from last ac- count	£10,819	16	7
Do. rebate, &c., ditto.....	10,179	12	7
Gross profit for the half- year after making provi- sion for bad and doubt- ful debts.....	98,257	14	2
		110,237	3 4
		£4,261,113	19 8

Cr.			
By cash on hand at head office, and branches	£526,765	1	9
Cash placed at call and at short notice	546,059	16	0
		£1,072,824	17 9

Investments, viz. :—																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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		411,366	18	2
Discounted bills, notes, and temporary advances to customers in town and country	2,366,034	16	4	
Advances to customers on special securities.....	288,864	7	0	

Freehold premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, freehold and leasehold property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings	2,654,890	3	4
Interest paid to customers	50,514	14	10
Salaries and all other expenses at head office and branches	29,892	19	7
	41,615	6	0

		£4,261,113	19	8
Dr.	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.			
To interest paid to customers		£29,892	19	7
Expenses, as above.....		41,615	6	0
Rebate on bills not due, &c., carried to profit and loss new account.....		9,067	8	3
Half-year's dividend, at 12 per cent. per annum		29,785	15	3
Provident Fund		500	0	0
Balance carried to profit and loss new account		7,795	14	3

Cr.		£119,257	3	4
By balance brought forward from last account		£10,819	16	7
Rebate, &c. ditto		10,179	12	7
Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts		98,257	14	2

By profit and loss new account, balance brought down	£7,795	14	3
By ditto, ditto, rebate, &c., brought down	9,067	8	3

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing balance-sheet, and compared the items it comprises with the several books and vouchers relating thereto, and have found the same to be correct.

(Signed) HENRY OVERTON,
JOHN WRIGHT,
FREDERICK GASKELL, } Auditors.
J. E. COLEMAN, Public Accountant.

London and County Bank, January 28, 1856.

The foregoing Report having been read by the Secretary, the following Resolutions were proposed and unanimously adopted:—

1. That the Report be received and adopted, and printed for the use of the Shareholders.

2. That a Dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. be declared upon the Capital Stock of the Company for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1856, clear of Income-tax—payable on and after Monday, the 18th of February instant.

3. That the sum of 500*l.* be added to the "Provident Fund," and the balance of 7795*l.* 14s. 3d., then remaining, be carried to Profit and Loss new Account.

4. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Board of Directors for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company.

5. That the thanks of the Meeting be presented to the Auditors of the Company for the past year.

6. That Frederick Gaskell, Henry Overton, and John Wright, Esquires, be re-elected Auditors for the current year.

7. That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to William McKewan, Esq., the General Manager, and the other officers of the establishment, for the zeal and ability with which they have severally discharged their respective duties.

The Ballot for the election of three Directors having been proceeded with, the following gentlemen were unanimously re-elected:—John William Burmester, Esq., Richard Springett, Esq., and William Champion Jones, Esq.

(Signed) WILLIAM NICOL, Chairman.

The Chairman having quitted the Chair, it was resolved, and carried unanimously—

That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be presented to William Nicol, Esq., for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair.

Extracted from the Minutes.
(Signed) R. P. NICHOLS, Secretary.

LONDON and COUNTY JOINT-STOCK BANKING COMPANY. Notice is hereby given, that a DIVIDEND of 6 per cent. on the capital stock of the Company, for the half-year ending the 31st December, 1856, will be PAID to the Proprietors either at the parent establishment, 21, Lombard-street, or at any of the Company's branch banks, on and after Monday, the 18th February instant.

By order, W. M'KEWAN.

21, Lombard-street, February 5, 1857.

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London, 1st February, 1857.

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Capital, Half a Million Sterling.

The existing Revenue exceeds Fifty Thousand Pounds per Annum.

PRESIDENTS.

The Right Hon. Thomas Milner Gibson, M.P. for Manchester.

George Frederick Muntz, Esq., M.P. for Birmingham.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (All of whom are Shareholders.)

CHAIRMAN.
George Alexander Hamilton, Esq., M.P. for Dublin University.

DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.

Lieut.-Col. J. W. Reynolds, 2, Clifton-place, Sussex-square.
Thomas Barnes, Esq., M.P. for Bolton.

Josiah Bates, Esq., Throgmorton-street, and Tollington-park.
John Choetham, Esq., M.P. for South Lancashire.

Frederick Chinnock, Esq., 8, Mansfield-street, Cavendish-square.
James Davidson, Esq., 2, Walbrook.

John Field, Esq., Warnford Court, and Dornden, Tunbridge Wells.
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Thos. C. Hayward, Esq., Minorities and Highbury.

J. Hedges, Esq., Thayer-street, Manchester-square.
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ROBERT TUCKER, Secretary.

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To secure the advantage of this year's entry, proposals must be lodged at the head-office, or at any of the Society's Agencies, on or before the 1st March.

Policies effected on or before 1st March, 1857, will receive six years' additions at the Division of Profits at 1st March, 1862.

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At the Division of Surplus at 1st March, 1856, a policy for 1000*l.*, effected at 1st March, 1832, was increased to 1571*l.* 18s. 10d., being at the rate of TWO AND A QUARTER per cent. per annum on the Sum Assured. This addition may be converted into a present payment, or applied in reduction of the future Premiums.

Profits are divided Triennially, and belong wholly to the Assured.

Accumulated Funds	£1,000,000
Annual Revenue	169,400
Existing Assurances	4,764,949

Copies of the Report by the Directors on the Division of Surplus in 1856, and all information, may be had on application at the Head Office, or Agencies.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, Manager.

WM. FINLAY, Secretary.

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MARTIN T. SMITH, Esq., M.P., Deputy-Chairman.

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Proposals for insurances may be made at the chief office, as above; at the branch office, 16, Pall Mall, London; or to any of the agents throughout the kingdom.

BONUS TABLE,

Showing the additions made to Policies of 1000*l.* each.

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum Payable after Death.
1820	£ 523 16 0	£ 114 5 0	£ 638 1 0
1825	382 14 0	103 14 0	486 8 0
1830	241 12 0	93 2 0	334 14 0
1835	185 3 0	88 17 0	274 0 0
1840	128 15 0	84 13 0	213 8 0
1845	65 15 0	79 18 0	145 13 0
1850	10 0 0	75 15 0	85 15 0
1855	—	15 0 0	15 0 0

And for intermediate years in proportion. The next appropriation will be made in 1861. Insurances, without participation in Profits, may be effected at reduced rates.

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