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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 21, 1857.

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Review of the Week.

NOTHING like a general election—unless it were a bill for recruiting the suffrage with an honest life. We shall get nothing out of the present House of Commons worthy of the country; it is falling back into the regular routine of party compromises in the treatment of its finance, its rascals, or its duties. Ministers have compromised with the Opposition by their budget, which is understood to be more liberal than they had designed it, though it is less liberal than that which Mr DISRAELI would have given; that is, Ministers take off 9d., but not the 1ld. which would have been the rate under the GLADSTONE settlement of 1853. In making that reduction, Ministers partially defer the decline of the duties on tea and sugar; articles which, in the present state of the market for both of them, certainly required relief far more than they did last year. We have, however, discussed the provisions of the Budget in a separate paper. The compromise which Ministers have entered into has spoiled Mr. DISRAELI's position as a champion of popular rights, and he has retreated on an abstract proposition about the necessity of re-adjusting and balancing budgets, so as to remit the Income-tax in 1860. Mr. GLADSTONE grapples with the more practical part of the matter, and makes himself the champion of the clamorous tea-trade and the passive sugar-trade, in resisting the alteration of the duties. The first night on the Budget gave us little more than that dry, though clear statement which Sir GEORGE LEWIS had hardly voice enough to deliver, and the Members hardly patience to hear. It is, however, not a debating Budget, so simple are its outlines, so negative its character. Evidently Ministers hope that they have disarmed anything like general popular objection by the large amount of the Income-tax which they have conceded. We shall see.

Captain SCOBELL, one of the most promising members returned by the city of Bath, which commonly appoints some Tribune of the People, stands up for his own profession, and demands a select committee of inquiry into the naval appointments. The Army is said to be the playground of the aristocracy, we have given up hoping that the present Government will effect any reform in the system of commissions, but we used to consider the Navy a more national force,—that the rough life at sea prevents mere popinjay gentlemen from taking to

it as an amusement, and that here at least the appointments should be honest. Captain SCOBELL stated several cases which show that the system is not honest; but he could not find a majority of the House of Commons to stand up for the national service.

It is the same with public education. We were in hopes that the honest zeal of Sir JOHN PAKINGTON would draw to him, not only the Manchester party, but Lord JOHN RUSSELL, and that the complete union of the best men from the Tory, Whig, and Middle-class parties would at last place this country on a par with the United States, and open a respectable school for every boy and girl in it. No such thing. We have been no flatterers of Mr. COBDEN, but we cannot withhold from him a hearty acknowledgment of the services which he has sought to perform for his country in so handsomely joining Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, whose frankness and manly concession to the views of others have won him the respect of the whole country. The leader of the Liberal party has not proved so strong. Lord JOHN RUSSELL did not directly oppose Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, but hinted doubt and hesitated dislike. He seemed as if he could not depart from the standards of the British and Foreign School Society. There is no knowing what might have been the effect upon the Ministers, if Lord JOHN had joined the union; it would then have been too formidable, too popular for Ministerial resistance. As it was, Mr. COWPER, the Minister of Education, was comparatively free to suggest a moderate resistance on the score of sectarian sympathies; so that by the passiveness of Lord JOHN, Ministers and the Tories seem able to beat Sir JOHN PAKINGTON and the Manchester party. Of course leave was given to Sir JOHN to bring in his bill, if only out of personal respect for the man and of formal homage to the subject; but the combination of parties promises little success this session.

One act of common sense the House of Commons has committed. Mr. SPOONER's annual Maynooth motion has been brushed aside by 167 to 159.

Even in the expulsion of its scoundrels, however, the present House compromises. Last session Mr. ROEBUCK proposed to expel JAMES SADLEIR, whose character was by that time pretty well known; but the ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND hesitated to convict an absentee,—and also to vacate a Ministerial seat in Ireland, without more preparation. At last the candidates of the Tipperary were ready, and Mr. FITZGERALD not only consents to expel JAMES SADLEIR, but takes

the lead in doing so. Meanwhile, JAMES has got over to Paris—he has been seen there by one of his victims, Mr. JAMES SCULLY; so that the delay has been beneficial to him. Mr. ROEBUCK now suggested that the House of Commons should look a little further, and see if it had not more to do in the same line. There are two or three absentees the causes of whose absence might very well be investigated. They are in different grades of society; the one thing common to them is that they are members of the Honourable House. But, perhaps, the best mode for really weeding the House of Commons, if it can be weeded by any mode, would be a dissolution of Parliament.

The spirit of compromise which we have seen in the Commons prevails in the House of Lords, where we see Lord BROUGHAM and the LORD CHANCELLOR perform eclogues on Law Reform; the LORD CHANCELLOR introducing bills, Lord BROUGHAM ideas. The subject this time was the Consolidation of the Criminal Statutes. Everybody knows that the laws, from the extreme number of statutes, and the unconnected manner in which they have been composed, are so voluminous that nobody can understand them, so conflicting that they cannot be reconciled, and so arranged altogether that they afford traps for the use of the knavish and the injury of the honest. There have been various proposals for the purpose of reducing them to a code, which is, however, scarcely consistent with the spirit of past legislation in this country. Our laws have been made bit by bit, we continue to alter them, and the code would be constantly subjected to amendments. It would be like that nuisance of which the Italians are so fond—a book smothered in its own annotations. A better plan is that of which Sir FITZROY KELLY is the clearest and most constant champion,—the consolidation of the statutes. The LORD CHANCELLOR professes to be active in this labour with the assistance of his friend Mr. BELLENDEN KER. Mr. KER is a gentleman whose work is always to be so perfect that he never seems to have finished it; hence he has been exposed to the reproach that he delays the work to prolong the pay,—a most unjust reproach, as Lord BROUGHAM showed; for Mr. KER has done much of the work without any pay. But all this zeal has not yet got us either a codification or a consolidation of any considerable part of the statutes. The LORD CHANCELLOR is not a Minister who can carry his own bills. Lord BROUGHAM, who calls himself the *charge d'affaires* for law reforms, delivers annual speeches on the subject, and

all hope of now really making a beginning rests, not upon the bills of the session, but upon the motion which Mr. NAPIER carried last week, for appointing a responsible Minister of Justice.

But, strangely enough, the most promising event since the beginning of the session has been a victory of the Ministers—a victory which is the most fatal jar that Lord PALMERSTON has encountered since he undertook the Government. He seems to have declined into the “quem Deus vult” state. Mr. LOCKE KING again introduced his bill to assimilate the county franchise in England and Wales to the franchise in boroughs, giving the vote to occupiers of tenements yielding an annual rent of 10*l*. He rests upon the broad principle that taxation and representation should go more together; but it was not simply on the merits of the bill that the interest of the contest arose. When Mr. LOCKE KING first introduced that measure some years ago, Lord JOHN RUSSELL asked him to waive a division. To Mr. JOHN BRIGHT is ascribed the influence which impelled Mr. KING to divide. Ministers were beaten. Lord JOHN afterwards, for reasons which he has explained this week, introduced the same provision into his Supplemental Reform Bill, adopted by the Cabinet of which Lord PALMERSTON was a Minister. Reform in the comprehensive sense is shelved for the time,—Mr. DUNCOMBE explained why; but Mr. KING again brings forward the bill which has been identified with his name. How is he met? Lord PALMERSTON opposes any interference with the constitution as it is settled at present. And then, successively, against the Premier, rise up, amongst others,—Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE, and Sir JAMES GRAHAM. Even Mr. DRUMMOND is against the Minister, who has with him the young thick and thin Tory Member Mr. BENTINCK, and Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT; the latter defending him, not on the merits of the question, but on the plea of compassion, that he would not increase the difficulties of the Government. Lord PALMERSTON beat Mr. LOCKE KING by 192 to 179—the thick and thin Ministerialists and the Tories only mustering the net majority of 13 against the newly-revived Liberal party.

Agitation has thus transferred itself to Parliament, for out of doors there is little going forward,—save the tea-dealers moving against the non-reduced tax, and Mr. ERNEST JONES marshalling the unemployed in Smithfield to stand up for Parliamentary reform and redemption of the land from its feudal appropriations.

Unemployed! A far more formidable class in France than with us. They appear this time even in the speech of the Emperor NAPOLEON, anxious as he is to throw a brilliant colour over the description of the empire under his rule. He all but proclaims peace; hints at a close alliance between himself and all the Powers—Austria, however, not being distinctly indicated; announces the remission of some taxes; and affirms that the loans already contracted will balance the expenses of the war. He promises to reduce the army, making the annual levy of conscripts less by 20,000 than the usual number, but yet so organizing the recruits as to keep on hand a trained reserve of 600,000 men. His speech contains passages which point precepts to two rather important parties. Those who have threatened to raise the manufacturing and industrial classes against him, for the movements which he has encouraged in favour of free-trade, he recommends to study the wise counsels of political economy; and he implies the promise of mitigating the disturbances which improvements introduced into industry. He has continually endeavoured to check the excessive speculation in which some of his own leading Ministers have been prominent, and he now puts the screw in a tangible form by imposing a duty upon all negotiable securities. The speech has had a good effect; the funds in Paris have gone up—facts that prove the

inborn tendency of the French to place a reliance in the divine power which NAPOLEON almost claims. It is a strange exhibition to come in our day.

Another exhibition which ought to have its hint for us at home, is in the authorized journals of Austria—a display of excessive rancour against Sardinia, at whom are levelled hints that her attempt in the Paris Conference was a failure, and that she will be put down as the family of Savoy has been put down before. What does this mean? Austria is supposed to be at present more the ally of England than even of France, Prussia, or Russia.

There are reports, and they are not improbable, that King FREDERICK WILLIAM refuses to ratify the arrangement already promised to Switzerland by France and England. We seem to be approaching a very saturnalia of crowned heads!

Persia has been giving land to Russia—that monster whom she has expected to devour her. Thus our protégé in Central Asia is consorting with our enemy.

Just as people at home have found that Sir JOHN BOWRING has no instructions, the telegraph tells us of his increasing difficulties in China. He has gone to war with an empire. Lord PALMERSTON, it is said, in former times was distinguished for standing by his subordinates.

The kings and emperors seem as little capable of keeping order as the lords of our industrial system, who open collieries to enrich themselves, sell shares which impoverish the buyers, and send down workmen to be exploded, as they have this week in the Lund-hill colliery,—another added to the list of those tragedies which disgrace the intelligence and management of our coal owners.

As if to complete the solemn farce, JOHN ARROWSMITH comes out again. A complete refutation of his story from all the persons engaged draws him forth once more with the admission that he did not properly state the day; it was not Thursday for which day he has been refuted, but Friday.—Unlucky Friday!

THE TEA DUTIES.—A numerous meeting of the tea trade, comprising importers, brokers, and others, took place at the London Tavern, on Monday, Mr. Moffatt, M.P., presiding, to protest against the alteration of the duty on tea, as proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his budget.—The meeting was resumed on Tuesday, when it was resolved to petition Parliament against the proposed change. A resolution was also adopted, suggesting that, in place of the proposal to reduce the existing duty of 1*s*. 9*d*. to 1*s*. 7*d*. this year, to 1*s*. 5*d*. in 1858, 1*s*. 3*d*. in 1859, and 1*s*. in 1860, the Chancellor of the Exchequer should adopt a fixed rate of 1*s*. 4*d*. for the three years up to the 5th of April, 1860.

THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS AND THE POLICE.—A deputation of a committee of licensed victuallers had an interview with Sir George Grey, at the Home-office, last Saturday, to call his attention to the present anomalous position of the licensed victuallers with respect to the police. The deputation was introduced by the Hon. F. H. F. Berkeley, M.P., who, in a few observations, placed the whole question before Sir George Grey. It was this:—“Has the licensed victualler the right to the aid of the police to remove a disorderly or peace-breaking person from his house, as several magistrates and judges have held?” There had been several cases recently where publicans had acted for themselves, and had been subjected to vexatious and costly proceedings for assault, and the magistrates said they should not have acted for themselves, but have called in the police to remove the obnoxious individual. A case of more than usual hardship—that of a Mr. Doggett, one of the deputation—was mentioned. From this it appeared that there are persons who provoke landlords to turn them out, in order that they may then proceed against the ejecting parties for assault. Sir George Grey promised to consider the whole question, and to confer with Sir Richard Mayne.

THE WESTMINSTER BELLS.—The largest of the four quarter bells for the Westminster clock was cast last week at Norton, near Stockton, the birthplace of the great bell. It is pronounced to be of the intended note B, a fifth above the great bell, and an octave below the bell which was lately cast of similar metal by Messrs. Warner from the same pattern, but of half the size and one-eighth of the weight, for the east-iron clock, with the Westminster clock escapement, made by Mr. Dent, of the Strand, for the Queen at Balmoral. The diameter of this bell is six feet exactly, and its weight will be a little under four tons.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, February 16th.

LAW OF LIBEL.

In the House of Lords, Lord FAVERSHAM presented a petition from Launcelot Foster, proprietor of the *Yorkshire Gazette*, complaining of the recent decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in the case of “*Davison v. Dunn*,” in which it was laid down that the publication of the proceedings of public meetings form a ground of libel, no matter how faithfully reported. The petitioner prayed that the law in such cases might be assimilated to that which protects reports of the proceedings of courts of justice. His Lordship also presented a petition from L. W. Theakson, proprietor of the *Scarborough Gazette*, with a similar prayer; as did Lord BROUGHAM from the proprietors of the *Leeds Mercury*, and Lord CAMPBELL from another paper. The last-named noble Lord hoped that the law would be speedily altered.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Lord BROUGHAM laid upon the table a bill to facilitate the collection of judicial statistics. He referred to the means adopted on the continent to obtain similar returns, and remarked, that even in Naples itself a better system is in operation for the collection of judicial statistics than in this country.—The Lord Chancellor said the matter had been under the consideration of Government, and, as the subject was important, it should receive their further attention.

THE WAR IN PERSIA.—BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

Lord LYTTLETON presented a petition complaining of the invasion of Persia and the bombardment of Canton, and praying for the control of Parliament over the policy of Government when thus dealing with foreign states.

In accordance with a request from Lord CLARENDON, the Earl of ALBEMARLE postponed for a few days his motion on the Persian war.

THE SHEEPSHANKS COLLECTION.

Lord MONTEAGLE having moved for some correspondence relating to the proposed gift by Mr. Sheepshanks of his collection of paintings and works of art to the nation, Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY explained the conditions which Mr. Sheepshanks had attached to his magnificent present. He stipulated that the collection should be hung in some convenient building in connexion with the schools of art lately established at Kensington Gore, and be placed under the sole responsibility of the minister entrusted with the department of public education. The collection was to be thrown open freely for public instruction and enjoyment on all fitting seasons, and it was the wish of the donor, though not made an express condition, that the gallery should be opened on Sunday evenings.

THE YEOMANRY.

Earl POWIS made some remarks with respect to the Yeomanry, which body he thought was losing its efficiency, and would be unable, if required, to render any aid to the civil power, owing to the men not being properly called out and drilled. He also wished to know what was to be done with regard to a continuing allowance.—Lord PANMURE did not think it at all likely that the Yeomanry would be required to aid the civil power; but he admitted the importance of the question about a continuing allowance, and said it should have his most serious attention.—After a little further discussion, a motion by Lord POWIS for a return bearing on the subject was agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE CROWN.

In the House of Commons, Lord CASTLEROSSE, the Comptroller of the Household, appeared at the bar, and read the following message from her Majesty:—“I have received your address respecting the formation of a department of public justice, and have given directions that it shall receive the attention which its importance deserves.”

ECCLIESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

Sir GEORGE GREY, in answer to Lord ROBERT OECIL, said that a bill had been prepared for the purpose of giving effect to the recommendations of the committee which sat last session on the ecclesiastical commission, and he should give notice of its introduction on an early day.

EXPULSION OF MR. JAMES SADLEIR.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD) moved the following resolution:—“That James Sadelir, Esq., a member of this House, having been charged with divers frauds and fraudulent practices, and bills of indictment for certain misdemeanours having been found against him, and warrants issued for his apprehension, and the said James Sadelir having failed to obey an order of this House that he should attend in his place on Thursday, the 24th day of July last, and having fled from justice, the said James Sadelir be expelled the House.” He justified this proceeding by the precedent of the expulsion of Mr. George Robinson, in 1732, for fraudulent practices, though no proof of his guilt, excepting his flight beyond seas, was before the House. Great exertions had been made to discover James Sadelir, but they had failed, though it was believed that he was in Paris.—Sir FREDERICK THESIGER, Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. WHITESIDE, and Mr.

NAPIER censured the Government for not acceding to the motion for the same purpose brought forward by the second of those gentlemen on the 24th of last July.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Mr. STUART WORTLEY) and Sir GEORGE GREY vindicated the course which had been taken, on the ground that the accused had not had sufficient time last July to meet the charges against him.—The motion was agreed to *nem. con.*

SUPPLY.

On the question of going into a Committee of Supply, a discussion arose upon a question of form, in the course of which Mr. DISRAELI read a notice of a resolution he intended to propose, the object of which was to affirm the expediency of so adjusting income and expenditure as would best secure the country against the risk of a deficiency in the years 1858-9 and 1859-60.—Mr. GLADSTONE protested against any vote upon the Navy Estimates that night, or until the House had an opportunity of discussing the financial statement as a whole.—Lord PALMERSTON said no vote upon the estimates would be taken that night.—The House then went into a Committee of Supply, when the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, in moving a vote of 2,000,000. to pay off Exchequer-bonds, gave certain explanations of his financial statement which had been called for on the previous Friday night, and read a statement of the details of the estimated revenue and expenditure for the years 1858-9 and 1859-60, with the view of showing that Mr. Disraeli's apprehensions of a deficiency were groundless.—The resolution was agreed to.

The House having resumed, additions were made to the Bank Acts Committee, the number of which, after some discussion, was fixed at twenty-four, in accordance with an amendment moved by the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.—At about a quarter after seven, the House adjourned.

Tuesday, February 17th.

STATUTE LAW COMMISSION.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the LORD CHANCELLOR intimated his intention to bring in shortly seven bills for consolidating the criminal statutes.—Lord BROUGHAM observed that the task of digesting the common law should be confided to experienced legal hands, and that Parliament should then accept, without any attempt at alteration, the work of their hands. He highly complimented the ill-requited labours of Mr. Bellenden Ker—a eulogy in which the LORD CHANCELLOR warmly concurred.

COUNTY RATES FOR RAILWAYS.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE presented a petition from ratepayers of the county of Galway, complaining of being rated for the construction of railways. It was certainly, he observed, a principle most unsatisfactory that such a state of things should exist.—The Earl of LUCAN also objected to the system, in which, however, Lord MONTEAGLE discerned some advantages.—Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said he thought that, while in most instances it might be injudicious to give any guarantee, it would be equally wrong to lay it down, as a strict and inflexible rule, that in no case a guarantee should be given.—The petition was laid on the table.

TENANT RIGHT (IRELAND).

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. GEORGE MOORE gave notice that on the 3rd of March he would move for leave to bring in a bill to grant compensation to tenant farmers in Ireland for improvements.

THE MEGARA.

Replying to Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, Sir CHARLES WOOD explained that the Megara troop-ship owed its detention at Portsmouth to the commander miscalculating the time at which she would be ready to sail. It was not true that, after sailing, she sprung a dangerous leak. The fact was, that two screws worked through her bottom, but the leakage was so small that the application of a single hand-pump was sufficient to keep the water out. The holes had been stopped up, and there was no doubt she would be able to perform the duties for which she was destined, viz., to carry troops to the Mauritius.

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS.

The LORD ADVOCATE, in answer to Mr. BAXTER, stated that he intended to bring in a bill to extend to the Scotch counties the provisions of the Registration of Voters Bill, passed last year for the burghs; also a police bill for Scotland.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. COCHRANE, stated that the correspondence recently published on the subject of Naples contains all the despatches which bear on the main question.

Sir CHARLES WOOD, in answer to Mr. ROEBUCK, stated that it is not true that the ship Resolute, lately fitted up and presented to England by the United States, has been pulled to pieces.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Lord GODERICH, promised additional papers on the subject of China.

IRISH FISHERIES.

Mr. McMAHON obtained leave to bring in bills to assimilate the law as to the sea-coast fisheries of Ireland to that of England. One of the objectionable portions of the existing Irish Act of 1842 is a section making it compulsory that a seine net set after sunset for catching fish should be hauled up before sunrise, under a penalty of 10s., and the forfeiture of the net and its contents.

NAVAL ADMINISTRATION.

Captain SCOBELL renewed his motion for a select committee to inquire into the naval administration, relating to the lists of officers, the patronage, the promotions, and the retirements, and the efficiency of the service in all its grades. He based the necessity for this inquiry on the assertion that advancement in the navy is impossible without family or parliamentary influence.—This was denied by Sir CHARLES WOOD, who said that the retired and half-pay lists referred to by the captain showed the contrary, and that the continued efficiency of the navy was exhibited in the late war.—Mr. LINDSAY supported the motion, and Admiral WALCOTT stated that naval men have a strong opinion that their claims are not fairly dealt with, and that too much power and patronage is vested in the First Lord of the Admiralty.—The motion was negatived by 97 to 76.

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

On the motion of Lord PALMERSTON, a select committee was appointed to inquire into the operation of the Act 17 and 18 Vic., c. 102, intitled "An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to bribery, treating, and undue influence at elections of members of Parliament."

The report on SUPPLY was brought up and agreed to. The ROYAL MARINE FORCES BILL was read a third time, and passed.

The House then adjourned.

Wednesday, February 18th.

JUDGMENTS EXECUTION BILL.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the order for going into committee upon this Bill, Mr. HUGHES moved to defer the committee for six months, on the ground that the bill would injuriously affect the administration of justice and the principles of procedure in the courts of common law in Ireland.—Mr. HADFIELD supported the bill, which was opposed by Mr. WHITESIDE, who contended that it would create greater evils than it remedied, and recommended that the whole subject of the execution of judgments should be left to the future department of justice.—The bill was also opposed by Mr. BLAND, Colonel DUNNE, Mr. McCANN, Mr. NAPIER, Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. SPOONER, and Mr. McMAHON, and supported by Sir J. FITZGERALD, the LORD ADVOCATE, Mr. GEORGE BUTT, and Mr. WARREN, who thought there was no ground for apprehending that it would work injuriously for Ireland, and believed that its effects would be salutary for all parts of the kingdom.—Upon a division, the amendment was negatived by 127 to 80, and the House went into committee upon the bill. The chairman, however, was ordered to report progress, the committee to sit again that day week.

The House again went into committee upon the CHIEF CONSTABLES BILL, the clauses of which were agreed to.

EDUCATION.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON moved for leave to bring in a bill for the promotion of elementary education in cities and corporate towns. He had no desire to disturb the conclusion arrived at when Lord John Russell's resolutions on the subject were under discussion. The distinction between his proposal and that embodied in those resolutions was that, instead of the system of education being compulsory, it should be permissive. The operation of his scheme was to be restricted to cities and corporate towns, where, by assent of a majority of ratepayers, rates could be levied for the establishment of schools, upon the conditions of perfect freedom and toleration in matters of religion, and of local control and management over the expenditure of the funds. The rate would also be granted to any existing school coming up to the required standard, and there would be no compulsion to learn doctrines to which the parents object. The rate would be in aid of the existing system; the pence now drawn from the children's pockets would continue to be so contributed, and the contribution of the Committee of Council would not be interfered with. In addition to these provisions, power would be assigned to the local committees, when proof of poverty was given, to establish free schools or to admit a stated proportion of free scholars into existing schools. The bill was a result of the recent cohesion between the "religious" and the "secular" party.—Mr. COWPER, while consenting to the introduction of the measure, apprehended that some of its details were imperfectly framed, and that the author had underrated the opposition he was likely to encounter. He also objected to the omission of a more decided religious element.—In support of this view, various objections were urged against different clauses of the bill by Mr. BALL, Lord ROBERT CREIL, Mr. HENLEY, and Mr. HADFIELD.—Mr. CORDEN and Lord JOHN RUSSELL expressed their approval of the measure, though the latter still desired education to be compulsory.—Ultimately, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Thursday, February 19th.

THE LAW OF LIBEL.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord CAMPBELL gave notice that next Thursday, the 26th inst., he would move for a select committee to consider whether the privileges now enjoyed by the reports of proceedings in the courts of justice may be safely and properly extended to reports of the proceedings in the two Houses of Parliament, and to any and what other assemblies or public meetings, under any and what conditions and restrictions.

THE LATE HOSTILITIES IN CHINA.

After a conversation between Earl GREY and Earl GRANVILLE, with respect to the register of the *Morchia Arrow*, in connexion with the recent hostilities, which Lord Grey thought were not justifiable under the circumstances, Lord DERBY read the motion which he proposes to bring forward next Tuesday, and which runs thus:—"That this House has heard with deep regret the interruption of amicable arrangements between her Majesty's subjects and the Chinese authorities at Canton, arising out of the measures adopted by her Majesty's chief superintendent of trade, to obtain reparation for an alleged infraction of the supplementary treaty of 8th of October, 1843; that in the opinion of this House the occurrence of differences on this subject rendered the time peculiarly unfavourable for pressing upon the Chinese authorities a claim for the admittance of British subjects into Canton which had been left in abeyance since 1849, and for supporting the same by force of arms; that in the opinion of this House the operations of actual hostility ought not to be undertaken without express instructions previously received from her Majesty's Government, and that neither of the subjects adverted to in the foregoing resolutions afforded sufficient justification for such operations."

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE moved a resolution, declaring that the system under which her Majesty's Indian territory is now administered, is no longer suitable to the condition and prospects of that vast empire, or for the development of its resources and the improvement and welfare of its inhabitants. Much evil, he thought, resulted from a double system of Government—that of the Queen and that of the East India House; and it was time that the country should be snatched from the selfish and incompetent grasp of the Company. India was rapidly deteriorating: the upper class was passing away, and the middle class sinking to the level of the lowest; justice was imperfectly administered; the magistracy were a disgrace to the land; lawlessness universally prevailed; the Government was extravagant and yet inefficient; the public debt continued increasing; and the accounts had become wholly inexplicable from the lax manner of keeping them.—The Duke of ARGYLL, while admitting that improvements might yet be made, called attention to the fact that there had already been a great advance. How could they govern India without an intermediate body, like the Court of Directors, when, under their present parliamentary system, the President of the Board of Control might be changed from day to day by accidental votes of the other House of Parliament? Was the noble Marquis prepared to vest this great power in the Secretary of the Board of Control alone, without any intermediate body? There must be a council, composed of independent and irresponsible men acquainted with the government of India, to assist the President of the Board of Control in his deliberations. Discussions on Indian affairs ought to be taken on substantive propositions, and not on abstract resolutions; and, if it was desired to do any good, specific charges should be brought forward, and specific remedies proposed.—The motion was then negatived without a division.

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND SIR CHARLES NAPIER.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Sir CHARLES NAPIER gave notice that on going into committee on the Navy Estimates, he should call attention to the speeches of the member for Tamworth at Stafford and other places.

CORPORATION OF LONDON BILL.

In reply to Mr. HANKEY, Sir GEORGE GREY said there were two reasons why the bill for the reform of the Corporation of the City of London had not been earlier presented. One was, that he received recently a communication from the Lord Mayor, stating that resolutions on the subject were under the consideration of the Court of Common Council, and requesting his attention to the resolutions before introducing the bill. He did not receive those resolutions till the previous day, and the bill could not therefore have been introduced at an earlier period. Independently, however, of this reason, the course of public business would preclude the possibility of its being brought forward for some weeks; but he would move it at the earliest opportunity.

SURREY LUNATIC ASYLUM.—REMOVAL OF MR. SNAPE.

In answer to Mr. OTWAY, Sir GEORGE GREY said that Mr. Snape had not been removed, but only suspended from his medical charge of the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, pending the criminal prosecution against him. Now that the inquiry had terminated, he had been allowed to resume his office.

RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

In answer to Mr. LAYARD, Lord PALMERSTON said her Majesty's Government had no knowledge of the treaty reported to have been concluded between Russia and Persia on the 5th of January.

Mr. VERNON SMITH, in answer to Mr. GLADSTONE, stated that the date at which instructions were sent to India to send off the expedition to the Persian Gulf was the 26th September, 1856. In answer to Mr. HENRY BAILEY, he added, that instructions to prepare an expedition in case it should be needed were sent out in July.

THE COUNTY FRANCHISE.

Mr. LOCKE KING moved for leave to bring in a bill to

make the franchise in counties in England and Wales the same as that in boroughs, by giving the right of voting to all occupiers of tenements of the annual value of 10*l*.—Lord PALMERSTON opposed the measure, thinking it right that there should be a distinction between the counties and boroughs. He did not mean to say that there should be no extension of the franchise in the counties; on the contrary, he should be ready to consider a modified measure; but he did not see any occasion for inaugurating any large measure of Parliamentary reform.—Mr. HEADLAM supported the bill.—Mr. DRUMMOND also professed his readiness to support any measure that extended the franchise and armed the lower classes with better weapons by which to defend themselves against the oppressions of the superior orders. But they would never have a Reform Bill until the gentlemen on the Ministerial side of the House were on the other side, and wanted to get back again.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL saw no reason why the discussion should be postponed, and accused the Government of a disposition to shirk all subjects of importance or delicacy.—Mr. BENTINCK, in return, taxed Lord John Russell with acting from party motives, and with having shown no disposition, when himself in office, to accomplish measures of reform. He also twitted him with inability to show a list of good measures which he had passed.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL said he would do so at the proper time.—Mr. DUNCOMBE and Sir JAMES GRAHAM defended Lord John Russell from the attack which had been made on him; and the latter, in supporting the measure, renounced the doctrine of "finality" which he had once held with respect to the Reform Bill.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT opposed the bill, which Mr. ROEBUCK supported.—On the House dividing, there appeared—For granting leave, 179; against, 192: majority, 13.

MINISTERS' MONEY IN IRELAND.

Mr. FAGAN obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish the tax imposed in lieu of ministers' money on eight corporate towns in Ireland.—In the course of a brief discussion on this subject, Mr. HORSMAN said that the question is under the consideration of Government, whose intentions with regard to it he hoped to be able to state on the second reading of the bill.

MAYNOOTH.

Mr. SPOONER, amidst cheers and laughter, then renewed his annual motion in favour of withdrawing the grant to Maynooth. The motion was for the House resolving itself into a committee to consider the subject. His speech merely recapitulated the old arguments.—Mr. KENDALL seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS and Mr. NEWDEGATE, and opposed by Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. BOWYER, Mr. Serjeant O'BRIEN, Mr. GEORGE MOORE, Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. Serjeant SHEE, and Lord PALMERSTON. With the arguments on both sides the reader is already acquainted.—Some of Mr. DRUMMOND's remarks on the Roman Catholic Church excited considerable surprise. After denouncing it for many impious doctrines, he continued, addressing Mr. Spooner and his party:—"It is you yourselves who are emasculating the Church of England. You have deprived it of everything which is the essential characteristic of a Church, and those essential characteristics are now found in this country in the Church of Rome alone. (Laughter.) Yes! I say, you have denied, and are denying more strongly every day, the essential characteristic of a Church—that is, the presence of God in its priesthood and in its sacraments. ('Oh!') I know no Church but the Romish Church which does stand as a witness, a faithful witness, before God as to these truths; and I would do anything rather than let that Church go down." ("Oh!" and laughter.) The motion was defeated by 167 to 159.

CRIMEAN INQUIRY.

Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL moved an address for copy of a letter from Sir John M'Neill, G.C.B., to Lord Panmure, of the 9th of February, 1856, respecting the services of Colonel Tulloch, and of any reply thereto.—Lord PALMERSTON defended the conduct of the Government in not giving military promotion for a civil service. He declined to produce the papers moved for, as it was a private document.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT defended Colonel Tulloch, and expressed his hope that a suitable reward would be given to him for his services.—The motion was then withdrawn.

The CHIEF CONSTABLES BILL was read a third time, and passed.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

THE nomination for West Kent took place on Monday. The candidates were, Mr. Wykeham Martin (formerly a Peelite, but now a Liberal) and Sir Walter B. Riddell, a lawyer and Conservative. Mr. Martin, in addressing the electors, said he was in favour of an increased suffrage, but opposed to the ballot. Nevertheless, he hated intimidation and corruption, and had always left his tenants free to vote against him in previous elections, if they pleased. Some of them had done so, and he had made no difference in his treatment of them. (A Voice: "That's true English!")—Sir W. B. Riddell's speech was highly Conservative and Protestant, according to the Conservative interpretation of Protestantism. He was met with a good deal of ridicule, except when he

said that, although he had once been opposed to free trade, he now thought that the constant industry and improving skill of the farmer would insure to him a continuance of the prosperity he is enjoying at present. At this there were loud cheers from all sides. The choice of hands fell on Mr. Martin; on which the adherents of Sir W. B. Riddell claimed a poll for him, which was fixed for Thursday.—Mr. Martin was on Thursday elected by a majority of 382.

"We are informed," says the *Times*, "that Mr. Frewen has not yet resigned his seat for East Sussex. The hon. member has retained it in order that he may vote for the repeal of the income-tax, which question will soon be under the consideration of the House."

The Mayor of Colchester received on Tuesday morning the writ for the election of a successor to Lord John Manners, and the nomination has been fixed for next Monday. One of the candidates (Mr. Hamilton) has retired, but there are still three competitors for the seat—viz., Mr. Miller, a London merchant, and for a short time member for Maldon, Conservative; Mr. J. G. Rebow, of Wyvenhoe Park, Whig; and Mr. Havens, Radical.

The contest for Clonmel has resulted in a majority of 154 for Mr. Bagwell over Mr. Murray, and of 20 for Mr. Purefoy over the Roman Catholic candidate.

Mr. William Monsell has been re-elected for the county of Limerick. In speaking of competitive examination for the Artillery and Engineers, he said:—"During the last year there have been four competitive examinations—two for what is called the 'practical class' of Woolwich for lads of from seventeen to nineteen years old, and the other two for provisional commissions for lads of from twenty to twenty-two years of age. In every one of these examinations an Irishman has taken the first prize. ('Hear, hear,' and loud cheers.) There was no exception. I have the return in my hand. It states that, at the January examination of 1856, seven out of seventeen were Irishmen; in that of June, the five first prizes were had by Irishmen; in the examination for provisional commissions, six out of eleven were Irishmen, and in every instance the first prize was got by an Irishman." (Renewed applause.)

STATE OF TRADE.

THE accounts of the manufacturing trade of the country for the week ending last Saturday show less dulness at Manchester, and a full business in most other districts. At Birmingham, however, many branches of production are affected by the extraordinary prices of copper and tin. In the latter there has been a further average advance of 3*s.* per cwt. The closing of the works of Fox, Henderson, and Co., which at one period gave employment to 2000 persons, will occasion inconvenience; but the demand for hands in other quarters is sufficient to prevent any permanent distress. At Nottingham, there has been great activity both in hosiery and lace. For the former, the American orders are very large, and the stocks of the latter are very light. In the Yorkshire woollen trade, the transactions have likewise been numerous, and prices are advancing. At Bradford, the failure has been announced of Jennings and Hargreaves, stuff merchants, with liabilities for 65,000*l.*, and assets which, it is hoped, may realize a dividend of about 13*s.* 9*d.*—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London, during the same week, there has been increased activity, the importations of tea being unusually large. The total of ships reported inward was 128, being 86 more than in the previous week. These included 13 with cargoes of corn, 11 with cargoes of sugar, and 9 with cargoes of tea, the latter comprising 101,411 packages, in addition to 5867 bales of silk, also from China. The number of vessels cleared outward was 110, showing an increase of 22, including 14 in ballast. The total number of ships on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 68. Of these, 9 are for Adelaide, 4 for Geelong, 4 for Hobart Town, 2 for Launceston, 4 for Melbourne, 5 for New Zealand, 1 for Port Philip, 17 for Sydney, 1 for Swan River, and 1 for Wellington.—*Idem*.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

A LARGE body of the unemployed and distressed labourers now resident in London assembled in Smithfield on Tuesday to hear an oration from Mr. Ernest Jones on their present condition, its causes and cure. The speaker ascribed the suspension of the building trade to the national debt, which had impoverished many and enriched a few. Capital was withdrawn from other trades and invested in building, because those who by usury had suddenly become rich were not content to live at their warehouses in the City, but must have fine boxes and splendid villas in the suburbs. But that system had run its course. New houses were no longer wanted, while many that were already built were untenanted, and hence non-employment in that trade. Large numbers of men being thus thrown out of work, the labour-market became overstocked, and the natural consequence was a fall of wages, the masters in other trades playing off those who were out of work against those who were in work. The railway system, too, had run its tether, and would now no longer support large numbers of workmen in the iron trade. The people must get into their own possession the 80,000,000 acres of waste land now in

this country, and then they would be independent men. To do this, they must have universal suffrage. If the Government conceded the waste lands, he (Mr. Jones) would retire into private life, and agitation should cease, but not unless.

Several of the unemployed met on the same day in Agar Town-fields, St. Pancras. The placards called upon all who could to attend the meeting "and test at once the abominable workhouse system, and also to call the attention of the ratepayers to the necessity of joining the workmen in their efforts to obtain employment on the uncultivated lands of England and the colonies, as the only means of permanently bettering the social condition of the people." One placard had appended the following:—"N.B. 100*l.* reward to any person who will mention any parish or union in the three kingdoms where the ratepayers are so unjustly taxed, the money so improperly appropriated, and the poor so ill-fed and ill-treated as in the parish of St. Pancras." At the hour appointed (one o'clock) between five hundred and six hundred labourers and working men assembled on the side of a large mound in the centre of the fields at the back of Agar-town, and in the vicinity of St. Pancras workhouse. Mr. John Brien, a house-painter, was called on to preside, and in the course of his speech proposed to make a man's previous good character his claim for relief, so as not to necessitate his being set to stone-breaking—a kind of work which injures his hands and his eyes, and prevents his doing his ordinary work properly when he again obtains it. Mr. M'Heath then addressed the assembly, and begged the working men of London, and especially the unemployed, to have nothing to do with the political demagogues who were at that time holding a meeting in Smithfield. He said he alluded to Mr. Ernest Jones and his crew. These political demagogues were bankrupt, and they now wanted to trade, for political and party purposes, upon the question of the unemployed. The speaker then went on to say that the way in which labour is treated in this country is worse than the black slavery of South Carolina. The Chairman said he held in his hand a letter signed "James Brown," which had been found that morning poked under the door of the meeting-house of the unemployed, and it contained these words, "A revolution is wanted." Now, whether this was the concoction of the Government, or the police, or any other parties, he begged to say that they were too old birds to be caught with such chaff. (Hear, hear.) Such an attempt would meet with the same fate the letter now had before them (tearing it in pieces, and trampling it under his foot, amidst applause).

Shortly after two o'clock, the men went in a body to the workhouse, where Mr. Brien had an interview with the Board, and was told that a man's character could not be made the test, as the parish is bound to relieve the disreputable, if really starving, as well as the honest. Relief would be afforded without work to persons unable to work; but the board looked on the present proceeding as an attempt to intimidate, to which they would not yield. The men then proceeded to the Clerkenwell police-court, where the magistrate said they must not persevere in the course they were then pursuing, but at the same time relieved them with bread.

AMERICA.

Mr. BUCHANAN has been at Washington, arranging, it is thought, with Mr. Pierce for assuming the Presidency on the 4th of March. He is very secret with respect to his intended Ministry; and conjecture on that point seems to be fairly baffled.

Walker, as far as can be judged, appears to be in a critical position in Nicaragua. He is said to be blockaded by the enemy in a little town opposite the island of Omotepe. He has only five hundred men, is destitute of provisions, and has no means of obtaining them now that the river and lake steamers have been captured. Meanwhile, some few recruits continue to go out to him; but others have been arrested and held to bail by the United States Federal authorities.

The republics of Chili, Peru, and Ecuador have formed a treaty of alliance, or a kind of confederation for internal improvements and external defence against Filibusterism.—The insurrection at San Luis Potosi, Mexico, has been suppressed. There are rumours of a revolt at Puebla.

The great frost continued in the United States at the latest dates, and the papers teem with accounts of wrecks along the coast.

A man named Winter, a clerk in a mercantile house at New York, has robbed his employers of two thousand dollars, which he obtained by breaking open the safe. He started for England in the Atlantic; but the principal of the firm went in pursuit in the Persia, which sailed three days later. The latter vessel is remarkable for speed, and arrived at Liverpool two hours before the Atlantic. The result was that Winter, who had his wife with him, was arrested, and nearly the whole of the stolen money was found on him. He will of course be sent back to America.

"At a meeting of the Nashville Railroad Company, held at Louisville on the 15th ult.," says the *Louisville Journal*, "it was divulged for the first time that nearly 600,000 dollars of the bonds of the company had been misapplied by the company's agent in London."

An accident has occurred on the Georgian Railway.

Governor Johnson, of Tennessee, and forty other passengers were severely injured.

The severity of the weather at New York has rendered trade very dormant. There is an increased demand for money, and the market is firmer, though rates are not materially changed.

AN AMERICAN MURDER.

NEW YORK is at the present time greatly agitated by a very extraordinary murder which has recently been committed there. The particulars are thus related by the *Times* American correspondent:—

"A Dr. Harvey Burdell was found during Saturday, the 31st of January, dead in his room, at 31, Bond-street, strangled, with fifteen stabs in different parts of his body. The murder must have been committed in the night of Friday, the 30th, but no alarm was heard in the house. There had been no forcible entry, and, as no property upon him or in the room was touched, plunder could not have been the object. The deceased was a surgeon-dentist, in good practice; he was wealthy, and the house, in one of the best streets in the city, was his own. As suspicion from the first did not extend beyond the house itself, every inmate of it was put under arrest as a beginning, and the coroner's inquiry, although it has not yet fixed the guilt on any one person, has revealed a state of things in that one dwelling unrivalled in any romance. Burdell was the owner of the house and lived in it, but was not its master. He had in an evil hour become acquainted with a 'watering-place' widow named Cunningham, cruising at Saratoga and elsewhere, to whom the wealthy bachelor fell a prey. He installed her in the house, first as a lodger only, next as tenant; she established there a lover, who became lord of the establishment, and two daughters, one of whom introduced a lover into the premises also. While living in the house, the widow brought an action against the doctor for breach of promise of marriage, which he compromised by a written promise of constant 'friendship,' and something more definite—a lease of the house. Then comes the most extraordinary part of the transactions. A few days after the action was put an end to, the widow procured some man to personate the doctor, and to that man, whoever he was, was regularly married in October last by the minister of the Dutch Reformed church. While obtaining, as far as the law and registers are concerned, the position of Burdell's wife, he, quite unconscious of the singular fraud, lived on very bad terms with her and the whole of the inmates she had gathered round him; there were constant quarrels, and gradually he felt such fear and hatred of the woman, or some of those about her, that he expressed to a friend his terror that something would happen. He said, however, he was always armed, and would 'rough it out till May,' when he had taken legal steps to put an end to the occupancy or the lease. The foreboding of the unhappy man was realized; on the night of the 31st of January, without any previous threat or quarrel stronger than the ordinary indications of ill-will, he was murdered. The present supposition is that the man who personated Burdell, and was married in his name to the woman Cunningham, was her paramour, living in the house—a man named Eckel. The minister who performed the ceremony fully identifies the woman, but cannot speak so confidently of the man. He thought at the time he had false whiskers on, but the suspicion was not strong enough to induce him to make any remark. By the aid of a wig and these false whiskers, it is believed Eckel passed himself as the deceased on the occasion, so that for some months Burdell had been living with the man who had been married to his own tenant in his own name. The evidence on this point reads more like a bit of audacious comedy than the horrible tragedy it has turned out to be. The plan was deeply laid, and, could Burdell have been got rid of quietly, would in all probability have succeeded. On the proof of the marriage being established—and the certificate and evidence of the clergyman would have been conclusive—the widow, in the name of Burdell, would have claimed a third of the deceased's property, which amounts altogether to 100,000 dollars. The previous action for breach of promise, and the terms on which the parties were known to have been, would have explained the marriage; and the question of the personal identity of the deceased would not have been raised. Such a singular complication of affairs as that in Burdell's house could not have gone on long without discovery, but what hastened the blow is not known. The intention of the murderer appears to have been frustrated by a desperate resistance on the part of the victim. The attempt to strangle him must have failed, and the knife been used in a violent struggle. Whether his death was meant to appear as a suicide, or how it would have been explained, can only be conjectured; one supposition is that the body would have been placed in the street, to be found 'garrotted,' that mode of robbery having lately been extensively practised in New York. But the garotters never mangle their victims in so frightful a manner. No attempt had been made to remove or conceal the body, which was found while the rest of the family was at breakfast by the doctor's boy, who did not live in the house. The inquiry has discovered motives enough for the murder, but as to whose hand committed it there is yet no evi-

dence; nothing but suspicion that points at the man Eckel. The excitement this murder has caused is very great among all classes, and for the moment nothing else is thought or spoken of. Not the least singular part of the inquiry is the mode in which it is conducted. The coroner into whose hands it has fallen is evidently incapable of the duty, and degrades his functions by indecent jesting with the witnesses."

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

A SECOND division of troops for service in Persia is being organized at Bombay. Sir James Outram is to be the Commander-in-Chief of the English army in the dominions of the Shah, General Stalker dropping to the command of the First Division. The cavalry, artillery, and the engineer department of the army, are also to be augmented. Great animation prevails, and Sir James Outram and staff are already on their way to the seat of the war. According to an extraordinary rumour, Sir James has been ordered to levy troops in Persia itself.

Dost Mahomed has been visiting Sir John Lawrence, by whom he was received with much military honour. They have been conferring on public affairs, but the result of their deliberations is not yet known. From Herat it is reported that the Persians are busily engaged in strengthening the defences.

Two deaths are recorded of Englishmen settled in India—Mr. Bushby, the Resident at Hyderabad, who expired of apoplexy on the 29th of December, and Dr. Straker, C.B., Physician-General to the Bombay forces. Partly, it is said, owing to the exertions of the first of these gentlemen, the Nizam has sanctioned the abolition of slavery in his dominions.

A few troops are to be despatched from India to China; but the drain of European regiments from the country seems to be causing some alarm.

The Penal Code, based substantially upon Mr. Macaulay's suggestions, has been read a second time.—An improvement in trade is reported from various parts of India.

"A most painful interest," says the *Bombay Times*, "has been widely excited by the statement that the wives and children of the 2nd Europeans, left behind at Hyderabad when the men marched down to Kurrachee for embarkation to Persia three months ago, have experienced the most cruel neglect from the authorities. They are said to have been left in the most utter destitution, and, out of one hundred and twenty-four women and children, twenty-eight sank and died within six weeks."

Kurrachee has been again visited by two shocks of earthquake.—The neighbourhood of the powder works at Mazagon has been afflicted with a sudden and very sharp attack of cholera.

CHINA.

Further intelligence with respect to the late hostilities is contained in the letters and papers received by the last mail; but it does not add much to our knowledge. Some banditti have taken possession of a large village near Whampoa, where they have committed depredations; and attempts have been made to injure our ships of war by sending down on them boats filled with gunpowder, but without success. Mr. Cowper, senior, has been kidnapped, and no trace of him had been obtained at the latest dates. At Hongkong there have been no disturbances, and precautions have been taken against their occurrence. Alarm has been occasioned at Amoy by powerful pirate fleets cruising in the neighbourhood. An English steamer has gone after them. The Viceroy Yeh shows no desire to come to terms; and the American Commissioner at Macao has issued a circular, intimating great dissatisfaction with that official's assurances with respect to the United States. Trade is almost suspended, on account of the disturbed state of affairs.

We read in the letter of the *Times* Hong-Kong correspondent:—"At Canton, the foreign factories have been burnt to the ground. The fire commenced about eleven, p.m., on the 14th of December, and, although every effort was made to arrest the flames, it proved utterly useless, and all the houses were destroyed, with the exception of one, which has since been gutted by the Chinese. It was the result of a well planned and executed scheme on the part of the Chinese. The fire broke out simultaneously at different points, and was aided by combustibles, fire-balls and rockets, thrown from the suburbs. Many Chinese houses were also burnt. One of the small postal steamers was attacked between Canton and the Bogue on the night of the 22nd of December, by a large fleet of mandarin junks, and had a narrow escape from capture. The pilot and one of the crew were killed, and two others wounded. A lorcha, which she was towing, had to be cast off, and was captured, proving a rich prize, as she was laden with goods and valuables, removed from the Canton warehouses at much risk and expense. Before being cast off her crew were taken on board the steamer."

A despatch from Trieste, dated February the 13th, says:—"According to the news from Hongkong, of the 30th of December, commissioners were expected to arrive in February, sent by the Emperor of China to

arrange the difference relative to Canton. Governor Yeh had been degraded, and the Emperor had promised a pardon to the rebels. The Chinese at Hongkong had formed a design to set fire to the town, but the English were on their guard. The former seemed determined to assume the offensive. Some junks attacked the mail steamer Thistle, and several of the crew were killed."

PERSIA.

Intelligence from Teheran, of the 7th January, states that the enrolment of troops, and the departure of Generals Ferlate Khan and Mirza Mehemmed Khan for Farsistan, have been the occasion of grand fêtes. Troops have been sent from Farsistan, from Kerman, and from Arabistan, against the English. Reinforcements have been sent from Khorasan to the Cabul frontier. Seven thousand English have embarked at Bombay for the Persian Gulf. Four thousand English and 1000 Sepoys have entered Cabul, and are to march with the Afghans upon Herat.

IRELAND.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.—A shot was fired, on the evening of Thursday week, from behind a holly bush bordering the highroad near Ballinasloe, at a Mr. George Harrison, a farmer from Northumberland, and a tenant of Colonel Maberly, who has purchased some land in that locality which was recently in the Encumbered Estates Court. Mr. Harrison escaped unhurt, and the would-be assassin made off. The latter is supposed to be some cottager who has received notice to quit.

THE IRISH IN AMERICA.—An Irishman writes from New Orleans to one of the Limerick papers, to say that America is "no country for an Irishman any longer." He states that Irishmen are insulted, persecuted, and even murdered, by "fanatical Americans." It should be recollected, however, on the other hand, that the Irish in America are the cause of frequent tumults and drunken disturbances.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC SCRUPLE OF CONSCIENCE.—In a case before the Prerogative Court, Dublin, last Saturday, one of the witnesses, the Rev. Mr. O'Farrell, a Roman Catholic priest, objected to being sworn on the Protestant version of the Bible, and wished to be allowed to substitute the Douay version. Judge Radcliffe would not allow of this; and the priest was then sworn on the Protestant translation, but under protest.

LOUIS BLANC ON THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

WE are sure that the following letter, communicated to us by M. Louis Blanc, will be read with an interest commensurate with the importance of the points at issue:

"Help thyself, and God will help thee."

This is my first answer to all such as, from various quarters, put to me the question, "What is to be done at the forthcoming elections in France?"

The French people having been reduced by Louis Bonaparte himself to the unhappy choice of being trampled upon or having recourse against violence to force, who can deny that its case is one of natural self-defence? If, therefore, insurrection were at present likely to succeed, I would not hesitate to cry out, "Up, up, and at them!"

The fact is, that to those who all over Europe pant for liberty, and used to admire the heroic exertions of France, it is a matter of astonishment that, after sustaining so many prodigious struggles and shedding torrents of blood, in order to be free, she should have come to crouch under despotism. Oh, if France could but know how low she has sunk in the estimation of Europe! French soldiers proved as gallant as ever in the battle-fields of the Crimea; but warlike wonders are not enough to retrieve the character of an enslaved nation. They are nothing better than a purple mantle cast over a skeleton. In ancient Rome, it was for the vile gladiators, not for the soldiers, to say, *Cæsar, morituri te salutant*. Why then was it asserted in the imperial bulletins that, at the storming of the Malakoff, the French soldiers, instead of shouting *Vive la France!* shouted *Vive l'Empereur!* The fact was denied, but in whispers, and Europe believes it. So, even our military glory has ceased to be our own. Where there was a nation, there remains one single man! Alas! it is this amazing humiliation of the fatherland that makes the hours of exile so bitter. There is nothing in poverty which many hearts are not able to endure, and living far from all that is held dear on earth is a sacrifice which, grievous as it is, any honest man must always be prepared to make to freedom. But never, never did we expect to have every day to blush with shame on hearing foreigners say contemptuously that the French are fit for slavery, since they submit to it.

However, we do not shut our eyes to the extraordinary difficulties of the situation; we know that disarmed Paris lies surrounded with bayonets; that a lynx-eyed police lurks everywhere; that to the gagging of the press is added the suspension of every free intercourse; that the nation, buried in a suffocating atmosphere, is scarcely permitted to breathe; and that it is

no easy matter to attempt any general movement, where twenty persons cannot meet with impunity.

Well, this is the very reason why any legitimate mode of action must be resorted to, which still remains open. The policy of abstention, advocated by some of our friends, is a fatal one. It could but serve to dishearten the good, to countenance the wicked, to supply the sceptical with a mask, to betray the courageous, and to shield the cowardly. The problem will not work itself out. In any collection of men, as well as in any single man, atrophy is the unavoidable consequence of want of exercise. If nothing be done, rest assured that, before long, the vitality of France will dwindle into torpor, and from torpor into death. Besides, would not inertness be mistaken for assent? Or could the sympathies of constitutional Europe be enlisted in favour of France, were France herself unconcerned about her own fate?

On the other hand, it is natural enough that sincere and high-minded patriots should be deterred from joining in mock elections, with the view of electing mock candidates. For there is no speaking of universal suffrage. What! universal suffrage, where there is neither liberty of the press, nor individual liberty, nor liberty of private correspondence, nor absolute liberty of mere drawing-room conversations! Universal suffrage, where the threat of deportation is suspended over every man's head; where fraudulent returns may be paraded about, without any one being allowed either to control them or to give them the lie! Universal suffrage, where the Court of Cassation has just declared that a slip of paper, bearing simply the name of a candidate, comes under the head of pamphlets amenable to police regulation! No, no; in the present state of France, universal suffrage is a universal sham. Nevertheless, let our friends go to the poll, if they think it proper, but so as not to sanction the existence of the Government by seeming to acknowledge the soundness of the principle on which it professes to rest. Let the world be made aware that the position of the Republican and Liberal party in France is that of a man who, being compelled to preserve his life, seizes a rotten stick, for want of any better weapon.

Next comes the question, What shall the Republican or Liberal candidates do, if elected? Shall they take the oath of allegiance to the Empire? Shall they consent to be ranked amongst the mute servants of the new Court in the lobby termed Legislative Chamber? Not for a moment can such things be thought of. To vow allegiance to the Empire in earnest would be both criminal and suicidal. To take the oath as null and void would be dishonest. It was by breaking his word and scandalously insulting public faith that Louis Bonaparte got the mastery. Why, the nature of the proceeding was perfectly consonant with the nature of the aim! It is not for us to crawl in the dark. Justice and liberty demand to be served in a manner worthy of them: it is not for us to endeavour to magnify lying into triumph. Rather submit to force in silent dignity than lower oneself on a level with a perjurer and forfeit the right of denouncing him at the tribunal of all honest men.

On the other hand, to elect candidates without intending them to sit in the Chamber might appear childish, and would be of little or no avail, unless a course be adopted of a nature to create, not a superficial agitation, but an emotion both deep and lasting. Well, I think the purpose would be accomplished if some persons in a high station were determined nobly to come forward on a solemn occasion, so chosen as to attract the attention of the world, and then to give utterance to the feelings of indignation that fret in the hearts. For so doing no better opportunity could be imagined than the ceremony of the taking the oath, a formality with which the Republican and Liberal candidates should refuse to comply, after strenuously stating their motives, and that with the undaunted resolution to insist if interrupted, and to resist if threatened, till they were subdued by physical force at the risk of an immense scandal.

After all, a scene of that sort would not be unprecedented. Every one knows how favourable was to the cause of freedom, under the reign of Louis XVIII., the fact of Manuel causing himself to be collared by soldiers on his bench in the Chamber of Deputies. Never was he so much considered the true representative of the people as when he had been brutally and unjustly dragged out of the House. It is true that, under the reign even of Louis XVIII., the people had more opportunities than they have now to vent their complainings; and I confess that, as matters stand at present, any individual isolated protest would be worse than useless, by casting on the party of the opposition at large the shadow of a sad contrast. But who can doubt that a collective display of energy, resulting from a previous understanding between all the candidates elected, in a circumstance over which no veil could be stretched, would tell most forcibly on public opinion?

In the case of Louis Bonaparte's putting up with such an affront, the hold his government has over so many terrified minds would be irretrievably shaken.

Would the representatives of the people be committed to prison, tried, or driven out of the country without trial? Nothing could be better calculated to impress every one with the duty of civic courage. France, reduced to the last extremity, wants men whose de-

votedness may be fruitful, on account of their talent, their position, and their fame. Devoted hearts throb undoubtedly beneath the humble garment of the workman or of the peasant; but it is one of the most lamentable features of the enslavement of the press in France, that isolated and private sacrifices, however honourable, are lost, as they remain utterly unknown and cannot consequently contribute to arouse the sense of national honour. In the case alluded to, on the contrary, the example set on a most conspicuous occasion by persons standing, so to speak, on the top of the hill, could not fail to make a deep impression and to elevate the tone of public life.

Another and no less important advantage of the course I suggest would be to place Louis Bonaparte in the alternative either of acknowledging his defeat in the face of the world, or outlawing, in the person of their representatives, these very electors from whose will he professes to derive his power. Would not Europe at last and for ever be undeceived were Louis Bonaparte brought to stifle the voice of that very sovereignty of the people by which he dares boast of being supported? Let him lay bare the only true foundations of his dominion!

By what means the above-mentioned scheme might be best carried out, is a question which our friends in France must know how to solve. At all events, I trust it cannot be deemed impracticable, as requiring too large an amount of devotedness, in a country like France, where men have always been found in thousands ready to stake their fortunes, their domestic happiness, their homes, and finally their lives, for the sake of freedom. Every page of our modern annals speaks to the French workmen of the indomitable courage of the people, and if the leaders of the *bourgeoisie* want to be told of the duty that devolves upon them, they have only to look a few years back to the history of their own fathers. There they will see how the members of the Third Estate succeeded in vindicating their rights. The recollections connected with that immortal date, *Twentieth of June, 1789*, are still living. Was the situation then less gloomy than it is now? Was the future less clouded? Far from it. The despotism to be confronted, at that period, was possessed of all the moral force and of all the *prestige* naturally imparted to it by centuries; it had not been recently baptized in blood; it was not the offspring of a nightly surprise at the hands of some men of desperate fortunes, supported by drunken janissaries; it was not born of "the bold stroke of the insolvents." Yet, the representatives of the Third Estate did not hesitate a moment. On the Twentieth of June, at Versailles, they found the doors of the National Assembly shut, and the house invaded by guards; they were kept waiting in the rain, in the mud, and waited long to no purpose, amidst the sneering laughter of the courtiers and the clash of swords. Did they grow disheartened? Did they think of death? No; they calmly repaired to the tennis-court, and there, within a miserable hall consisting only of four naked walls, but, in the fine words of Bailly, "widened by the majesty it contained," they took God to witness that they would meet in all places, under all circumstances, wheresoever two or three could get together, until they had done what it was their mission to do. The mad counsellors of the king had imagined that nothing could be easier than to scatter *les gens du Tiers* like as much barn-door poultry. But, as Carlyle says, "Barn-door poultry fly cackling; national deputies turn round lion-faced; and, with uplifted hands, swear an oath that makes the four corners of France tremble."

This is the heritage which those who have it from their fathers are bound to transmit to their sons.

Will it be observed that the heroes of the Second of December are determined to shrink from no wicked attempt? So be it. The question is whether a sufficient number of stout hearts be willing to put that audacity to trial two or three times more; for those are greatly mistaken who think that despotism can live long by a series of *coups d'état*. The most robust man sinks very soon into exhaustion when kept in a continual state of frenzy: so, despotism will soon be exploded if brought to burst into repeated fits of violence. It is not every day that a simple mortal, however conscious of his power, can make chaos subservient to his infuriated passions. Satan himself, as described by Milton, would not have been able permanently to ride the whirlwind. Unfortunately, terror always outlives the fact by which it was begotten. Long after the real danger is over, dread remains. Hence, tyranny happens to last where it has no strength of its own. It is only fearful because overfeared. Make up manfully to the spectre, it will vanish.

For my part, I have no doubt that France will, sooner or later, redeem her honour. She bears within her wherewith to astonish mankind under various and unforeseen aspects. What unexampled fatigues and sufferings and struggles has she not already gone through! How often did she not emerge from beneath accumulated ruins with fresh vigour and unimpaired youth! Thank God! France is not like those heavy cavaliers of the middle ages, all cast in iron, who, once brought to the ground, could no longer move. She will rise again, and will answer to the call of those capable of loving her above all, if they be daring. Be so.

LOUIS BLANC.

SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON ON THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

The Emperor delivered on Monday the following Speech to the Senate and the Legislative Body:—

"*MM. les Sénateurs, MM. les Députés,*

"Last year, my opening Speech terminated with an invocation for Divine protection. I asked of Heaven to guide our efforts in the path most conformable with the interests of humanity and civilization. That prayer seems to have been heard.

"Peace has been signed, and the difficulties of detail consequent on the execution of the Treaty of Paris have been successfully overcome.

"The dispute which has arisen between the King of Prussia and the Helvetic Confederation has lost all war-like character, and it is permitted to us to hope for a speedy and favourable solution.

"The good understanding between the three Protecting Powers of Greece renders useless any further prolongation of the stay of the English and French troops at the Piræus.

"If a disagreement to be regretted has arisen with regard to the affairs of Naples, it must be imputed to the desire which equally animates the Government of Queen Victoria and my own to act everywhere in the interests of humanity and civilization.

"Now that the best intelligence exists amongst all the great Powers, we must earnestly set to work to regulate and develop at home the strength and the wealth of the nation. We must struggle against those evils from which a society in a state of progress is not exempt.

"Civilization, although it has for object the moral amelioration and the material prosperity of the greatest number, marches, it must be acknowledged, like an army. Its victories are not obtained without sacrifices, or without victims. The rapid roads which facilitate communication and open to commerce new paths, disturb existing interests and cast into the background districts which are as yet deprived of them. That useful machinery which multiplies the labour of man, replaces it at first, and leaves momentarily many hands unemployed. Those mines, which spread abroad in the world an amount of coin hitherto unknown—that increase of public fortune which multiplies tenfold the consumption—tends to unsettle and to raise the value of every article. That inexhaustible source of wealth called credit brings forth marvels, and yet the excess of speculation entails much individual ruin; hence the necessity, without stopping its progress, of aiding those who cannot keep pace with the rapidity of its advance.

"Some must be stimulated, others stayed; but we must nourish the activity of that throbbing, restless, exacting society which, in France, expects all from the Government, yet to which the latter must oppose the limits of possibility and the calculations of reason.

"To enlighten and to direct, that is our duty. The country prospers, it must be allowed, for, notwithstanding war and famine, the progressive movement has not slackened. The produce of indirect taxation, which is the certain sign of public wealth, surpassed by more than fifty millions, in 1856, the already extraordinary receipts of 1855. Since the re-establishment of the Empire the revenue has of itself increased by two hundred and ten millions, without taking into account new taxes.

"Nevertheless there is great suffering amongst a portion of the people; and, so long as Providence does not send us a good harvest, the millions given by private charity and by the Government will only be feeble palliatives.

"Let us redouble our efforts to remedy evils beyond human foresight.

"Many departments have been this year devastated by inundations. I have every reason to hope that Science will succeed in subjugating Nature. It concerns my honour that, in France, rivers, like revolutions, shall flow within their true course, never again to quit it.

"A cause of uneasiness, not less grave, exists in men's minds. When a crisis arrives there is no species of false rumours or of false doctrine that is not propagated by ignorance or mischief. Lately, it has even been successfully attempted to render uneasy the industry of the nation, as if the Government could wish aught but its development and prosperity. The duty, therefore, of good citizens is to spread abroad everywhere the wise doctrines of political economy, and chiefly to fortify those timid hearts who—I will not say at the first breath of ill-fortune, but at the least halt of prosperity—spread discouragement and augment uneasiness by imaginary alarms.

"Having regard to the various requirements of our position, I have resolved to reduce expenditure without suspending great works, without compromising the employment of labour—to diminish certain taxes without detriment to the finances of the State. The budget of 1858 will be presented to you, with the expenditure balanced by the receipts. All foreseen expenses have been therein included. The produce of the late loans will suffice to liquidate the cost of the late war.

"Every department of the public service has been provided for without our having to make any new appeal to the public credit. The army and navy estimates have been reduced within due limits so as to preserve

their framework, to maintain the grades so gloriously acquired, and support a military force worthy of the greatness of the country.

"It is with this idea that the annual contingent has been fixed at 100,000 men. This number is 20,000 higher than that of ordinary levies in time of peace; but according to the system which I have adopted, and to which I attach a great importance, about two-thirds of these conscripts will remain two years under arms, and will afterwards form a reserve which will furnish to the country, on the first appearance of danger, an army of 600,000 disciplined soldiers. The reduction of the effective force will permit me to increase the pay of the lower grades and of the common soldier—a measure which the high price of provisions renders indispensable—and sets apart a sum of five millions to begin the augmentation of the small salaries of a portion of the subordinates in the civil service, who, in the midst of the severest privation, have displayed a good example of probity and devotion.

"Nor have I forgotten a subsidy for the establishment of trans-Atlantic steamers, which have so long been required.

"Notwithstanding this increase of expenditure, I propose to you to suppress, from the 1st January, 1858, the new war 'tenth' on the registration duties. This suppression involves a sacrifice of twenty-three millions; but in compensation, and in conformity with the wish several times expressed by the Legislative Body, I have submitted for consideration a tax on moveable property.

"A philanthropic idea had induced the Government to transfer convict establishments to Guyana. Unfortunately yellow fever, for fifty years a stranger to the country, has stopped the progress of that colonization. A project is being elaborated for the removal of these establishments to Africa or elsewhere.

"Algeria, which, in able hands, sees her cultivation and her commerce daily extend, is well worthy of our attention. The recent decree of centralization will aid the efforts of the Administration; and I shall not fail to present to you, according to circumstances, the measures most fitting for the development of the colony.

"I call your attention to a law which has for object the fertilization of the plains of Gascony. The progress of agriculture ought to be one of the objects of our constant anxiety, for from its improvement or its decay dates the prosperity or the fall of empires.

"Another measure, of which the Minister of War is the author, will be presented to you. It is a complete military penal code, which digests, placing them in harmony with our institutions, the scattered and often contradictory laws enacted since 1790. You will be happy, I do not doubt, to attach your name to a work of this importance.

"MM. les Députés, since this session is the last of the present Legislative Body, allow me to thank you for the devoted and active assistance which you have afforded me since 1852. You have proclaimed the Empire; you associated yourselves with all the measures which have re-established order and prosperity in the country; you have energetically supported me during the war; you have partaken of my grief in the time of pestilence and of famine; you have shared my joy when Heaven bestowed on me a glorious peace and a dearly-beloved son; your loyal co-operation has permitted me to establish in France a rule based on the will and on the interests of the people. It was a task difficult to fulfil, and for which a true patriotism was necessary. To accustom the country to new institutions—to replace the licence of the tribune, and the exciting contests which led to the fall and rise of Ministries, by a free but calm and serious discussion—this was a signal service rendered to the country and to Liberty herself, for Liberty has no enemy more redoubtable than the extravagance of passion and the violence of debate. Strong in the assistance of the great bodies of the State, and in the devotion of the army; strong, above all, in the support of the people, who know that my every instant is devoted to their interests, I foresee for our country a future full of hope.

"France, without infringing the rights of any, has resumed in the world the rank which becomes her, and may apply herself with security to the grand labours dictated by the Genius of Peace.

"May God never intermit His protection, and soon it will be said of our age, in the words written by an illustrious and national statesman and historian, speaking of the Consulate:—'Satisfaction was universal; and whoever had not party passion in his heart, rejoiced in the public welfare.'"

THE NEAPOLITAN QUESTION.

A most important correspondence (says the *Morning Post*) relating to the affairs of Naples, and consisting of a series of despatches from the Earl of Clarendon to the late Sir William Temple, and also to Mr. Petre (who, subsequently to the departure of the Minister, from ill health, on the 31st of July, was left in charge of the Neapolitan Mission), has just been presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of her Majesty. This correspondence commences on the 19th of May in the past year—little more than six weeks after the proceedings of the Conferences held in Paris had been published, the 22nd protocol of which must have antecedently ex-

plained to the Neapolitan Government the anxiety felt by the Congress in regard to the actual state of the Italian Peninsula. It was this anxiety, shared by the ablest statesmen of European countries, that induced the Cabinet of St. James's, in union with that of France, to address to the Government of the King of the Two Sicilies those friendly remonstrances which were ultimately so ill received by King Ferdinand. Well-aware of the Right Divine susceptibility of the Neapolitan Bourbon, the Earl of Clarendon, in his first letter to the late Sir W. Temple, intimated that the Government of her Majesty "was actuated by friendly feelings, and by the persuasion that not only the stability of the Sicilian monarchy but the general peace of Europe would be endangered by a perseverance in the system of administration then prevailing. It was, therefore, in a spirit of real friendship and goodwill that the British Government recommended the Neapolitan King, by a general amnesty, to rally round the throne those who had been alienated by distrust or unmerited persecution." These representations of the two Courts were conveyed, early in June, to M. Carafa, who said—"The King could not, consistently with his dignity, allow any foreign Powers to interfere with the internal government of his country, but he would always listen with interest to the representations of friendly Powers." At the time when this answer was given to Sir W. Temple and M. Brenner, Poerio (whose case has been so eloquently stated by Mr. Gladstone) was suffering, as a political prisoner confined in the castle of Monte Sarchio, from ophthalmia, which threatened total blindness, from obstinate rheumatic pains and a distressing cough. In addition, he had been attacked by a spinal complaint, and fears then were entertained of a consumptive *tubercle*. His chains increased the weakness of his body, and this weakness in its turn rendered the chains more difficult to bear. Among the companions of Poerio, political prisoners also, were Schiavoni, who was deprived, by imprisonment, of the sight of one eye, and was, in June last, on the point of losing the other; Sticco, no longer enabled, from imprisonment, to retain food on his stomach; and Vincenzo Dono, who had been for five months suffering from rheumatic pains. There were also Nisco, once a healthy man, and a writer of great merit, afflicted by a severe cough and incessant pains in the stomach. Fears were also entertained for the life of Pica—another political prisoner, a lawyer of great eminence, and formerly a Member of Parliament; and also for the life of Alphonso Zeuli, a young man of thirty-four, also a victim to consumption, who, while dying, continued to wear his chains! Near the bed of this man lay Pironti, a judge, like a chained corpse—a man of great learning, struck while still in his youth with paralysis, and deprived of all powers of motion. Pironti had been recommended the use of mineral baths, but he had not been able to procure them. It was at the very time when the friends and relatives of these unhappy prisoners were sending in numerous memorials to the English Embassy, detailing the facts we have enumerated, that the King announced, through M. Carafa, that he would answer the joint representations made by the British and French Governments through the Neapolitan Ministers accredited to the Courts of London and Paris!

M. Carafa, however, condescended to state, on the 22nd of June, that when circumstances were more favourable, and the mind of the people more calm, the King would feel inclined to avail himself of the first occasion which he judged opportune to grant such an amnesty as he might think fit. As M. Carafa was unable to say how long the state of things which prevented concessions being made would continue, or when the amnesty would be granted, the late Sir W. Temple told him he considered it very possible that the Governments of England and France would consider the answer evasive and unsatisfactory.

Contemporaneously with these events, a trial was going on in the Grand Criminal Court, which disclosed the barbarous and illegal treatment both of prisoners and witnesses by the agents of the police. On the last day of June, and ten days afterwards—namely, on the 9th of July—Prince Carini, the then Neapolitan Ambassador, communicated to Lord Clarendon that his sovereign "could not manifest his sovereign clemency to the obstinate breed of the enemies of the public peace, and he cannot have recourse to it (meaning thereby clemency) until the welfare of his states and his own dignity indicate the occasion, and the propriety of the same, to his royal mind."

[The latter part of the correspondence has reference to those recent events—such as the State trials, the withdrawal of our representatives from Naples, and the semi-apology offered by the King for the uncourteous note of the 9th of July—which are still fresh in the public mind.]

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

A young man who threw himself on his knees before the Empress a few days ago, in the public garden of the Tuileries, has been arrested and sent to the Prefecture. It is said that he is insane.

Very heavy falls of snow have covered the mountains in the Var to such an extent, that the wolves, driven by

hunger, have descended into the plains and committed great havoc among the sheep. The shepherds hit upon a strange kind of reprisal. They injected poison into the carcass of an ass, which the wolves devoured, and six were found dead the following day.

The *Progrès du Pas de Calais* raises a point of law upon the subject of "warnings," which has escaped all the Paris journals. It has hitherto been taken for granted, that after two warnings suspension would follow as a matter of course on the commission of a third offence. The *Progrès*, however, contends that although the minister may suspend a journal under those circumstances, there is nothing in the text of the law to prevent him from giving as many warnings as he pleases. The harshness and uncertainty of the laws against the press provoke more attention just now than they have ever done since their enactment.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent*.—The *Moniteur* contains the following article on the subject:—"The decree of February, 1852, in establishing that two judicial convictions of a periodical journal entail its suppression, adds, that the offences or contraventions must have been committed within two years. Some journals have raised the question as to whether the same rule should not by analogy be applied to two administrative warnings, after which suspension for two months at most may be pronounced by a Ministerial decree. This assimilation is not in the law, and cannot be admitted in principle. The extreme measure of suppression, which a second conviction within a given interval of time entails by full right, is in that respect different from a temporary suspension, which is optional. Even after two warnings, if the facts do not command a more severe decision, a new warning may again be given, and the Government, which uses with great moderation the power conferred on it in matters relating to the press, in the interests of order and public peace, always takes into its very serious consideration the date as well as the nature of the acts which have occasioned the previous warnings."

The Abbé Chatel, founder of the French Catholic Church (Eglise Catholique Française), died on Friday week at Paris, in the sixty-second year of his age. In the last years of his life, he was reduced to the necessity of earning a subsistence by giving lessons to young children.

At the Tribunal of Correctional Police, M. Poussineau, a banker, and M. Monselet, his clerk, have been acquitted of a charge of spreading false news, to the effect that a M. Mires had absconded with funds belonging to the *Caisse des Chemins de Fer*. It appeared that M. Poussineau was a shareholder in the *Caisse*, and he and his clerk merely inquired if a rumour to the effect indicated were true or not.

AUSTRIA.

The Hungarian Committee appointed to make the necessary preparations for the reception of the Emperor in their country had an interview a few days ago with the Archduke Albrecht, the Governor-General of Hungary, in order to report progress. Having given an evasive answer to the Archduke's expression of a hope that the Emperor and Empress would be received with enthusiasm, they were desired to tender more explicit information; to which they replied that the interference with the national schools, and the attempt to force the German language on the people, had produced an extremely unfavourable effect on the Hungarians. It is also stated, but this is not so certain, that something was said about the new marriage laws. This answer completely astounded the Archduke, who appears not to have anticipated such plain speaking.

A general amnesty for the whole of the Austrian Empire is said to be now in contemplation.

The Archduke Ferdinand-Max is said to hesitate about accepting the post of Viceroy of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, because he wishes to be invested with more power than the centralizing Austrian Government is desirous of giving him. This hesitation causes the delay in the Emperor's departure from Milan.

ITALY.

An Austrian outrage on a young Italian gentleman is related by the *Times* Paris correspondent, on the authority of a letter from Milan, where the circumstance occurred: "A young man named Bianchi being at the theatre, and not approving the performance, began to hiss. An Austrian officer told him that if he did not cease he should turn him out. Bianchi retorted, and a discussion ensued, which ended in a challenge. The duel was to have taken place next morning, but in the meantime Bianchi was arrested by the police, and the officer, having gone to the ground, and not finding his adversary, withdrew. After a day's imprisonment Bianchi was liberated; and, having entered a coffee-house, he met the officer, who loaded him with abuse. Bianchi replied, and the officer attempted to draw his sword, but the young man knocked him down with his fist. The matter would have ended there, but seven other Austrian officers came to the assistance of their comrade. Bianchi caught hold of the officer's sabre, placed himself against a wall, and defended himself as well as he could. He would eventually have been massacred, but a number of civilians rescued him. The municipality of Mantua has sent a deputation to the Emperor to request his Majesty to adopt measures to put an end to the insolence of the Austrian officers."

The Austrians have been in the habit, during their occupation of Rome, of occasionally arresting Italian subjects and committing them to prison, where they have been maintained at the expense of the Papal Government. As a corollary to his amnesty in the North of Italy, the Emperor of Austria ordered the discharge of these captives, but the Pope objected, the order being an exercise by foreigners of sovereign power. The Austrians, however, insisted, and the Roman authorities at length consented, but with so bad a grace that they delayed the release of the prisoners for some days after they had determined on sanctioning it, and sent them from the Castle of Paliano to Rome, in chains, accompanied by thieves, and so exposed to cold and unprovided with food, that they would have died but for the charity of the gendarmes who escorted them.

The Grand Duchess and Regent of Parma has liberated the political prisoners in the duchy, on condition that they shall expatriate themselves beyond the seas.

It is announced in a letter from Naples that the convention concluded between the Neapolitan Government and the Argentine Republic cannot be carried into effect, inasmuch as only six of the political prisoners in confinement have agreed to expatriate themselves, and they are too few to form a colony. The King had appointed a commission, composed of General Afan de Rivera, the Attorney-General Gallotti, Tocca, Attorney-General of the Court of Cassation, the President Janniccone, and the President of the Royal Court of Aquila, to inspect the provinces, and to recommend to the Government what reforms they may consider necessary.

The Sardinian Chamber of Deputies has at length, after a debate extending through twenty sittings, passed the bill for public instruction by a majority of 75 against 55.—"The general tenour of the law," says the *Times* Turin correspondent, "is that all persons properly qualified, lay or clerical, shall be free to establish schools, but that all schools, whether public or private, shall be subject to the surveillance of the Government, in accordance with the special regulations made and provided for such cases. In all public schools, the Roman Catholic religion will be the foundation of religious instruction, but children not of that religion will be left to the care of their parents. The Minister of Public Instruction will direct and promote the increase of public education, but he will only supervise private institutions as to morals, health, the institutions of the State, and public order."

A paper war, having considerable state significance, has been raging between the official Austrian *Gazette of Milan* and the equally official *Piedmontese Gazette*. The Austrian organ commenced hostilities by a bitter attack on Sardinia, accusing that state of perpetual underhand attempts to aggrandize its petty territory, and threatening that any attempt to renew the plots of 1797 will lead to severe punishment. In another article, the Sardinian Government is upbraided for the slight check it puts upon the freedom of the press, and is accused of tacitly sharing in the praise showered on Milano for his attempt on the life of the King of Naples. The Piedmontese journal replies by exposing the treacherous machinations against Sardinia constantly pursued by Austria; vindicates the right of the Sardinian Ministers to promote the welfare of Italy by all honest means; and concludes thus:—"Confident, not in the forbearance of Austria, but in the purity of their intentions and in the justice of their measures, sustained by the friendship of their allies and by the sympathy of all Europe, they (the Ministers) are not frightened by the dangers which impend—dangers they know how to meet with resolution, convinced that henceforth, when wars take place in the sacred name of civilization and justice, success does not depend solely upon the number of soldiers or the extent of territory."

PRUSSIA.

It appears now but too certain that the King of Prussia, having obtained the release of the Neufchâtel prisoners, will do his utmost to avoid fulfilling his implied promise to give up all claim to the disputed principality. "The King's views, I understand," says the *Times* Berlin correspondent, "point to a return to the purely monarchical relation that existed between the principality and its Prince previous to 1806, up to which time, whatever the nature of Neufchâtel's relations and alliances with certain cantons of Switzerland may have been, there is no trace to be found in history of anything like a claim on the part of Switzerland to any share in the sovereignty or government of the principality." A feeling of dissatisfaction is becoming very general in Switzerland.

RUSSIA.

The ukase relative to the concession of the railways (says a despatch from St. Petersburg) has at length appeared. It concedes to a company composed of Russian and foreign bankers the lines already known, with, in addition, a branch to Königsberg, in order to place them in direct communication with the European lines. The concession is for eighty-five years, and the works are to be executed in ten years. A board of directors is to be formed at St. Petersburg, and, in addition, a committee of nine members is to be established at Paris. The capital is to be 275,000,000 roubles; the shares are to be of 500fr., and to be negotiated at St. Petersburg,

Paris, London, Amsterdam, and Berlin. The first series of 600,000 shares has been taken by the founders. The Government is to have the right of repurchasing the concession in twenty years.

The marriage of the Grand Duke Michael of Russia with the Princess Cecile of Baden is to take place at St. Petersburg in March.

The Grand Duchy of Finland is in a state of distress bordering upon actual famine. Large subscriptions, headed by the Emperor and Empress, have been opened for the relief of the people.

PORTUGAL.

The House of Deputies is still engaged in the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne. The Ministers have declared to the Cortes that no crisis exists.

SWITZERLAND.

Colonel Asztalos, a young officer who served in the Hungarian war of independence, has been shot in a duel at Geneva by a Polish wine merchant of Bordeaux, with whom he had quarrelled at a whist table. The occasion of the dispute was so trivial that General Klapka, who was present, tried to prevent the meeting, but failed; the colonel was killed, and his adversary was wounded in the hip. It had been agreed on between the combatants that if one of them fell it should be made to appear that he had committed suicide, and accordingly the body of Asztalos was placed at the foot of a tree in a wood where it was found.

DENMARK.

The treaty concerted between England, Prussia, and France for the redemption of the Sound Dues was made the subject of a conference of the Powers interested in that question, on the 3rd inst., at Copenhagen. On this occasion not only the representative of Austria, but also the plenipotentiary of the Hanseatic Towns, acceded to it, in addition to the original members of the conference. The withdrawal of the despatch that the Danish Ministry was about to forward to Vienna and Berlin, refusing to listen to the remonstrances of the German Powers, is understood to have been occasioned by some intimations from Russia of her rulers no longer being disposed to support Denmark in the course of treatment she has observed for a long time past towards the German Duchies.—*Times Berlin Correspondent*.

GERMANY.

Saxony and Prussia have just concluded a treaty, of which the object is to establish between the two countries a new communication, by means of a railway to connect Leipsic and Berlin by a direct line. This line will form a junction at Bitterfeld with the railway which unites Wittemberg to Halle, by way of the Elbe and Bitterfeld.

SPAIN.

Espartero has resigned his position as a senator, "for reasons which," as he says in a letter to the Queen, "no one will understand better than her Majesty."

TURKEY.

The Sultan and the Ministers have subscribed to the Smyrna Railway, which has been conceded. It is to pass by the route of Aidan.

The town of Candia will be rebuilt, and the damages of Sinope repaired.

BELGIUM.

Alluding to Mr. Disraeli and "the secret treaty," the *Indépendance Belge* says:—"All that Lord Palmerston has acknowledged was announced by us more than two years ago, at the very time of the signature of the treaty, in a despatch from Berlin, dated the 31st of December, 1854, published in our number of the 1st of January, 1855, and completed by a letter of our Berlin correspondent, which appeared in our number of January 2." Another correspondent of the same journal, however, afterwards contradicted the assertion with respect to the existence of such a treaty.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A MELANCHOLY catastrophe took place last Saturday on board the steam frigate *Arrogant*, now lying alongside Portsmouth Dockyard. A heavy pivot-gun was being hoisted out, when it dropped, and fell on James Desman, one of the crew, who was instantaneously killed. An inquest was held on board, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The gun fell owing to the tackle breaking, though it was quite new.

Dr. J. T. Bateson, of Lancaster, has been killed on the North-Western Railway. He and some others were crossing the line at the Settle station, when the doctor stooped, apparently to pick up something, and the engine knocked him down and passed over him. He was conveyed to Lancaster much mutilated, and expired shortly after reaching his home. A woman who was crossing the line at the same time was also knocked down, but was only slightly injured.

An accident has occurred to the evening express train on the Tynemouth branch of the North-Eastern Railway. The train left Newcastle-on-Tyne at a quarter to five, with about twenty passengers. When it was within a quarter of a mile of Shields, an axle-tree of the first carriage broke, forced the carriage off its springs, and threw it completely across the line. In spite of this obstruction, the train continued to run on, some carriages

being on and some off the line, till it was brought to a stop by coming in contact with the parapet of the bridge which crosses the Shields turnpike-road. The coupling chains of the engine gave way in the shock; but several of the passengers received severe injury.—A collision occurred on the same line on Tuesday, by which several passengers were injured.

A frightful accident took place on the London and South-Western Railway, near the Barnes station, on Monday. The wife of the switchman noticed her child upon the line just as the goods train was making rapid progress towards the station. She rushed across the metals to save her child, which she succeeded in doing; but before she could gain the platform she was caught by the train, thrown down upon the line, and her two legs nearly severed from her body by the passing of the wheels of the carriages over her limbs. Very slight hopes are entertained of her recovery.

An explosion of fire-damp has taken place in the Pew Fold Colliery, Ashton, about four miles from Wigan, by which three colliers were killed, and two others seriously burned. The catastrophe was caused by one of the men going too close to a new air road with a naked candle in his hand.

Two men were engaged in the neighbourhood of Canterbury in conveying from Whitstable some spirit which was over proof. On the road, they contrived to abstract a portion, which speedily rendered them senseless; and, being discovered in this state, they were conveyed in waggons to Canterbury. One of them died before he arrived there; the life of the other was saved by the use of the stomach-pump.

Mr. C. K. Sala, a brother, we believe, of Mr. George Augustus Sala, the writer, died suddenly at the house of his mother, well known in the musical circles of Brighton, on Tuesday night. The cause of death was an apoplectic stroke. He was only thirty-four years of age.

A few minutes after twelve o'clock on Thursday a fearful explosion took place at the Lund-hill Colliery situated about half a mile from the Wombwell station on the South Yorkshire Railway. The day workers, to the number of a hundred and eighty men and eight lads, descended at six o'clock in the morning. At twelve o'clock, twenty-two of them, who reside near the pit, came up to dinner, the rest remaining to partake of that meal in the pit. Shortly afterwards, the explosion occurred. The frame in which the corves descend was blown up the shaft and lodged in the gearing above the pit mouth. Numbers of men from neighbouring collieries flocked to render assistance, and up to seven o'clock sixteen men had been drawn up alive, some of them most seriously injured; but this left one hundred and forty-two men remaining in the pit. The interior was set on fire by the explosion, and the flames spread with such rapidity as to render improbable the reaching of that part of the pit where the one hundred and forty-two men are supposed to be. Twelve or thirteen dead bodies were picked up in the main tramways; but it has been found necessary to close the mouths of the pit. It is supposed that a fall in some part of the works has led to the explosion.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND HIGHWAY ROBBERY IN SURREY.

AN outrage has been committed on the high road between the villages of Nutfield and Warwick-town, in Surrey, which bears a close resemblance to those murderous attacks on wayfarers which are of frequent occurrence in Ireland. The accounts of the affair are somewhat contradictory. According to one, as Mr. Ovenden, a draper, was returning from Godstone to Warwick-town in a light cart, on the evening of Friday week, about a quarter to five o'clock, a man dressed as a labourer, who was walking in the same direction, asked for a lift. Mr. Ovenden complied; and the two drove through Nutfield. A little beyond that village, they arrived at a very lonely part of the road, when the stranger suddenly turned upon Mr. Ovenden, and demanded his money or his life. The other thought this was merely a joke; but the man took out a pocket-pistol, and pointed it at his companion's breast. Still Mr. Ovenden treated the thing as a rough piece of practical fun, though the truth must by this time have been obvious, for the man, with a threatening aspect, repeated his demand. He was met with a firm refusal to give any money; on which the man fired, and the bullet lodged in Mr. Ovenden's left breast, a little below the shoulder. The victim, still holding the reins in his hand, fell to the bottom of the cart, and the horse was pulled up by the jerk. The assassin then proceeded to rifle the pockets of his companion, who was lying senseless, and from whom he took 47. in gold, and about ten shillings in silver, with which he made off across the country. Mr. Ovenden recovered his consciousness about a quarter past five, and endeavoured to staunch the bleeding with his pocket handkerchief. He then drove home, where he arrived almost fainting, but at once gave information to the police, accompanied by a minute description of his assailant. He then went to bed, and

was carefully attended by a medical man. A reward of 200*l.* has been offered for the apprehension of the ruffian. The pistol was found lying at the bottom of the cart, and is in the hands of the police.

Another account states that Mr. Ovenden, as he was driving along the road, saw a miserable looking man lying by the wayside, who said he was too ill to rise, and begged assistance. Mr. Ovenden got out of his cart, and helped the man on his feet, when incidents similar to those already narrated took place. On finding himself wounded, Mr. Ovenden, says the latter account, leaped back into the vehicle, and some way further on met with a labourer who drove him home. It appears probable that he will recover, as he is a young and strong man.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.—John Benns surrendered to take his trial on a charge of assaulting Ann Mosley, a widow, and forcibly entering her house. The case was one of disputed possession; and Benns, thinking he had a right to the house, seized it and turned out Mrs. Mosley. It was arranged that he should plead Guilty to two counts of the indictment, and then take proper legal steps in the matter. Possession was restored to the widow, and Benns was bound over to appear again on the next bail day. Mrs. Cobbett, the wife of the well-known William Cobbett, was present at the trial, and seemed to be interested in the result; and Mr. Metcalfe, counsel for Benns, read in court a letter from the husband in which he accused Mr. Metcalfe of insulting his wife, and concluding thus:—"Now, therefore, I beg to inform you that I shall, on the first day of next Easter term, have business at Westminster-hall, and that, with your leave and license (which I require in the course of tomorrow, Friday), I will at the door of that hall, at ten A.M., give you as good a pair of black eyes as ever you had in your life, or that in case of your refusing or neglecting to give me such leave and license as above required, I will give you the opportunity of whitewashing yourself before the proper authorities within the said hall."

A MURDEROUS TRADE.—In the case of some men charged at Bow-street with having base coin in their possession, and with stealing a watch-case from a Mr. Balch, a watch-gilder, that individual, on being called on to sign his deposition, said:—"I will try, but I am so charged with mercury, or quicksilver, that I doubt whether I can write."—Mr. Henry (the magistrate): "Has your trade usually that effect?"—Mr. Balch: "Yes, sir, always. I have not been able to walk for the last twelve months, and, indeed, I have been very infirm for eighteen months or two years. It ought to be stopped." With some trouble, however, Mr. Balch succeeded in writing his name at the foot of the deposition. The prisoners were committed for trial.

THE CASE OF CRUELTY TO A GIRL.—John Walker, the haberdasher charged at Worship-street with cruel neglect of his orphan niece, has been again remanded. In the meanwhile, the people in the neighbourhood express their detestation by breaking the windows of the house, and creating continual disturbances in the immediate vicinity. A boy was brought before the magistrate on a charge arising out of these riots, and was condemned to pay the value of the glass he had smashed. Walker, on being again released on bail, found it necessary to be escorted home by the police.

CONFESSION OF A MURDER.—A blacksmith of the name of James Smith, living at Halifax, has confessed, before the police authorities of that town, to a murder committed by himself and another about fourteen years ago, on the governor of Carlisle gaol. The man stated that the act of which he accused himself had been effected by throwing his victim over the banisters of the prison; and he added that he had been so troubled in his conscience ever since, that he was determined to surrender himself to justice. Although warned by a sergeant at the police-station to be careful of what he said in a case of so serious a nature, Smith repeated his statement; but, when examined soon afterwards by the superintendent, he wavered a good deal, and seemed to wish to forego entirely what he had previously stated, or to reduce it to a charge which had been preferred against him at a public-house. He was locked up, however, and the police made inquiries, and soon obtained information, which, though it did not clearly prove the case against Smith, threw great suspicion on him. Amongst other important facts, they learned that the prisoner had lately told a fellow-workman that he meant to write to his brother at Carlisle, and inform him that he should return home if the gaol murder had been forgotten. The police authorities at Halifax are still engaged in investigating the matter, and the superintendent has communicated with the Carlisle police. The man has been since discharged.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY A CONVICT.—A man, who had been convicted at the Middlesex Sessions for stealing a purse, made an attempt in one of the cells to kill himself, by opening several of his veins with pieces of an earthen pan placed in the cell, which he broke for the purpose. On his trial he admitted that he had been a thief, but said the police would not let him get an honest livelihood. His present sentence is four years' penal servitude. The attempt at suicide was only just discovered in time to prevent a fatal termination.

HIGHWAY ASSAULT AND ROBBERY.—Two strong

and able-bodied fellows, of ruffianly appearance and manners, named Joseph Lee, aged nineteen, and James Sadleir, plumber, twenty-two, were charged with seizing John Duhm, of Lower Pelham-street, Spital-fields, by the neck, throwing him backwards, and attempting to rob him of his watch and money. This was in High-street, Whitechapel, in the middle of the night. The offence having been proved, the men were committed for trial.—A young man, named George Collins, has been committed for trial by the Lambeth magistrate for a very similar offence in the Kennington-road, at twelve o'clock at night.

THE WALWORTH MURDERS, AND THE ALLEGED POISONING AT STAMFORD.—The final examination at the Lambeth police-court of Bacon and his wife, on the charge of murdering their children, took place on Wednesday. Mrs. Bacon still contrived to evade looking at her husband, who seemed desirous to see her. Both were committed for trial, and the magistrate then stated that he had received a telegraphic despatch from Stamford, stating that arsenic had been found in the body of Bacon's mother. At hearing this, Bacon kept his eyes fixed on the floor, and a slight flush came on his face. On being taken back to his cell, Bacon became greatly agitated, and commenced crying and wailing. He afterwards requested of the magistrate to be permitted to see his wife; but this was refused.—The inquest near Stamford on the body of Mrs. Bacon, senior, was resumed on the same day, when the medical testimony was received, including Professor Taylor's report, which concluded thus:—"1. The body of the deceased Ann Bacon contained arsenic, which must have been taken by or administered to her while living. 2. That the arsenic was found in the largest proportion—1, in the intestines; 2, in the liver and gall bladder; and 3, in the stomach. The kidneys and spleen contained a small quantity; the heart and bloody liquid of the chest contained none." 3. That the total quantity extracted from the different parts was small—namely, about three-quarters of a grain. 4. That the parts containing the arsenic were well preserved, but presented none of the appearances which are usually produced by this poison." From the evidence of Mrs. Ann Bacon, the sister-in-law of the accused, it appeared that Thomas Bacon, the person now in custody, was observed by her, during his mother's illness, to give her (the mother) something out of a bottle, which bottle he took away after the death. He also took from a drawer his mother's rent-book. The other points in Mrs. Ann Bacon's evidence have already appeared in this journal. The jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Thomas Bacon.—Some circumstances have come to the knowledge of the police at Stamford which have induced the authorities there to order the exhumation of the body of Nathaniel Bacon, the father of Thomas Fuller Bacon. It is stated that Mr. Bacon, sen., was possessed of house property in Stamford to the extent of about 160*l.* per annum, a portion of which would immediately revert to his son, Thomas Fuller Bacon, and the remainder to his wife for life. Nathaniel Bacon, the father, died with his son on the 13th of October, 1854, was taken ill, seized with cramps, spasms, and vomiting, died on the 17th, and was interred in Great Casterton churchyard. The chemical analysis of the remains of the deceased will be commenced without delay.

CRIMINAL ASSAULT AT SEA.—Hugh Murray, a man with several aliases, has been sentenced by the Edinburgh High Court to twenty-one years' transportation for attempting to ravish a woman on board a boat on the Clyde, and then suspending her in the water, and threatening to drown her unless she consented to his desires.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

A woman named Sabine, of ladylike appearance, and dressed in deep mourning, has been charged at the Worship-street police court with telling fortunes at a house in Old-street. She engaged respectable lodgings at the residence of a surgeon, and was there visited by several persons who asked to see "the good lady" (for that was the formula prescribed to the devotees), and, having received her sage counsel and prophetic guidance, paid her various small sums, and departed, in possession of the secrets of futurity. At length, however, a police sergeant went there in plain clothes, and, instead of consulting the Book of Fate, "proceeded at once to business," as he stated before the magistrate. Mrs. Sabine at first denied that she told fortunes, and said the accusation was brought against her in malice by the surgeon at whose house she lodged, on account of her not employing him in her late accouchement; but she afterwards admitted the truth of the charge, and pleaded that her husband was ill with consumption, and that she was obliged to do something for her living. She appeared to be in great distress, and implored for mercy, saying she had never done an injury to any one; that she meant no harm, and would never do so again. Mr. D'Eyncourt, the magistrate, sentenced her to one month's imprisonment, but remitted the hard labour usual in such cases, on account of the woman's recent confinement.

Edward Cape, formerly in the 88th Regiment of Foot, who has been charged with obtaining money and goods by means of fraudulent cheques and orders made out in

the name of Major Maynard, has been finally examined at Marlborough-street, and, three cases, out of about thirty, in which he had successfully swindled tradesmen, having been brought home to him, he was committed for trial.

With respect to the case of "Stammers v. Hughes," of which we gave an account last week, the *Times* says:—"We have received a letter from Mr. Stammers, who was examined as a witness in this case, explaining that that part of his evidence which referred to the connexion between Miss Stanley and Mr. Hughes was not voluntarily given, but was extorted from him by the plaintiff's counsel. The attorney for Miss Stanley has requested us to state, in answer to Mr. Stammers's evidence 'that nobody was paid except the landlord, who stopped the rent,' that a sum of 1450*l.* was paid by Mr. Hughes during the continuance of Miss Stanley's entertainment."

A baker named Curling, living in Snow's-fields, Bermondsey, has brought an action in the Court of Exchequer against the proprietor of *Bell's News*, for a libel contained in a letter to that paper, the writer of which, who signed himself "Robin Hood," said that Curling had put a distress into a room in his house occupied by a widow, who owed him 3*l.* 2*s.* for rent, and had behaved with such wanton cruelty to her, by causing her to be dragged off a sick-bed and conveyed to the work-house, that she died. "This," said the writer, "was a case of murder as complete as if the wretch of a landlord and his hell-hounds had plunged a knife into her heart." He then went on to charge the landlord with cheating the son of the poor woman out of seven shillings and sixpence. These accusations had had the effect of greatly diminishing Curling's business, and he now stated in court that the narrative was in many respects untrue. His own version was divested of the more repulsive features of "Robin Hood's" story; but it indicated some degree of harshness. The jury, however, gave 100*l.* damages.

Messrs. De la Rue and Co., the well-known envelope manufacturers, have brought an action against Messrs. Dickinson and Co., who are engaged in the same branch of trade, for an infringement of the patent possessed by the former. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiffs, saying that the defendants' process was a mere colourable imitation of that patented by the Messrs. De la Rue.

A petition to the Lords Justices of Appeal, sitting in the Court of Chancery, has been made on behalf of Lyon Samuel, a person whose case has recently made some noise in the Bankruptcy Court. The circumstances under which the appeal was presented were these:—The bankrupt was the owner of certain valuable diamonds and jewellery, and before his bankruptcy he entrusted them, or alleged he entrusted them, to a Mr. Diamond, and subsequently recovered part, and left the remainder with that person, and also lent him 3000*l.*, or thereabouts, to enable him to buy a forest somewhere in Moldavia from a Prince Schinass, but took no security for the money, although Diamond offered bills of exchange for the amount. The greater part of this statement was given by the bankrupt in his examination before the commissioner, who remanded him to prison, adjourning his last examination *sine die*. He now petitioned for a reversal of the order and for his discharge, and that a day might be appointed for the final examination. The petition was dismissed with costs.

A case in which the forgery of a will was concerned has been heard at the Ecclesiastical Court, York, before Mr. G. H. Vernon, Chancellor. The will in dispute was made by the late Mr. John Jackson, of Stapleford, in the county of Nottingham. The defendant in the suit was his housekeeper, Sarah Radbourne, who was appointed by the disputed will sole executrix and residuary legatee. The property involved is 30,000*l.* The case against the validity of the will rested mainly on the fact that Mr. Jackson was known to have frequently said he would never make a will, as, being a superstitious man, he was afraid of becoming ill in consequence. He used to observe that his father once made a will when he was in perfect health, and that he was never well afterwards. Three men were concerned with the woman in forging the document. The Chancellor, in delivering judgment, said the case was a clear one against the woman Radbourne, and she was condemned in costs.

Some actions for false imprisonment have been brought in several of the law courts this week. One of these cases, heard in the Court of Queen's Bench, before Mr. Justice Erle and a common jury, was that of a young woman, named Andrews, who for seventeen years had been in the employ of Messrs. Edmonds and Co., the bookbinders, and who was looked on as a very respectable person. One evening she went to the shop of a butcher in Lower Marsh, Westminster, and tendered a shilling in payment for some meat. The butcher's wife said the shilling was bad; but Andrews asserted that the shilling which the butcher's wife threw down was not the one which had been given her. A dispute ensued, in which, according to the statements made in defence, the young woman was very violent in her language, and said she was the victim of a swindle. On the other hand, she was accused of being a passer of bad money. The butcher himself came in, and ultimately gave Andrews into custody, but the inspector at the station-house refused to take the charge, which, indeed, the butcher did not press. A

verdict was returned for the plaintiff; damages, 20s. The Judge remarked that he did not believe either that Andrews had given a bad shilling, or that the butcher's wife had changed the coin.—A second case of false imprisonment was heard in the Court of Exchequer before Mr. Baron Martin. A plumber, named Joyce, had been working at the house of a Mr. Embleton, together with his son. Some lead was stolen from off the roof of the house, and the son was given into custody, and afterwards convicted of the theft. While he was under examination, the father was also arrested at the instance of the magistrate, but was acquitted on his trial. On first being conveyed to the station-house, Mr. Embleton had signed the charge-sheet; and the question for the jury was whether that proceeding was merely a matter of form, or whether by so doing the defendant had made the giving of the father into custody his own act. For the defence, it was contended that the apprehension of Joyce, senior, was purely an act of the magistrate; but the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for 5*l.*, whereupon Mr. Baron Martin directed a nonsuit to be entered, subject to a motion to enter a verdict as above. Subsequently, it was agreed that a *stet processus* should be entered.—A third case was in the same court. A Jew, named Castleberg (the defendant), had given a man, named O'Driscoll (the plaintiff), into custody for stealing some watches; but he did not proceed with the case, and O'Driscoll was discharged. He now swore that he had not stolen the watches; but, when under cross-examination, he declined to say whether he had not been convicted four times, and been imprisoned eighteen months for obtaining money by false pretences from two foreigners, while he admitted that he might have passed himself off as a captain in the army when drunk, he being actually a private. Under these circumstances, the jury gave credit to the evidence adduced by the defendant in support of his plea, alleging facts which reasonably justified him in preferring the charge against the plaintiff, and at once returned a verdict for the defendant.

An interesting question as regards crossed cheques was involved in a case which was brought before Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and a special jury in the Court of Common Pleas. An action was brought against a Mr. Simmonds, as the public officer of the London Joint-Stock Bank, by the plaintiff, a Mr. Taylor, who is a customer of the bank, for money lent and on an account stated. The defendant pleaded payment. The question raised by the action (involving the construction to be put on the recent act relating to drafts on bankers, 19th and 20th Victoria, cap. 25) was whether, where a customer of a bank crosses a cheque, but before presentation the crossing has been fraudulently obliterated by some person, through whom it is presented at the bank, and it is paid over the counter in the ordinary course of business, the loss falls upon the bank or upon the customer. In this case, the cheque had been posted, after being crossed; but it had been intercepted by some one, taken out of the envelope, and presented at the bank, after the crossing had been obliterated, probably by some chemical means. It was at once paid by the bank. The empty envelope was put under the door of the house where it was directed, with these words written on it:—"The finder is much obliged." The cheque, when presented at the bankers', was much crumpled, to render detection the less likely; but a question arose as to whether the clerks were guilty of negligence in not discovering the fraud, while, on the other hand, it was contended that the plaintiff had exhibited carelessness in sending the cheque through the post. The jury found their verdict immediately and unanimously, that there was no negligence on either the part of the plaintiff or of the defendant. A verdict was then entered for the defendant, subject to leave to the plaintiff to move on a point reserved.

John Henry Goulburn, a well-dressed young man, was charged at Southwark with stealing some valuable medical books from Dr. Steadman, with whom he had been living; also a great coat belonging to one of the doctor's pupils. Dr. Steadman had discharged Goulburn because he had received some information detrimental to his character. The young man left suddenly, took the property away with him, and subsequently pawned it. He now pleaded Guilty, and was sentenced to four months' hard labour. Throughout the proceedings he exhibited great depression and shame.

A man of the name of Henry Miller was charged at the Mansion House with being concerned, together with another man not in custody, in stealing a cash-box containing nearly 70*l.* in bank-notes and money, besides a quantity of railway scrip and other articles, from the secretary's office at the East India House, Leadenhall-street. Mr. Samuel Ruggles, messenger to the secretary, left the office one evening about half-past five o'clock, after having locked up the drawers in which a cash-box (his own property) was kept. When he returned at ten the following morning, he found that the drawer which contained the box was broken open, and the box itself stolen. On the same morning, however, it was left by a stranger at Mr. Ruggles's private residence, where it was taken in by his daughter, to whom the man who brought the box gave a description of the person he had received it from, which closely corresponded with that of her brother, and the box was wrapped up in paper and directed, it was believed, in the handwriting of Mr.

Ruggles's son. The notes and money had been abstracted from the box, but the railway scrip, &c., remained. Mr. Ruggles's son, who had until lately been living with his father at Dalston, was frequently in the habit of visiting him at the East India House, in consequence of which he gained entire knowledge of his drawers, and all their contents. Some days previously to the one on which the cash-box was missed from the office, he had absented himself from home, and had not been heard of since. Miller, after a long search, was traced out and apprehended by a detective officer in a travelling caravan, which was standing in Old Nicholas-street, Shoreditch. The officer ascertained that he had been in company with the younger Ruggles, and that some of the stolen notes had been changed. Miller was remanded, in order to give the police time to trace out his presumed accomplice, for whom search is being made.

Mr. Thomas Harrison, a stockbroker, of Enfield, was charged at the Worship-street police court with unlawfully detaining an officer of the Eastern Counties Railway in the performance of his duty. On the arrival of a train at the Enfield station, one of the collectors went to the different carriages to collect the tickets, and on asking Mr. Harrison, who was in the smoking carriage, for his, that gentleman replied carelessly, "Well, but suppose I've lost it?" Being told that he must, in that case, pay a fine, he laughed, and said, "Then I must try to find it." He thereupon searched his pockets, from which he produced, with great levity, a variety of articles, under pretence of searching for the ticket, but as it did not appear among any of them, he told the collector, amidst much uproarious laughter from himself and his fellow-passengers, that he believed he would find it in an empty pipe-case which was lying before him. Some of the occupants at the back of the carriage having, at this juncture, complained of being delayed, Mr. Harrison then took a season ticket from his side pocket. In consequence of these proceedings, the train was detained at the station nearly ten minutes beyond the usual time. Mr. Hammill, the magistrate, said he was of opinion that the accused had wilfully caused an obstruction, which the law regarded as an offence according to act of Parliament; but, as it appeared to him that the railway authorities merely wished to enforce such regulations as they might think proper to institute, he should only order Mr. Harrison to pay a fine of ten shillings, with costs.

A petition, in the case of Hopwood v. Hopwood, from a decision of the Master of the Rolls, was heard before the Lords Justices of Appeal on Tuesday. The question was whether the Rev. F. G. Hopwood was entitled to a legacy of 5000*l.*, given to him by his father's will, and also a sum of equal amount covenanted by the testator to be paid to certain trustees, or whether the one was not a satisfaction or redemption *pro tanto* of the other. The Master of the Rolls decided in favour of double portions; the other parties appealed. The appeal was dismissed, but without costs.

The Judicial Committee of Privy Council was occupied on Wednesday with an appeal from a decree of the Vice-Admiralty Court at St. Helena, by which the ship Newport was condemned on the 24th of November, 1854, for having been at the time of seizure, the 21st of September, 1854, engaged in the slave trade, and Messrs. Pinto, Perez, and Co., merchants, of London, the shippers of the cargo, were condemned in penalties to the amount of 12,915*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, being double the value of the cargo. The appeal was dismissed.

Damages have been obtained from three railway companies on account of accidents proceeding from carelessness on the part of the railway officials. One of these cases was an action in which the plaintiff, as administratrix of her deceased husband, Mark Hicks, sued the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford Railway Company to recover compensation in damages for the death of her husband, who was killed on the 12th of November, 1856, in a collision which took place on that day on the company's line. The defendants admitted their liability, and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff; damages, 2500*l.*, which they apportioned thus: one-third to the widow, and the remainder to be equally divided among the four children.—In another case, a Mrs. McIntosh obtained 450*l.* from the London and North-Western Company for an accident at the Aber station, caused by the train stopping at a sloping bank instead of at the platform, and the station-master lifting the lady off the carriage step with such carelessness (despite her protests at being forced to alight at that spot) that she fell and broke her leg.—A Mr. Allen, a travelling clerk in the service of the Post Office, has obtained 1400*l.* damages from the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company for an injury to the head arising from a collision on the line.

An examination meeting in the affairs of Robson, the Crystal Palace forger, appointed for last Tuesday, was further adjourned to the 17th of March. The bankrupt remained in a private room during the discussion.

In reference to the proceedings under a summons which was heard last week against Mr. Townsley, an undertaker, in Paul-street, Finsbury, for causing an obstruction by allowing mourning carriages to remain in front of his premises, the father of the defendant has emphatically denied that either of the hearses contained dead bodies, as had been stated by the witnesses on that occasion.

William Britton, Alfred Wheeler, and George Skinner, all youths of sixteen, have been indicted at the Central Criminal Court for having stolen a gold watch and chain, a brooch, three hundred cigars, and other articles, value 25*l.*, the property of John Marshfield, in his dwelling-house. Skinner was admitted Queen's evidence against the other prisoners. His account was to the effect that he had been tempted into a certain complicity, but had not actually been concerned in breaking into the house. A verdict of Not Guilty was taken in his case; the others were found Guilty, and sentence was postponed.

Mr. James Rogers, the comedian at the Olympic Theatre, whose name has become somewhat familiar to the public by a recent occurrence, applied on Wednesday to the Insolvent Debtors' Court, under the Protection Act, and was not opposed. The debts are only 108*l.*, and the insolvency is attributed to the death of his late wife, his own occasional illness, and insufficiency of income. His present salary at the Olympic Theatre is 4*l.* per week. The 13th of March was appointed for granting the final order, and protection was renewed until that date.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

HOW SHIPS MAY BE LOST.—Under this head, Mr. P. E. Dove writes to the *Times* to say that fatal mistakes in navigation are made owing to the gross incorrectness of charts published at very high prices. The Admiralty charts, he states, are beautifully executed, and very correct; but they remain unheeded in the drawers of map-sellers, because they are cheap, and therefore considered worthless.

THE SCREW STEAMSHIP CHILE, Captain Smith, with mails and passengers for the west coast of South America, has been obliged to put back, dismasted and disabled. For a time, she was in imminent danger of drifting on to the coast of Spain in the Bay of Biscay. The foremast, the mainmast, and the jibboom were carried away, and for many days she was drifting helplessly about the waters. But her leakage was very slight, and she contrived to weather through the storms.

REDUCTION OF DOCKYARD WAGES.—In consequence of the order which has been issued by the Admiralty for reducing the pay of the labourers employed in the Chatham Dockyard to 12*s.* a week, a public meeting has been held at Chatham, presided over by the High Constable, when it was unanimously resolved to memorialize the Lords of the Admiralty to rescind the order.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.—"H. C. H." complains in the *Times* that, notwithstanding repeated applications, he has been unable to obtain from the War Office an account of the sale of his brother's effects after the death of the latter (a lieutenant in the 3rd Buffs) from dysentery in hospital before Sebastopol in October, 1855. He has also failed to receive a slight balance due to him, though he has had numerous letters putting him off from time to time. It seems to be a flagrant case of "Circumlocution Office."

CLIFFORD'S INVENTION FOR LOWERING BOATS AT SEA.—The shipowners and seamen on the east coast of Scotland have taken up the subject of Clifford's invention for lowering boats at sea, and held meetings at the principal seaports to petition Parliament to make its use compulsory in the British mercantile marine.

SHIPWRECKS.—Some very rough weather has been experienced on the west coast of Europe, and several vessels have suffered in consequence. The British barque Agenoria came into collision with the French schooner *Elise* on the 24th ult. off Cape de Gatt. The latter sank, with a boy on board, and the master was also drowned. The British brig *Vixen*, from Cardiff, bound for Stora, put into Gibraltar on the 1st inst. with stanchions and bulwarks carried away. The French brig *Mathilde*, Captain Contel, from Marseilles for Senegal, with a cargo of brandy, wine, rice, &c., was wrecked on the night of the 17th ult., during a terrific storm, at a place called Raigal de Staigu, to the north of the island of Mahon. The vessel went to pieces, and all the cargo was lost. Only one sailor was saved out of the eleven persons who were on board. The Portuguese brigantine *Africano*, Captain Duarte, with a general cargo for Bisson, sprang a leak when five miles off Cape Spartel, but fortunately fell in with the Dutch brigantine *Vrouw Maria*, which took her in tow to Gibraltar Bay, where she sank astern of the American ship *Sea Queen*. The British brig *Marion*, laden with wheat, which had put into St. Sebastian through stress of weather, was dashed to pieces against the new mole of that port on the night of the 21st ult. The French steam corvette, the *Duroc*, has been lost on the coast of Java, on her way from New Caledonia to Hong-Kong.

THE OUTRAGE AT THE CHATHAM POST-OFFICE.—The Commander-in-Chief has ordered a district court-martial to be convened at Chatham garrison for the trial of those soldiers who have been recognised as having been engaged in the outrage at the Chatham Post-office and the attack on Mr. Dadd, the postmaster, which took place early on the morning of the 7th inst. Seven soldiers were placed in confinement on suspicion of having been engaged in the outrage, and four of these have been identified; their names are Dennis Craigden, Thomas Hamon, William Kress, and John Macnamara—all privates belonging to the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF ELLESMERE.—Literature and the arts have lost a sincere admirer and patron in the Earl of Ellesmere, K.G., who died at Bridgewater House on Wednesday, having but recently attained his fifty-seventh year. In 1828, he was Chief Secretary to Lord Anglesey, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and in 1830, under the administration of the Duke of Wellington, he was Secretary at War. His political opinions were always liberal; but his tastes led him chiefly in the direction of the fine arts—a tendency which may have been fostered by the knowledge that he was descended from that Earl of Bridgewater who produced at Ludlow Castle Milton's masque of *Comus*. To the same family, also, belonged that Lord Bridgewater who projected the celebrated canal which bears his name. The deceased Earl was the author of some poems; his collection of pictures was celebrated for its splendour; and to this the public have always found ready admission. His eldest son, Viscount Brackley, succeeds to the title.

THE LATE MR. JOSEPH HAYDN.—The orphan son of the late author of the *Dictionary of Dates* has been elected into the St. Ann's School. One lady alone subscribed 50*l.* towards the attainment of the object.

THE SAILORS' HOME AND THE DESTITUTE SAILORS ASYLUM.—The monthly meeting of the directors of these institutions was held in Well-street, on the 12th instant; Vice-Admiral W. Bowles, C.B., in the chair. The secretary presented the accounts, by which it appeared the average daily number of boarders during 1856 was 224; the total amount paid for board being 30,262*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* During the same period, 40,363*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* was remitted to the friends of sailors living in the country; and since the establishment, last October, of the Seaman's Savings Bank, under the management of the Board of Trade, 2564*l.* 4*s.* has been deposited therein. The institution contains beds for the accommodation of upwards of 300 boarders, and on several occasions within the last twelve months the whole of these have been occupied, so that a great many sailors were unable to obtain admission. The report also showed a large increase in the number of inmates of the Destitute Sailors' Asylum.

PREFERMENT.—The Lord Chancellor has appointed the Hon. and Rev. S. Waldegrave to the Salisbury Canonry, vacated by the elevation of the Rev. Dr. Bickersteth to the Bishopric of Ripon. Mr. Waldegrave is the second son of Admiral the Earl of Waldegrave, C.B., whose eldest son, Viscount Chewton, died at Scutari, in 1854, from the effects of wounds received at the battle of the Alma.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—A dinner was given last Saturday, at the London Tavern, by a number of gentlemen interested in the prosperity of Western Australia, and desirous of presenting a testimonial given by the colonists to Captain Fitzgerald, R.N., C.B., the late Governor. The chair was taken by Mr. Mangles, M.P.; and the guest of the evening, in addressing the company after dinner, spoke of the adaptability of Western Australia to the purposes of a convict settlement.

CORPORATION REFORM.—The Court of Common Council has been discussing the propositions for reform agreed to by the Corporation Inquiry Committee, and submitted for its ratification. Some of these it has accepted, others rejected; and the subject has been referred back to the Committee, the members of which are instructed to confer with the Government, and to report to the Court.

THE PARKS.—Various works are in progress in the parks. The lake in St. James's Park has been temporarily drained, and the bottom spread with concrete. A new suspension bridge is in course of erection; but all the works will probably be completed by next May. In Hyde Park, a new path, planted with shrubs, is being made from the Marble Arch to Victoria Gate; and a new illuminated clock has been set up at Hyde Park-corner. It has been made on a new principle, so as to secure greater clearness at night. This, if successful, will be adopted with the monster clock at the new Houses of Parliament.

BARON MARTIN has been added to the Royal Commission for Inquiry into the Statute and Common Law Courts, and the Courts of Assize, in the room of Baron Alderson, deceased.

THE CASE OF MRS. ALLSOP.—With reference to the case of the widow Allsop, who recently brought her alleged distresses before the Marylebone police court, and who asserted that she had been refused relief by Prince Albert, though she had lost five sons in the army, Mr. Broughton, the magistrate, has written to the *Times* to say that the woman is an impostor, and a notorious begging-letter writer. He therefore conceives that Prince Albert was quite right in refusing to send her money; and he speaks somewhat severely of the "attacks" which have been made by some of the papers on his Royal Highness, on account of that refusal. Mr. Broughton also intimates that he shall withhold the subscriptions until the case is concluded.—On Tuesday, Mrs. Allsop appeared again before Mr. Broughton, when, after a long examination, the magistrate dismissed her as unworthy of credence.

SUICIDE BY STRYCHNINE.—A painful sensation was created in Newport last week (says the *Hants Advertiser*), by the report of the death of Mr. William Gammow from strychnine, administered by his own hands; and

the fatal act is of importance to the world on account of the distressing symptoms which exhibited themselves for some five hours previously to his death. On proceeding to view the body, the coroner's jury found deceased in the same position, in bed, in which he died, and he presented a most fearful sight. His eyeballs seemed ready to burst from their sockets; his teeth were tightly closed; the features drawn and contracted, and the whole countenance frightfully distorted; his fists, too, were firmly clenched; his feet forced out beyond the foot of the bed, and his limbs in a state of fixed rigidity. The poison was bought by the servant of the suicide. The druggist recollected the latter coming to his shop and asking for arsenic to kill rats. He gave him three grains of strychnine. "I have sold the same," said the druggist, "for killing rats for four or five years to many persons. I write the word 'Poison' on my packages, and have not a printed label." The coroner and jury observed it would be much better to have a printed label. The deceased took the whole three grains. Half a grain is enough to destroy life.—A servant at Petersfield, Sussex, has killed herself by the same means. The strychnine was contained in a powder vended as "vermin-killer."

SUICIDE.—Mr. Phillip Alford, an elderly gentleman of property, residing at Sunbury, Middlesex, has committed suicide by placing the muzzle of a pistol in his mouth and discharging it. He purchased and built several houses, and latterly became possessed with an idea that his agent was conspiring with some other persons to wrest his property from him and reduce him to absolute want. There was no foundation for such a belief, and various attempts were made to set him right, but to no effect.

FIRE.—A fire broke out last Saturday night on the premises belonging to Mr. Zoucado, a general merchant, St. Mary-axe, Leadenhall-street, whose stock received considerable damage. Mr. Zoucado was insured. The origin of the fire is not known.—A second fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Kaufman, boot and shoe maker, Oulston-street, Whitechapel. Nearly the whole of the stock-in-trade was destroyed, and the premises were considerably burnt.—A third fire took place on the premises of Messrs. Allen, manufacturing chemists, Upper Heath-street, Bow-common, Bromley. Considerable damage was done to the stock, machinery, and buildings.—Other fires have taken place in the Kingsland-road, Shoreditch; the Commercial-road East; the Haymarket; and Drummond-crescent, Euston-square. The two first were serious; the two latter but slight.

JUVENILE VAGRANCY.—A general meeting of the joint members of the Law Amendment Society and the National Reformatory Union was held at No. 3, Waterloo-place, on Monday evening, to consider the bill recently brought before Parliament for the suppression of juvenile vagrancy. Lord Brougham presided, and among others present were the Bishop of London, Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., the Lord Mayor, the Hon. Mr. Liddell, M.P., the Rev. Sidney Turner, and a deputation was also present from the Birmingham Educational Association. The Bishop of London moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a measure for the suppression of juvenile vagrancy, which is a fertile source of crime, should be enacted." This was carried unanimously, and considerable discussion ensued, in the course of which Sir Stafford Northcote modified some of the details of his bill.

AGED POOR SOCIETY.—The anniversary festival of this society, established as early as the close of the 17th century, was held at the Albion Tavern on Monday evening. His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman presided, supported by the Right Rev. Dr. Grant, the Right Rev. Dr. Morris, Mr. Swift, M.P., &c. Large subscriptions were collected before the close of the proceedings, and the company were entertained by the performances of Signor Pico, the blind Sardinian, and other musicians.

DEPUTATION OF SHIPOWERS TO LORD PALMERSTON.—A deputation of shipowners had an interview on Saturday with Lord Palmerston, to press upon Government the necessity of amending those parts of the Merchant Shipping Act by which persons are enabled to recover damages against shipowners, for loss of life or injury, to a larger amount than the statutory amount fixed (namely, 30*l.* in each case of death or injury); and by which, besides, shipowners are made liable to the extent and value of the ship and freight; the value of such ship and freight being taken at 15*l.* per register ton as a minimum. The deputation was well received.

DEATH OF THE DEAN OF CANTERBURY.—The Rev. William Rowe Lyell, D.D., Dean of Canterbury, died on Tuesday morning of paralysis, from which he had been suffering for some months.

LORD BROUGHAM has left England for his seat near Cannes, in the south of France, in order to avoid the cold winds of this and the following month.

EQUALIZATION OF THE POOR'S RATES.—A meeting of delegates from various parishes took place, at the Vestry-hall, St. Andrew's-court, Holborn-hill, on Tuesday evening, to take into consideration the best steps to be adopted for promoting the equalization of the poor's rates throughout the metropolitan districts; Mr. Gilbert, of the parish of Kensington, in the chair. It was finally resolved that an association be formed for effecting the desired object.

EQUITY AND LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting was held last Thursday, G. L. Russell, Esq., in the chair. During the year 1856, 161 policies were issued, insuring 162,745*l.*, and producing in new premiums 5004*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* This exhibits an increase of 17 per cent. upon the new premiums of last year. Since the society was established, 1703 policies have been issued, amounting to 1,602,538*l.*; of these, 539 have lapsed from various causes, leaving in force 1164 policies, assuring 1,148,680*l.* The total premium income is now 35,204*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, and that from other sources, 8,448*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* The balance of assets, Dec. 1855, was 168,848*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, making a total of 212,502*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* On the other side are:—Claims and surrendered policies, 12,766*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; annuities, 943*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*; re-assurances, 3259*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; proprietors' dividend, 2750*l.*; expenses, &c., 3,345*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; commission, 1553*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; other items, income-tax, &c., 644*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*; making the total expenditure, 25,262*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, out of an income of 43,653*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; leaving 18,390*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* to add to the realized assets of the society.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths registered in London in the week that ended last Saturday were 1264, and exhibit a decrease on those of the preceding week, when they were 1368. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in weeks corresponding with last week was 1135. But, as the deaths in the present return occurred in an increased population, it is necessary for comparison that the average should be raised in proportion to the increase, in which case it will become 1249. The rate of mortality last week was therefore very near the average rate in the second week of February. The decrease on the previous week, amounting to about 100 deaths, is referable in a principal degree to a diminished mortality from pulmonary diseases.—Last week, the births of 947 boys and 904 girls, in all 1851 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1550.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN.—From the Quarterly return recently published of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, in England (Marriages, July, August, and September, 1856; Births and Deaths, October, November, and December, 1856), we learn that 78,304 persons married in the quarter, and that "this number exceeds by 4002 the number of persons who married in the summer quarter of 1855. The marriages rose from 37,151 to 39,152. An increase of the marriages is observable in every division." This is partly attributable to the return of soldiers and sailors from the war.—"The births of 157,615 children were registered in the last quarter of 1856. They exceed by 8762 the births in the last quarter of the preceding year. In some districts, this is ascribed to the return of men from the war. Westmoreland is the only county in which there is a decrease of births. The deaths of 96,521 persons were registered in the last quarter of the year 1856.—In the same quarter, 39,063 emigrants sailed from the ports of the United Kingdom;" and for once, there was an excess of English over Irish! The number of Scotch was but small.

A MURDERER'S KNIFE.—The knife with which "Peppermint Billy" committed the murder at Thorpe toll-bar, near Melton Mowbray, was found a few days ago in a ditch near the bar. It is a butcher's knife, about five inches long in the blade and four and a half inches long in the handle. It is nearly rusted through, but the marks of the blood are quite perceptible; and it is a little bent as if by violence. The field is situated on the opposite side of the road to the toll-house, near Melton, and is doubtless the one Brown went up after committing the murder, as it is in the direct line he took for the Scaford dyke, where it is supposed he washed the clothes he had on when he committed the murder. The knife is in the possession of Mr. W. Condon, superintendent of police, Melton-Mowbray.—*Stamford Mercury*.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, February 21.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE House sat for but a short time. The only business done was the passing of a resolution of Earl STANHOPE, appointing a select committee to inquire into the system of keeping the minutes and records of the House; and a statement of the Earl of HARTWELL, that the subject of making a general provision for retiring Bishops, and the division of the See of London, was under consideration.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DULWICH COLLEGE.

In answer to Mr. DUNCOMBE, Mr. BAINES said it was the intention of the Government to bring in a bill to regulate Dulwich College.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

In answer to Captain SCOBELL, Lord PALMERSTON stated that the list for the navy of those who were to

receive the Victoria Cross is made out, and that for the army is in preparation.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

In answer to Mr. OLIVEIRA, Mr. VERNON SMITH said that no positive rule had been laid down by the East Indian Government against any guarantee to future railways, but, as they had already guaranteed twenty millions for that object, they did not wish to extend it.

THE MEGERA TROOP-SHIP.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON brought the subject of the Megera troop-ship again before the House, urging that she was in a leaky state, and not seaworthy when she started for the Mauritius.—Sir CHARLES WOOD read several reports from the authorities at Plymouth and Portsmouth to show that the ship was in good order when she started, and that any accident which had occurred was caused by heavy weather, and could not have been provided against by any fitting out.

TREATY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PERSIA.—THE NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS.

In answer to Mr. LAYARD, Lord PALMERSTON said that it was not true that the negotiations which had been going on with the Persian Ambassador at Paris were broken off; but, on the contrary, there was every prospect of their terminating favourably.

DESTITUTE SOLDIERS' WIVES AT COLCHESTER.

Sir JOHN TYRRELL drew attention to the destitute condition of a number of the families of soldiers in the camp at Colchester, and asked what the Government meant to do in the matter.—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said that the General commanding at Colchester had been directed to report on the subject; but he deprecated the notion of relieving the destitution of soldiers' wives from the money voted for the support of the army.

NEW WRIT.

A new writ was ordered to be issued for an election for North Leicestershire in the room of the Marquis of Granby, now Duke of Rutland.

THE FINANCIAL MEASURES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. DISRAELI brought forward a resolution of which he had given notice—"That, in the opinion of this House, it would be expedient before sanctioning the financial arrangements for the ensuing year, to adjust the estimated income and expenditure in the manner which shall appear best calculated to secure the country against the risk of a deficiency in the years 1858-9 and 1859-60, and to provide for such a balance of Revenue and Charge respectively, in the year 1860, as may place it in the power of Parliament at that period, without embarrassment to the finances, altogether to remit the income-tax." He approved of the course taken by the Government with regard to the reduction of the income-tax; but against the Budget generally, he urged two main objections—firstly, that it threatened to involve the revenue in serious embarrassment; and secondly, that it rendered the promised abolition of the income-tax in 1860 not only difficult, but impossible.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that Mr. Disraeli's criticism had not touched the financial arrangements of the ensuing year. The income and expenditure of future years being uncertain, could hardly be arranged for in advance, and he must decline to frame a Budget for more than a year. He objected to pledge the Legislature to a particular course of dealing with a particular impost, and declared that he would stand by his Budget as it stood.—Mr. GLADSTONE accused the Government of inconsistency in adopting a scheme of finance quite opposed to that which most of them had agreed to when he was their colleague. The present Budget was altogether at variance with the principles which the Legislature had adopted for the last fifteen years. The Income-tax was originally introduced with the object of removing other burdens, but now it was renewed without accompanying remissions. The great fault of the Budget was, that it was based on a principle of excessive expenditure—a subject he meant to bring before the House on the first time of going into Committee of Supply. He gave his hearty support to Mr. Disraeli's amendment, believing it an honest declaration against the risk of incurring a deficiency in the revenue hereafter.—Mr. J. WILSON and Mr. LAING having spoken, the debate was adjourned, and the House rose soon after.

THE NEAPOLITAN TORTURERS.

We learn from Naples, date 9th of February, that five wine merchants were arrested on the charge of having sold the spirits in which the body of Agésilao Milano was plunged. These unfortunate persons were subjected to the torture, from the severity of which one of their number, Salvatore Desimoni, died the following day. Arrests are continually taking place, although the prisons are now overcrowded.

THE NEUFCHÂTEL QUESTION.

Letters from Berlin state that no arrangement—not even a provisional one—has been entered into for the settlement of the Neufchâtel question.

PERSIA.

The *Teheran Gazette* of the 8th January publishes a proclamation of the Shah, announcing the capture of Bushire, and stating his intention of taking the most energetic measures to repel the invasion of the English. At the same time, it expresses the hope of an amicable settlement.

"There is every reason to suppose," says the *Morning Post* Paris correspondent (this day), "that Russia has already offered assistance to China. It is also declared that a new secret treaty was signed between Russia and Persia within the last eight weeks. It is known, from despatches that have reached Paris, that considerable forces have been sent lately towards the Chinese and Persian frontiers."

AMERICA.

By the papers brought from America in the Arago, which arrived yesterday morning, we learn that the Atlantic Submarine Telegraph Bill hangs fire in the House of Representatives, but that there appears no doubt of its passing ultimately. The National Theatre at Washington was destroyed by fire in the afternoon of the 6th inst., and only the bare walls remained. News from various parts state that the ice is disappearing and the rivers gradually rising. Official accounts from the Philippine Islands state that 15,000 houses were destroyed by a hurricane. Considerable damage was also done at Manila. There is some confirmation of the accounts of the invasion of Tampico by Garcia, and the possible seizure at the house of the British Consul of 240,000 dollars belonging to foreign merchants.

EDUCATIONAL MUSEUM AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

The following regulations for the guidance of contributors to the Educational Museum have just been issued by the Department of Science and Art:—

1. The Museum will be open free to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays; and on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, to students and the public generally, on payment of 6d. each, or a subscription of 10s. a year or 5s. a quarter, payable in advance.
2. Contributions forwarded for exhibition will be classified and arranged by the officers of the Museum.
3. Exhibitors will be requested to attach to their contributions descriptive labels, giving their names, uses, &c., the size and form of such label to be hereafter determined.
4. It is desirable that the usual retail price should be distinctly marked on all articles sent for exhibition.
5. As it is the wish of the Committee on Education, and the evident interest of exhibitors, that the Museum should at all times represent the then existing state of educational appliances, every facility will be given for the introduction of new inventions, books, diagrams, &c., relative to education.
6. Books, and other educational appliances out of date, or the utility of which may have been superseded, or articles that may have become injured, may be removed or replaced at the option of the exhibitor.
7. To prevent confusion, and the possibility of articles being removed by persons not properly authorized by the exhibitor, due notice in writing of the intention to remove articles must be given, and no book or object is to be removed until it has been exhibited at least twelve months.
8. In order to protect the property of exhibitors, no article will be allowed to be removed from the Museum without a written authority from the superintendent.
9. On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays the books and other objects in the Museum will be open to students and to the public for inspection and study, under such regulations as are usually found convenient in a public library.
10. A catalogue will from time to time be published, so as to keep pace as much as possible with the additions to the Museum, and the withdrawals from it.
11. Exhibitors desirous of advertising in the catalogue, may send their prospectuses, illustrations, price lists, &c., 1000 copies at a time, and printed in demy 8vo., so that they may be bound up in the catalogue. The binding will be free of cost to the exhibitor; but exhibitors will bear any depreciation in the value of the objects from their use by visitors.
12. All contributions forwarded to the Museum, to be addressed to the Secretary of the Department of Science and Art, Cromwell-gardens, South Kensington, care of Richard A. Thompson, Esq., superintendent of the Museum.

ANOTHER EPISODE OF THE "MADAME DENIS" HISTORY.—The man Adolphus Harrison brought another action, similar to that against the Marquis of Bath, in the Court of Queen's Bench yesterday. The defendant was Mr. Knightley, M.P. for Northamptonshire. Harrison did not appear, owing, as his solicitor stated, to there being some difficulty as to proving the delivery of the wine; and he was accordingly nonsuited.

THEFT BY A SERVANT AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF THE THIEF.—Hippolyte Boulanger, a hatter, of Castle-street, and Patrick Carroll, a labourer, were charged, at

Southwark, yesterday, with receiving a large quantity of French hat-plush, stolen from the premises of Mr. Gallibert, wholesale dealer and importer of French goods, Union-street, Borough, by their porter, a man named Hearn, who, on being discovered as the thief, cut his throat in a frightful manner, and now lies in the hospital in a dangerous state. The case was remanded.

Open Council.

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

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

THE REMEDY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED ARTISANS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—On the occasion of opening Parliament for the present Session, her Majesty expressed her gratification at the "general well-being and contentment of her people," while at the very moment the statement was being made, thousands of industrious artisans were parading the streets of the metropolis in order to incite the charity of the public to provide that sustenance for themselves and their families, which, however willing, they are, at present, unable to obtain.

For many years there has not been so much distress in the country as there has been during the last year. It is a fabrication to say there is no distress. More honest and far more truthful is the language of the Emperor of the French. "The country is prosperous. Among a portion of the people, however, great misery prevails: and, unless Providence shall send us a good harvest, the millions given by private charity, and by the Government, will be but feeble palliatives. Let us redouble our exertions to remedy evils beyond human foresight."

And so say we. The Emperor points to science to overcome nature—and to the development of the colony of Algeria, its cultivation and its commerce. While France can point to her one colony, England can speak of many colonies, to which she may, by a proper and systematic organization, ship off the redundant population of her shores, where her willing sons of labour and her skilled artisans might find openings for their toil and skill, and be not only comfortably settled in life, but look forward to leaving their children a few acres of land for their own. Emigration is, then, the remedy we propose for the present distress of thousands of the people for whom England can find no adequate employment—no rich prairie lands, awaiting only the hand of cultivation to wave with fields of golden grain.

The present depressed condition of the artisan class calls to my mind the proposition of Mr. Scratchley, of the Friendly Societies Institute, to establish a series of local benefit emigration societies in the United Kingdom, for the purpose of carrying out, with the view to systematic colonization, the principle of freehold assurance, in union with that of ordinary benefit building societies.

The principle involved in the plan of the proposed societies has been successively tried in Great Britain, as the fundamental element of upwards of two thousand associations, generally called benefit building societies. The novelty is not in the principle, but in its application to the proposal of aiding intending colonists, whether in the New Forest, Ireland, or New Zealand, in Natal, Texas, or New York, to acquire the freehold of lands in fee simple in connexion, when necessary, with an adequate supply of labour, and also of affording, by the same means, facilities to small capitalists for safe and profitable investments.

Intending emigrants join a benefit society as investors, and perform the conditions attached to that position.

After they have acquired sufficient standing, they become by rotation, or by ballot, eligible to be sent out as colonists; that is to say, land and other requisites are supplied to them on selected spots, of a value exceeding the money they have paid, credit being given for a term of years (or for the whole of life, if with a policy of assurance) for the excess in the value of the property handed over to them, for which, however, they execute a legal mortgage to the society. It is obvious that, by such a system, not only the bare land is given to the colonist, but material improvements in its condition can be

effected by the society in wholesale quantities at a moderate cost, which, when subdivided, will produce a handsome profit.

Upon this system, it is further proposed by Mr. Scratchley to engraft the agency of a central body acting in co-operation with a congeries of local societies in the manner to be now explained. He proposes that in co-operation with such a central company there should be adopted the system of investing shareholders of a benefit society; or, in other words, that the requisite funds should be created by small instalments, payable by way of periodic subscriptions to branch benefit emigration and colonization societies, to be established in all parts of the kingdom.

The money subscribed by the investing shareholders could be applied through the agency of the central company to the wholesale purchase of land in a small number of selected localities in the colonies, to be mortgaged in allotments to such of the branch members as desired to become colonizing tenants. The available means of each benefit society would be continually increasing by the taking up of new shares, by fresh investors, and by the repayment of colonists, which, together, would come in so rapidly, as to regenerate continuously the lending fund.

Many persons would join such a society for a limited period, as ten or twelve years, either to obtain possession of small allotments of colonial lands, of to receive at the end of that time the amount of their subscribed shares in full, equivalent to the accumulation of their subscriptions, at a reasonable rate or compound interest, not lower than that of the public funds.

The central company would thus act as the agent of numerous benefit societies.

It would, in fact, be the super-association of separate groups of associating individuals, and would be able to perform, or cause to be effected, all that would be out of the power of one branch society.

The company would be essential to them, and they would give vitality to it.

Hence, undiminished power would be secured for carrying out for ever the object for which the colonizing company was originally formed. By the plan proposed, the necessary funds would speedily be obtained, through the small contributions of the multitude of provident persons who exist in this country.

As to obtaining investors for the benefit emigration societies, there would be no obstacle, since the agency and protection of the central company would ensure them as good, if not better, security than in the ordinary mutual associations, which swarm in such numbers (there are 10,433 enrolled friendly societies, and a vast number of unenrolled, about 33,223), and of which the pecuniary resources have attained to such large amounts. (The enrolled societies have a capital fund of 6,400,000*l*; the unenrolled, 11,360,000*l*.)

In the compass of a letter it is difficult to indicate more clearly the character and capabilities of Mr. Scratchley's excellent proposition; for further information I must refer your readers to his standard work on "Industrial Investment and Emigration." I will only add that, in my humble opinion, his plan will assure the accession to the colonies of a class of self-relying and self-respecting men—not merely, as often hitherto, of the despairing or the desperate class. His plan will establish a means by which the industrious man will occupy the same independent position, whether he continues a member of the association at home, or makes use of its agency to find his way to a new home. It will, by altering the aspect and condition of emigration, invest the transference of skill and energy to a wider field, with the character of a high privilege: that indeed of aiding in the great mission of our country in this age—to extend over the earth the language, industry, and civilization of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Surely sir, in this age of philanthropy and consideration for the oppressed and the unfortunate, the condition of the honest artisan should not be practically ignored. We are, by various agencies and associations, taking compassion upon the discharged convict and the juvenile delinquent; we are striving to place women in situations hitherto filled by men; we are doing all we can to reclaim the profligate and abandoned of both sexes;—let us not, in our making such haste to do good, forget the poor skilled artisan; let not genius be driven to the Union to pick oakum, or be thrown upon the roads to break stones. How, after such base and servile work can the watchmaker, the jeweller, the cabinet maker, the tailor, the carpenter, and the joiner, return to the employment of former years, and do his work as carefully and as skilfully as he has been used to do it? Such treatment is enough to make the indignant artificer exclaim, in the language of St. Paul, "What, mean ye to weep and to break mine heart?"

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
W. G. JERVIS, M.A.

Kingston-on-Thames.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. W. Pare's letter next week.
W. C. G. (near Stroud).—Our correspondent will find an explanation among our "Public Affairs."
T. D. S.—Mr. Kerr has been elected for Downpatrick; but we were correct in our description of Mr. Johnstone. Our correspondent is thanked for his communication.
Mr. Edwin Hill's letter, too long for insertion this week, will appear in our next.

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 21, 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.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

THERE is no Budget this year. The measure, or set of measures which pass by that name, amount, with one striking exception, to little more than a Continuance Bill. The Budget of last year is continued, minus nine-sixteenths of the income-tax—an important reduction. It is impossible to say how much of that sacrifice we owe to Mr. DISRAELI and Mr. GLADSTONE, whose combined resistance to the Government is understood to have caused a revision of the intended Budget at the eleventh hour, or rather before the eleventh hour. The estimated expenditure for the ensuing financial year is 65,474,000*l*., the estimated revenue exceeds this by 891,000*l*. We are inclined to conjecture, for we are not in the secrets of the Cabinet, that reports originally current were not far wrong, and that Ministers intended to make a less concession on the Income-tax. It is a dogma in the school to which Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS belongs, that in time of peace a large surplus should be maintained—PEEL set it at 3,000,000*l*. If the Income-tax had been retained at 10*d*., which was one of the reports, Sir GEORGE LEWIS would have been able to leave the tea and sugar duties to their destined descent, and would have retained about 3,000,000*l*. of surplus. But the rising demand out of doors, the party adoption of it by Mr. DISRAELI, the defection of Mr. GLADSTONE from the Ministerial to the Opposition side, are very probable causes for a revision of the Ministerial plan; and conceding 3*d*. on the Income-tax—the 3,000,000*l*.—Ministers have reduced their surplus to 891,000*l*.; and even make that up by retaining some part of the tea and sugar duties which were to have been abandoned.

The present Budget is the last Budget with a slight alteration of the figures in two cases, a considerable alteration in two others, and a large alteration in a fifth. The comparison is somewhat disturbed by some of the items in the present survey. The cost of collection, 4,500,000*l*., is taken into the charge for the first time; an instalment of the Sardinian loan [1,000,000*l*.], and an instalment of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Exchequer bonds falling due [2,000,000*l*.], have to be provided for. We shall perceive the real difference between the present and the last peace Budget by taking some of the positive items.

The principal distinction in the expenditure is to be found under the heads of Army and Navy. We include respectively the militia and the coastguard; though some ob-

curity arises from the manner in which the different figures are combined at different times, they appear to stand thus—

	1853.	1857.
Army.....	10,113,000 <i>l</i> .	11,625,000 <i>l</i> .
Navy.....	6,285,000 <i>l</i> .	8,109,000 <i>l</i> .

Here, then, is an increase of more than 3,300,000*l*. in the military and naval expenditure since 1853, of more than 4,000,000*l*. since 1852. With respect to the policy of that increase we are not able to judge, the naval and military estimates not having been explained. It will, however, take a great amount of ingenuity to show that 16,400,000*l*. could not have given to this country a perfectly efficient army and navy, even according to English standards. But of course the dead weight,—the incumbrances of the purchase system, the lavish expenditure, have not been extirpated. The Commander-in-Chief can only tinker the enormous abuse which is called the Army, and which in this island country ought to be less in cost than our neighbours'. The territories of Queen VICTORIA are on the water, and her largest army should be afloat. If we have colonies they can defend themselves with the assistance of our navy; and the one impediment to that self-defence is the want of the true sympathy with the loyalty and independence of our territorial offspring.

The minor items in which the Budget of 1856 is altered are tea and sugar. There was to have been a progressive decline in the duties; but tea, instead of descending 6*d*., will only descend 2*d*., and the more complicated duties on sugar will undergo a slower descent in a similar proportion. No doubt both these articles are badly chosen for what is virtually an increase of taxation. The war with China has threatened the supply of tea and raised the price; and the object should have been to relieve it from duty rather than to add to the burden. Again the supply of sugar has been diminished by failures both in the West and in the East. In the Mauritius we have found the Australian colonies to be a formidable rival, to which our supplies have been diverted. But when a great commodity is declining in quantity, and is needed by the great bulk of the population, it is the time to *relieve* it rather than to increase the fiscal charge.

There is a great concession on the Income-tax, and it is true that although that tax is not ostensibly imposed upon incomes under a hundred a year, it virtually affects all incomes whatever, since it affects trade, and through trade, wages and employment. But the million will not recognize this refinement. They see their own tea and sugar denied an effectual relief, while prices are rising through misgovernment of colonies and Sir JOHN BOWRING'S policy in China, and while they see the classes that have higher incomes relieved to the extent of nine millions.

It may seem ungracious to complain, but even this relief does not, and cannot, satisfy. Mr. GLADSTONE had promised us that the Income-tax should go down to 5*d*. this year; it goes down only to 7*d*. Government therefore inflicts upon us a larger duty than the leader of the Opposition would propose. The true mischief of the Income-tax consists in its economical and moral effects. Everybody knows that it is enormously evaded, hence the larger burden falls upon those who do not, or cannot evade. It is a premium on wholesale lying, and we are quite serious in expressing the belief that it has taught immense numbers in this country to tell falsehoods, and even to commit perjury. We speak on specific instances within our own knowledge. The Income-tax is a *tour de force* suited to an emergency, but it is not an impost which can be ranged under the

head of ordinary taxation. If it is not truly honest, it would be exactly proportionate, and then the wealth of the country would be paying; whereas everybody knows that the arrangement is such as to let off the wealth lightly, and to press heavily upon the middle-class and the needy. The inequality with which it falls, the peremptory manner in which it is exacted, constitute in fact, not a tax as taxes are ordinarily understood, but a forced levy, a compulsory contribution. It may be justified for definite purposes, but cannot be maintained as a permanent institution. The larger the sum required, the greater the justification for an extraordinary measure of the kind; but the machinery becomes the more odious in proportion as the sum realized by it is small.

Sir GEORGE's continuation Budget is of a kind which begs permission to pass by its 'moderation,' its 'practical' character, and its large obvious sacrifice of nine millions. It may pass on these grounds, but it is not really a Budget—it is an evasion; it is a begging to be let off a real account this year. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER relies upon "the prosperity of the country;" but the prosperity is not inconsistent with a great amount of suffering amongst the working-classes, and very great difficulties amongst the humbler of the middle-class, to say nothing of difficulties among richer people. Although the exports have increased, although the amount of business done exceeds any of previous years, the money-market is 'tight.' In other words, an immense proportion of our wealth goes to increase the aggregate amount of goods, and the enormous fortunes of those who deal largely in goods; but the same process is continually tightening the margin for men of smaller incomes, and extracting larger exertions from the labouring classes. Income, therefore, is one of the worst commodities to tax among the most numerous classes. Sugar, the luxury of the million, is growing scantier and dearer, and it ought to have been spared. Tea, which "cheers but not inebriates," and which is threatened by the China war, should likewise have been spared. A sound economy exercised in the military and naval expenditure, and in some few other departments of the State, would have enabled the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, not to reduce the Income-tax to 7d. or even 5d., but to cut it out altogether; and the simple reason why we have not that performance of duty from the Government is, that the Government does not represent the people—not the millions of Englishmen, but only the electors, the one man in seven who is better off than the other six.

THE EMPEROR'S PICTURE OF THE EMPIRE.

LOUIS NAPOLEON, in his speech to the senators and deputies of the Empire, hazarded a curious admission. He said they "had a difficult task to perform—that of reconciling the country to new institutions." We have so long been required to believe that the new institutions were the free choice of France, that it is difficult to comprehend an avowal that France is not even reconciled to them. A wide distinction is to be observed between acquiescing in the existence of a *de facto* Government and establishing it by acclamation; so that the Emperor's confession is of no little importance. France, then, did not prefer the Empire; it is "the difficult task" of the senators and deputies to "reconcile" her to it. Sympathizing with men upon whom so onerous a duty is imposed, we may express our gratification derived from the fact that these heavily-worked function-

aries are liberally paid. But what shall we think of LOUIS NAPOLEON, who so long proclaimed his peculiar institution as the result of an irresistible national impulse, now discoursing on the difficulty of inducing France to accept those institutions—based on "the will and interests of the people," yet obnoxious and not easily reconciled to them! Is this illogical declaration a sign of returning conscience or of departing reason, or does it simply imply that LOUIS NAPOLEON, in power, utters what he pleases, in a country where no one may criticise or contradict him?

Returning conscience is out of the question, for the entire speech is made up of oracular sophistries. It contains a boast of the "free debate" permitted in France. Whom is this intended to deceive? Not the French people, surely; because they know that the voice of public opinion has sunk into a whisper, that the journals in Paris are oppressed by unexampled severities, that all discussion on the subject of the approaching elections is absolutely prohibited, that, in fact, free debate is extinct. Nor can foreigners be deluded by so transparent a mockery of the truth. This, however, is not the most characteristic point in the Imperial oration. LOUIS NAPOLEON, with a piety emulating that of the Roman Emperor who pretended to be on speaking terms with the Capitoline Jove, announces that his prayers have been heard, that peace has been signed, that the Neufchâtel question has lost its warlike aspect, that Greece is to be evacuated by the Allied troops, that Naples is still contumacious, and that his own policy is to act everywhere on behalf of humanity and civilization. It was, indeed, "an idea wholly philanthropic" which had prompted him to deport political offenders to Cayenne. We now understand the word philanthropy in its Imperial sense. LOUIS NAPOLEON "acts everywhere on behalf of humanity"—as, for example, among the fens and blistered rocks of Guiana. He pats M. THIERS on the back of his History, but does he not compliment M. LOUIS BLANC more impressively by practically admitting that the Exile had fortunately directed his attention to the circumstance that Cayenne is not a healthy spot, congenial to the philanthropy of the Empire?

The economy of the Empire seems to repose on a similar basis. It is the economy of JOHN LAW. Credit, the Emperor says, is an inexhaustible source of wealth; hitherto, in France, however, it has produced distress, not opulence; the swollen fortunes of a few gamblers represent the riches that have been created; the wide-spread misery of the industrial classes represents an equivalent result of poverty. At all events, the public are in need of relief—and relief, surely, is easy, when a state of war has been exchanged for a state of peace. But what are the elements of the Emperor's Budget? He will, next January, suppress the war tithe on registration dues; but he must, in its stead, impose a new duty on all negotiable share property. That is to say, he will reduce the public taxation by twenty-three millions, and increase it—so the official organs calculate—by a hundred millions, the administration, in the third year of peace, costing upwards of seventy millions more than in the last year of war. Setting aside these figures, however, we may congratulate ourselves that we have not a strong Government. While England, with representative institutions on their trial, is reducing her taxes by nineteen millions of gold twenty-shilling pieces, France, enjoying the unity of absolutism, is cutting off a tax of twenty-three millions of silver tenpenny pieces—adding, at the same time, another tax of at least double the amount. So that the Em-

pire is to be kept up at an annual cost, beyond its former average, equivalent to that of a Russian war—a Sebastopol siege and a Baltic campaign—exclusive of extraordinary loans. But, then, the army and the civil service are to receive higher pay, for NAPOLEON must not stint the guards and the agents of his power. Besides, he has vast public works in hand to satisfy the workmen whom he has crowded into Paris; but what will his masonry yield as a return for taxes wrung from the provincial population? And what will be the expense of imprisoning the rivers and the revolution within boundaries marked by NAPOLEON, of reconciling the country to the institution voted five years ago by acclamation? Speculation, the Emperor says, ruins many an individual, but credit is an inexhaustible source of wealth, and while he extends the operations of credit, he will check the excesses of speculation; he will have schemes without schemers. The schemes and the schemers appear, nevertheless, to decline in an equal ratio;—the Bourse is comparatively deserted; exhaustion has followed excess; manufacturing industry stagnates; the markets of the Empire are universally dull. LOUIS NAPOLEON's picture of the Empire is a deception which does not deceive.

POLITICAL SOUNDINGS.

WE have remarked with pleasure that the Administrative Reform Association has reformed itself, by extending its plans. At first, it professed to have no political object, and it fell, naturally and inevitably, into a state of premature collapse. As originally constituted it was a failure. Mr. ROEBUCK was then solicited to rehabilitate the forlorn Society. He undertook the task; and his earlier programme seemed to promise no larger results than had been obtained by the congress of citizens, pure and simple. To collect information, and to influence the Government through the House of Commons and the constituencies, was the limit of his enterprise, as announced last year. We then said that such an organization would not command the confidence of the Liberal party; nor did it. Mr. ROEBUCK has made that discovery, in conjunction, it would appear, with the three Honorary Secretaries of the Association, for he and they are now working with vigour and zeal in the direction of Parliamentary Reform. They recognise the leading fact—that the House of Commons has its genesis in a system even more corrupt than that which distributes appointments to the Parliamentary supporters and family connexions of the Cabinet. The association now includes among its objects an effectual Reform Bill. We see no reason, therefore, why it should not be developed into a political League, and take up an historical position. Remembering every word we have said, with reference to its original constitution, we cannot hesitate, under existing circumstances, to promise it the cordial sympathy of many earnest Liberals, who have long refused to identify themselves, in any way, with its operations.

We may count the Administrative Reform Association, then, among the props of the Liberal Platform. Another prop is the Ballot Society—one of the most successful organizations in existence. It exercises a real influence over many constituencies. With its aid the Ballot has been made a question of the day—a certainty of the future. The subject is better understood than formerly, and this on account of the well-directed vigour of the Ballot Society. Even more important, however, than these *cadres* of the

Reform party, is the vast unorganized mass in reserve; the fact that numerous men, of special authority and intelligence, are prepared to come forward when an opportunity arises; the immense moral gain that has accrued to the Liberal cause through the destruction of old fallacies and apprehensions. For some years after 1851 the poison of Imperialism seemed to corrupt our English blood; but that epidemic has worn itself out. We have ceased to admire the concentrated energies of despotism. It is time, also, that we should cease to devote so exclusive an attention to foreign affairs, even to Italy and France. Their day will come. We cannot accelerate it. Our best boon to them will be the encouragement of successful example. In several of our towns, especially in the midland counties, Committees of Foreign Affairs have sat for some months, collecting a considerable amount of mystifications and not a few chimeras. Why not establish Committees on Home Affairs? Our foreign policy, as the result of home policy, is secondary and subservient to it. Take care of legislation, and legislation will take care of diplomacy. We shall be glad to see committees formed in the great towns, affiliated to a central body or acting independently, to watch the conduct of Parliamentary and Administrative transactions in London, for, while Parliament is uncontrolled, the Secretaries of State are uncontrollable. Surely, in Sheffield, Birmingham, Bradford, and other towns which evince so much interest in Chinese and Persian questions, there are popular men sufficiently zealous to institute associations of this character—to all of which we offer a free registry of their proceedings. Of what are the electors of Carlisle thinking, after waiting three years for Sir JAMES GRAHAM to fulfil his pledge? A Carlisle Committee to remind that right honourable gentleman of his "radical" boasts, might be a useful estate of the realm. We are convinced that there is a vast reserve of political vitality in the nation; but it lies far below the surface; at one point it is obscured by an Income-tax agitation, at another by Chinese, Italian, Moldo-Wallachian, Persian, or Parisian sympathies—all meritorious, whether we share in them or not; but, whatever the national opinion on subjects of foreign policy, the national opinion is not adequately represented by the House of Commons. We do not say, and have never said, that our Liberal leaders should desert their special objects—Sir WILLIAM CLAY his Church-rate Bill, Mr. MIALl his Church Establishment motions, Mr. MILNER GIBSON his Paper-duty Repeal, Mr. WILLIAMS his retrenchment—to take up the cold question of Parliamentary Representation; but why not be faithful to these objects, and not unfaithful to the common object of all Reformers? A few nondescripts there are who morbidly denounce the idea of purifying our electoral system, and grope among mediæval precedents for the credentials of prerogative, and the powers of the Privy Council. But they are exceptions, and we expect to see them return to the symbols of their party. There is no reason for thinking that the prevalent indifference of the nation is everlasting; our war accounts are not yet settled in the Treasury, or in the Foreign Office. When these matters have been arranged, we look for a political movement.

THE WORKING CLASSES AND WORKHOUSE TESTS.

WHEN the existing Poor Law was framed, its authors congratulated themselves upon the supposition that, by inventing a workhouse test, they had discovered a security for the independent labourer against the the lazy and

worthless pauper. The test, like most tests, breaks down on trial. It is, simply, no test at all. The theory is that when a man, not disabled by age, accident, or sickness, presents himself at the Union for relief, he should be required to show that he is not unwilling to work for his bread. Political economy having decided—so they say—that workhouse industry should not be brought into competition with working-class industry, oakum-picking and stone-breaking are the experiments resorted to—and they are reproaches to our humanity. They are worse than inhuman, however,—they are illogical. The test of a watch-finisher is, whether he would finish watches if employed, not whether he would pick oakum. You have no right to tell a bookbinder, whose earnings depend on his faculty for delicate manipulation, that he is an indolent vagabond, deserving to starve, unless he can break stones. One day of stone-breaking may incapacitate him for a month from bookbinding. You cannot expect a printer out of employ to do work that requires the strength of a navigator, and, also, the *habit* of bending the body. A poor man, last week, was laid on a sick-bed by a few hours of this manual torture, to which not even criminals are subjected. In prisons, there is a division of labour. The able-bodied, who have been accustomed to vigorous occupations, are set to heavy tasks; others are directed to mend chairs, or weave mats, or perform other duties consistent with their physical condition and their previous circumstances. Precisely similar should be the treatment allotted to the temporary inmates of a workhouse. The test must be reformed—on the ground, firstly, that it is absurd, and next, that it is cruel. Supposing an unfortunate clerk reduced to pauperism; to put a stone-breaking hammer into his hand is to render penal the consequences of poverty, to place him on a level with the Dartmoor convicts. And it is not less an outrage upon human nature to subject men who have passed their lives in tasks of delicate manipulation to the painful and brutal labour of the stone-yard, which must incapacitate them from pursuing their ordinary avocations. It is not to be expected that our unions are to be converted into industrial bazaars; but quite as little is it to be endured than they should be degraded into penitentiaries.

TAILORS' BILLS.

SCARCELY a week passes without some evidence that the law for the recovery of debt requires a very strict construction indeed, unless it is to be made a law for helping persons to obtain money on false pretences. Not long since we had the case of a Mr. CULVERWELL proceeding against a Mr. SIDEBOTTOM for the recovery of money due on accepted bills; the bills having been used by Mr. SIDEBOTTOM to pay for losses which he incurred at the Berkeley Hotel, in Albemarle-street. The cash was furnished by Mr. CULVERWELL. Mr. CULVERWELL had been in business for thirty years as a tailor, in Great Marylebone-street, Portland-place; he was successful; he retired in 1848, and subsequently he discounted bills. Indeed, before he ceased to be a tailor he was in the habit of discounting about 6000*l.* a year. In his capacity of tailor he made clothes for ATKINS, the keeper of the hotel in Albemarle-street. At that hotel Mr. SIDEBOTTOM, a young Lancashire manufacturer, lost something more than 25,000*l.* at hazard. It was hazard to the gentleman gambler, but not so to the other side. A penitent accomplice of the establishment deposed that they played at the house with loaded dice and 'despatches,' the latter being dice with double fives and

sixes, so as always to turn up high numbers. Mr. CULVERWELL—a disinterested party, of course—knew nothing about all this; but he obliged Mr. SIDEBOTTOM by discounting his bills. The trial, at which these facts came out, was heard at the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 26th of November last; we noticed it at the time, and the subject is revived by a pamphlet from the pen of "A Barrister," who calls for more stringent laws upon such transactions:—

"By an Act of Parliament passed in 1845, 'Act to amend the law concerning games, wagers, &c., 8 and 9 Viet. c. 109,' it is enacted that 'every person who shall by any fraud, or unlawful device, or ill practice, in playing at or with cards, dice, tables, or other games . . . win from any other person to himself, or any other or others, any sum of money or valuable thing by a false pretence, with intent to cheat and defraud such person of the same, and being convicted thereof, shall be punished accordingly.'"

Under this enactment many an Artful Dodger has been brought to book. But from the case of SIDEBOTTOM, the Barrister infers that it is not stringent enough: there must be laws to put down the hells, to check betting, to visit individual delinquency with its legal consequences, "ne quid detrimenti respublica accipiat"—which means, lest the republic should be detrimentally swamped in accepted bills. But it needs neither 'hells' nor racecourses to pluck voluntary pigeons like Mr. SIDEBOTTOM. Even those who are more defenceless are brought in through the aid of those laws designed to enforce the payment of honest debts. A strong impression is gaining ground that there is seldom much difficulty in recovering honest debts. Practically, indeed, it is found that if any honest man is in difficulty, and cannot pay his debts, his creditors seldom invoke the law. They come to an arrangement with him on the practical grounds of his difficulty and inability. It is mostly dishonest debts that are recovered, or not recovered, by the operation of the law; so that practically the existing law operates principally to protect the trade in dishonest debts. It is either used by dishonest persons to contract debts which they cannot pay, or by dishonest persons to enforce debts which they ought never to have booked.

Let us take another case, somewhat different from that of SIDEBOTTOM. There is no hell, no racecourse, at least ostensibly; but there is a tailor. Mr. WOULFE sought to recover 107*l.* from Mr. PROPERT, a student at Haileybury, for "clothes" supplied. The defence was "infancy," and the rejoinder was that the goods were "necessaries." It came out in the examination of the plaintiff that he had lent money to PROPERT, and charged it in the bill as "clothes." The fictitious sums amounted to thirteen guineas. It also came out that WOULFE had held out to PROPERT the hope of loans if he obtained customers for him. The Chief Baron more than once gave vent to his indignation. "The young man was not of age; he was contracting debts which are unjustifiable, for clothes which were not wanted,"—and for "clothes" which did not exist. The Judge told the claimant that he had committed perjury, in swearing to an affidavit that the claimant was indebted to him for "goods sold." "A grosser and more abominable fraud," exclaimed the Chief Baron, "I do not know of."

"Are you aware, sir (he asked), that if you had obtained this money from the father you would have been liable to be transported for fourteen years?"

"Witness: Indeed I am not, my Lord."

"The Chief Baron: Or that you may even now be proceeded against for a misdemeanour in attempting to obtain the money? I think it right, as you confess the matter, to put you on your guard."

"Witness (with great self-possession): I am much indebted to your Lordship, and shall profit, I hope, by your Lordship's advice; but we have great difficulty in dealing with those young gentlemen."

"Cross-examined by Mr. James: I know all London tradesmen are prohibited from entering the college. I tried it once. I was not turned out."

Mr. PROPERT did not stand alone; there are many young men in this predicament; and there are many persons, we conceive, in the position of Mr. WOLFE, some of them, perhaps, not quite so candid and straightforward as he showed himself to be in court. How can any law against hells or racing be enforced in a case like this? It is no question of thimble-rig. Many of these excessive debts are in the first instance honestly incurred, so far as the tradesman is concerned. There are young men who frequent tradesmen's shops, and who can spend their hundreds and thousands in dress; and should a tradesman offend a customer, dressed as well, speaking as confidently, by asking if he can really pay for the goods sold? No, the tailor relies upon the law. If, indeed, he were to be fined for neglecting to make due inquiries, and if the fine were precisely the amount of his bill, the tailor would be cautious.

THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

TWELVE years ago it was estimated that there were 30,000 children in London devoid of any reasonable hope of obtaining even that amount of education which might enable them to earn an honest livelihood by personal industry. This appalling consequence of an extremely artificial state of society attracted the attention and excited the active sympathy of many thoughtful and benevolent individuals. It would have been somewhat strange if the name of Lord SHAFTESBURY had not been connected with the attempt that was then made to remove, or at least to mitigate, a social evil of such alarming dimensions. A considerable sum of money was accordingly collected, and various means adopted for the purpose of converting into useful citizens the ignorant, and therefore vicious, children who infest the poor neighbourhoods of the metropolis. The results of these truly wise and philanthropic labours may be thus summarized. In 150 Ragged School Institutions there are 128 Sunday Schools, attended by 16,937 scholars; 98 Day Schools, with 13,057 scholars; 117 Evening Schools, with 8085 scholars; and 84 Industrial Schools, with 3224 scholars. The Day Schools employ 163 paid instructors, the Week Night Schools 126, and the Refuge and Industrial Institutions 43; besides 2139 voluntary teachers. The Refuges are sixteen in number, and furnish food, clothing, beds, and education to 500 inmates. A like number of boys and girls have been enabled to proceed to the colonies, with every prospect of doing good for themselves, and of adding to the wealth both of their adopted and their mother country. That even those who are content to toil and labour at home have been taught a proper self-respect, is evinced by the fact that in the month of March, 1856, prizes were distributed to no fewer than 366 young persons, of either sex, who had remained in their situations upwards of twelve months. And who is there that would not say a good word for that household brigade, the Shoeblocks? While other countries boast of their tricolored flag, London alone can plume itself on its well-disciplined tricolored Brigade. Instead of that ear-torturing burden, "The Red, White, and Blue," who would not rather lift up his voice, and shout for the Red, Blue, and Yellow—especially in dirty weather? Unhappily, there is also a dark side to this pleasant picture. The expenditure is necessarily increasing, while the income declines with waning enthusiasm. So long as this excellent movement possessed the charm of novelty, funds were not wanting. The living

and the dying alike co-operated, and as late as the month of May, 1854—in consequence of two legacies—the Society had a balance at the bankers' of 5400*l*. But during the intervening period this very respectable sum has dwindled down to 750*l*., an amount scarcely sufficient to maintain the schools for three more months. Among other disastrous influences may be mentioned the late war, which touched too many chords of personal feeling to allow full scope for charity in the abstract. The high price of provisions has also affected the Society's funds to a very serious extent. It has likewise been observed that Reformatories for criminals and Refuges for outcasts have diverted into other channels much of the public sympathy that, for a while, was concentrated on Ragged Schools. Far be it from us to derogate from the merits and claims of the former, but there is no reason why they should be allowed to obliterate or supersede those of the latter. All of these institutions are much needed, though it is possible that the former might be less requisite if the latter were worked to their full proportions. The one thing needful is money. It is in the most destitute parts of the metropolis that these schools exercise the most beneficial effect, and it is precisely from those districts that no aid can be expected. To the wealthy, the benevolent, and the truly patriotic, the Society looks for the means to carry out its wise and generous schemes of moral and social reform. There can be little doubt as to the success of this appeal to a really charitable and munificent public, but it should ever be remembered that the value of a gift is greatly enhanced by promptitude and despatch.*

THE MOVE OF PARTIES.

THE debate on Mr. LOCKE KING's motion for extending the 10*l*. franchise to counties as well as boroughs, brought out some remarkable results. Sir JAMES GRAHAM gave marked emphasis to his epitaph on the political exploits of Lord JOHN RUSSELL; Lord JOHN RUSSELL and the Premier took opposite sides; the county gentlemen scarcely knew how to vote. But, although the Government obtained a majority, it has been sensibly wounded by the discussion. That alliance of which so much was said before the opening of Parliament, between Lord PALMERSTON and the Whigs of Woburn Abbey, has not been sustained; the BEDFORD connexion stands apart from the Cabinet. Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, under cover of declining to support Mr. LOCKE KING, threw a hand-grenade of stinging sympathy at the Treasury Bench. Evidently, Lord PALMERSTON is on uncertain ground; every day of the Session adds to the insecurity of his position.

While Mr. GLADSTONE seems disposed to coalesce, for special objects, with Mr. DISRAELI, Sir JAMES GRAHAM announces himself in harmony, on general principles, with Lord JOHN RUSSELL. His assent to the declarations of the Whig statesman was far more cordial and distinct than Mr. GLADSTONE's recognition of the Tory leader. Unless, therefore, the political heirs of Sir ROBERT PEEL are divided among themselves, the Tory and Peelite coalition is of a temporary, not of a permanent, character, and we may expect the friends of Lord ABERDEEN to unite with the friends of Lord JOHN RUSSELL; and in that case, what becomes of Lord PALMERSTON? The Tories believe that he came into office through a stratagem, by which, when the ABERDEEN Administration was dissolved, he succeeded in foiling Lord DERBY. And, now, after last night's debate, he stands in

* Donations are received by Mr. Joseph G. Gent, the Secretary, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand.

antagonism to his former colleagues among the Whigs, on the question of representative reform. To which party will he attach himself, or will he become an "independent?" It is not more singular to find Mr. COBDEN and Lord DERBY bringing forward, simultaneously, identical motions in the Lords and Commons, than to find Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Lord PALMERSTON, formerly Premier and Foreign Secretary in the same Cabinet, engaging in hostilities on the field of Parliamentary Reform.

That Mr. LOCKE KING lost his motion is matter of no surprise—of little consequence, indeed. A moribund House of Commons cannot be expected to entertain the question. Far more important is the move of parties that is taking place, the wandering of the Tories in search of coadjutors, Mr. GLADSTONE's friends taking part, now with the Opposition, now with the Whigs out of office, but steadily and systematically against the Government, the partial adhesion of the Manchester party to Sir JOHN PAKINGTON's educational measures, the generally suspicious view taken by Parliament of Lord PALMERSTON's foreign and domestic policy. Whatever majorities the Government may obtain on separate questions, we cannot fail to perceive that it does not possess the confidence of the Legislature or of the nation. Within a few days it has suffered from repeated shocks. Whether, then, the financial debates close upon a defeat or a victory, we do not believe in the stability of the Cabinet, or in the continuance of the relations actually existing between the several parties in the Houses of Lords and Commons.

A FINANCIAL AMENDE.

WE have to account for a mistake which occurred in our last week's impression. At a late hour on Friday night we received from our reporter in the gallery of the House of Commons a *précis* of the statement made by the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, in which it was stated that a tax of 9*d*. in the pound was to be levied on all incomes of more than 150*l*. a year. There seemed no reason to doubt the accuracy of this report, upon which our observations were based, and it was not until too late that a more correct account was received. A portion of our remarks, however, must have surprised and puzzled our readers. We can assure them that we had no desire to reproach Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS unfairly. Our interest in the reduction of the Income-tax is not less than that of our fellow-countrymen who are not journalists. But we were not bound to suspect the accuracy of a report from a hand which has supplied us with our Parliamentary summary on Friday nights for several years. Hence the error in our report and in our article—neither departments of journalism being exempt from the possibility of inaccuracy. It is better, however, to blame, and be deceived, than to praise and be disappointed; so that while offering the conscience-money of recantation to Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS, we must express the gratification we feel in not having to announce that he has proposed to retain any portion of the obnoxious war nimpence.

THE COALWHIPPERS OF THE PORT OF LONDON.—A deputation of coalwhippers of the port of London, accompanied by Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., Lord Goderich, M.P., and several clergymen, had an interview on Wednesday with Lord Stanley of Alderley, the president of the Board of Trade, for the purpose of making known to the Government the serious grievances under which they now labour, arising from the withdrawal of the bill which protected them from the old public-house truck system. Lord Stanley said he would cause inquiry to be made.

MADAME IDA PREIFFER has arrived at Cape Town on her way to the Mauritius and Madagascar.

Literature.

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

ONE of the best writers in *La Revue des Deux Mondes* is M. EMILE MONTÉGUT, also one of the best informed on English Literature. In the last number he has published a criticism on MICHELET, à propos of the recent works of that historian, a criticism we recommend to our readers not only for its admirable delineation of MICHELET's talent, but also for the example it affords of the true spirit and purpose of criticism. In the same number there is an essay on TITIAN by GUSTAVE PLANCHE, irritating by the insolent dogmatism of its tone (a tone M. PLANCHE scarcely ever lowers), but interesting, nevertheless, as the criticism of one who has studied what he writes about, and who has formed his own opinions.

If we sometimes grumble over the dulness or ineffectuality of the writing in our Reviews, we need only open the *North American Review*, to find our respect for the English reviews greatly heightened. In the last number of that publication there is an article on HUDSON's edition of SHAKESPEARE, very curious to read as a sample of Quarterly Reviewing across the Atlantic. After giving some extracts from Mr. HUDSON's wordy and feeble criticisms, the reviewer adds:—

Chronologically speaking, this method of analyzing the poet's characters is after that of Coleridge and of Mrs. Jameson; but Mr. Hudson has so improved on his models, that he is but little more indebted to them than Shakespeare was to his predecessors for the plots of his plays.

And as our readers may be glad to know something of that criticism which is said to transcend COLERIDGE and Mrs. JAMESON even as SHAKESPEARE transcended the writers from whom he borrowed, we will quote from the analysis of LADY MACBETH's character, which the reviewer pronounces the finest specimen:—

"In the structure and working of her mind and moral frame Lady Macbeth is the opposite of her husband, and for that reason all the better fitted to piece out and make up his deficiency. Of a firm, sharp, wiry, matter-of-fact intellect, doubly charged with energy of will, she has little in common with him save a red-hot ambition; for which cause, while the prophetic disclosures have the same effect on her will as on his, and she forthwith jumps into the same purpose, the effect on her mind is just the reverse; she being subject to no such involuntary and uncontrollable tumults of thought: without his irritability of understanding and imagination, she therefore has no such prudential misgivings or terrible allusions to make her shake, and falter, and recoil. So that what terrifies him, transports her; what stimulates his reflective powers, stifles hers.

"Almost any other dramatist would have brought the Weird Sisters to act immediately upon Lady Macbeth, and through her upon her husband, as thinking her more open to superstitious allurements and charms. Shakespeare seems to have understood that aptness of mind for them to work upon would have unfitted her for working upon her husband in aid of them. Enough of such influence has already been brought to bear: what is wanted further is quite another sort of influence; such a sort as could only be wielded by a mind not much accessible to the former. There was strong dramatic reason, therefore, why nothing should move or impress her, when awake, but facts; why she should not be of a constitution and method of mind, that the evil which has struck its roots so deep within should come back to her in the elements and aspects of nature, either to mature the guilty purpose, or to obstruct the guilty act. It is quite remarkable that she never once recurs to the Weird Sisters, or lays any stress on their salutations; they seem to have no weight with her but for the impression they have made on Macbeth; that which impression may grow to the desired effect, she refrains from using it or meddling with it, and seeks only to fortify it with such other impressions as lie in her power to make. Does not all this look as though she were sceptical touching the contents of his letter, and durst not attempt to influence him with arguments that had no influence with herself, lest her want of sincerity therein should still further unknit his purpose?"

M. DE MONTALEMBERT has reprinted his article, *De la nouvelle édition de Saint Simon*, which appeared in the *Correspondant*. There are many passages in this pamphlet which will interest the reader apart from any interest in St. SIMON, whose genius was never appreciated until the present century, and one passage we must quote; it is where he avows his passion for Literature: "Je sais bien que cette passion semble devoir être classée parmi les péchés, tout comme le regret de la liberté, et le sentiment de l'honneur, par cette orthodoxie arrogante et hargneuse qui a la vogue aujourd'hui."

TWO YEARS AGO.

Two Years Ago. By the Rev. Charles Kingsley, F.S.A., F.L.S. 3 vols.

Macmillan and Co.

THE new novel by Mr. Kingsley will be looked for in many circles with greater expectations of delight than the new novel of any one except Dickens, Thackeray, or Mrs. Gaskell; and the disappointment will be all the greater because of this flutter of expectation. In reading *Two Years Ago* we have been forced to check the impatience produced by the sense of tedium, and we have recalled the former evidences of Mr. Kingsley's talent to reassure ourselves that we were not mistaken in awarding him a prominent place among the popular writers of the day; for, undeniably, if we had no other standard by which to measure him than *Two Years Ago*, we should not assign him a place even among third-rate writers.

As a story, *Two Years Ago* is dull and spasmodic. It opens with a scene which took place "a month ago;" it then goes back to "sixteen years ago," and finally begins "two years ago." In a similar hop-skip-and-jump style it proceeds. The incidents are numerous, but disconnected. The persons appear, talk, rant generally, and disappear. There is no repose. There is no development. There is no continuity of narrative. The pictures are lurid, and are seen in cross lights. Although the reader is harassed by the sense of perpetual

striving after effect, no permanent effect is reached. In these three volumes there are 'effects' enough to have filled half a dozen volumes. Death-bed scenes, cholera, a wreck, attempts at suicide, pistols fired in gentlemen's faces without harm, delirium tremens, jealousy, *et id omne genus*, but none of these stir the pulses, none of them interest the feelings. There is one chapter entitled "Nature's Melodrama," and omitting 'Nature' this title might be given to the whole book, which is a phantasmagoria of unreality, without even the charm of being imaginative.

It will not be credited by readers of Mr. Kingsley's other works that he could have produced a novel so entirely without merit or interest of any kind, except that derived from mere diction (which is of course generally vigorous, and often poetical), and from occasional descriptions of scenery. We fancy that the main source of his failure has been the idea of producing a "striking novel of the day;" in the attempt to be 'striking' he has become spasmodic; in the attempt to depict contemporary life he has quitted the path where his talent has free scope, for one unsuited to it—quitted imagination for observation. The romance and descriptions of *Westward Ho!* are displaced for the melodrama and rant of a novel which, pretending to depict the life of to-day, depicts the life of no day.

The characters are as ill executed as the story. We have had but rare opportunities of knowing tragic actresses in private life, but the one or two actresses we have known were not in the least like Cor-di-fiamma; and we have the less belief in her resembling any tragic actress because she so little resembles a human being. We have known several Americans, from North and South; but any American bearing the most distant resemblance to Stangrave, it has not been our misfortune to encounter; on the other hand, we have seen many Stangraves stalking through inferior novels. Frank Headleys we have also seen in the same masquerades; and Grace Harveys; and wonderful Tom Thurnalls, doing everything and knowing everything. In real life we have also known a few poets, and many men who fancied themselves poets; and some of these have been men of hectic vanity, but any one much resembling Elsley Vavasour, alias John Briggs, would seem to us as wonderful as an antediluvian monster walking down Regent-street. The motives which actuate all the characters are so absurdly unreal in their presentation, that instead of the characters exciting any interest at all, the *incredulous odi* impatiently turns over the pages to get free of them, in the hope of alighting on something less improbable. Some of the incidental remarks are good and well expressed. Mr. Kingsley always speaks worthily and with deep feeling of married love; but his love scenes are preposterous; the lovers declaim at each other in a surprising style, and in the year 1856 a young clergyman calls the young lady he adores "Madam!" and tells her he is not a poet, as she seems to think, "No, Madam! God has written the poetry already; and there it is before me. My business is not to rewrite it clumsily, but to read it humbly, and give Him thanks for it." We insist upon the utter failure of the love scenes, not because love scenes are essential to a good novel, but because Mr. Kingsley, as we said, writes of married love with the fervour of one who has known it, and the discrimination of one who can describe what he has felt; and yet when he touches unmarried lovers it is to make them ridiculous.

So great has been our disappointment, that we were for some time strongly disposed to doubt our own verdict, thinking perhaps that the fault might lie in us, more than in Mr. Kingsley's presentation; but on comparing our individual impressions with those of other readers, and finding them entirely coincide, we began to examine the novel in a more critical spirit, to see if we could detect the causes of its failure. If we are not mistaken the causes are deep-seated; they lie in the original endeavour to depict the present day in most of its social aspects. To do this Mr. Kingsley has not the required faculties; he has attempted to do it by dragging in heterogeneous materials, and characters which he has never studied. The effect is patchy and disagreeable. Instead of a story with some concentration of interest, and characters with some continuous development, we have a succession of episodes broken into fragments, and a masquerade of persons dressed from the wardrobe of circulating libraries.

It has been painful to us to write this notice; we say it unaffectedly, for we are great admirers of Mr. Kingsley's talent, and are grieved to see so much power misdirected. He has only to write another *Yeast*, *Alton Locke*, or *Westward Ho!* and he will find the *Leader* ready to join its plaudits to the plaudits of a delighted public.

THE BALTIC NAPIER.

The History of the Baltic Campaign of 1854. From Documents and Other Materials Furnished by Vice-Admiral Sir C. Napier, K.C.B. Edited by G. B. Esq.

Bentley.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER has done justice to himself by publishing this volume. It proves that he did his duty in the Baltic, and we wish it had been his only publication on that subject. Indiscreet he sometimes is—all Napiers are indiscreet; but brave he was—brave as all Napiers are. Moreover, it would have been next to impossible to accomplish more against the enemy, with his means, and it might have been criminal rashness to try. This, at least, was the opinion at the Admiralty. The point is brought out, too, with great distinctness, that Sir Charles Napier, in the Baltic, was ordered not to act without the co-operation of the French, and that the French were instructed not to co-operate with him in any warlike experiments hazardous to the fleet. He was inclined in 1854 to attack Abo or Revel; the French commanders refused: if any one should be taunted, therefore, it is Baraguay D'illières, or General Niel, or Admiral Parseval. The truth is, however, that Sir Charles Napier, without extenuating the want of political judgment he has displayed on various occasions, has produced a complete and convincing exposure of the Admiralty. Not one of the great officers—civil or naval—of that bewildered department seems to have had the least idea of what the Baltic was, how it could be navigated, how powerful were the Russian fortifications, or what the British Admiral was bound to do for Britannia ruling the waves. One and all, they contradicted themselves by irreconcilable discrepancies of opinion, perplexed Sir Charles Napier by

unintelligible orders, now warned him to be cautious, now touched his self-love with a prick of irony, now said, "Surely Sweaborg is assailable," and then cried, "It is time for you to get out of that infernal Gulf." Within four days the Admiralty ordered him to attack Sweaborg, and not to attack it. But what was to be expected from Sir James Graham, who said in an official despatch that a fleet, even though unprovided with mortars, might reduce a fortress by its vertical fire?

We think that all Englishmen interesting themselves in public questions are bound to read Sir Charles Napier's narrative—for it is virtually his. What will they then think of Sir James Graham, as a First Lord of the Admiralty, talking of the "vertical fire" of long guns, recommending Sir Charles Napier to "risk" his four line-of-battle ships, and, at the same time, discoursing on the madness of running one's head against stone walls, offering a dredging machine when he was asked for gun-boats, suggesting diving-bells when rockets were wanted? The truth is, our Admiral went to the Baltic with a skeleton armament; he had not a gun-boat, not one mortar; his worst imprudence consists in having treated the Admiralty Lords as they were treated by Lord Nelson and Lord St. Vincent, who told them they were dull and impertinent.

We do not propose to retrace the story of Sir Charles Napier's Baltic campaign. But we must confess that this volume contains irrefragable proofs that he was grossly misused by the blundering pedants of the Admiralty Board. It is true that he issued a bombastic signal when the declaration of war was announced to the fleet; but it is true, also, that from the first he endeavoured to moderate the expectations of his countrymen. His ships were insufficiently manned with sailors, "miserably raw," the Admiralty authorities informed him, "We are come nearly to a dead stand for seamen." On going out he was cautioned, on coming home he was goaded; yet, from first to last, he continually urged upon the Government the necessity of mortars, of gun-boats, and of a land force to co-operate with the fleet. The Admiralty professed to consult his judgment; when he acted independently it censured him, though afterwards compelled to apologize. When he practised shell-firing, he was enjoined to economise his ammunition, and when he begged for pilots, the First Lord wrote, "I suspect you must grope your own way in your own surveying vessels." He offered, with a number of steamers, and a small force, to keep the Russian armies "on the trot" round the coasts of the Baltic; but the Admiralty could not afford that diversion. It was one of Sir James Graham's eccentricities, however, to discourse to Sir Charles Napier as to what might be done with "floating batteries heavily armed with steam power and light draught of water," when no such battery was at the Admiral's disposal. The Admiral replied, that he might as well throw peas as shells against the granite walls of the Russians. Minié rifles were sent to him, but no ammunition.

When the fleet reached Cronstadt, it was supposed that the enemy's ships of war had anchored outside the forts:—

The tars exulted in the prospect of catching them, and more so that not a breath of wind prevailed to carry them inside the protection of their batteries; but this expectation was doomed to disappointment. The ships ahead looking out for 'infernal machines,' found, as the mist cleared away, that the Russian fleet was safely ensconced within the harbour, and under the guns of the huge forts, which alone presented their fronts, as if in mockery of a force which could not get near them. There was no doubt the usual amount of swearing at an enemy who would not come out to be killed, but beyond this ebullition, the ships had nothing for it but to come quietly to an anchor. On the approach of the squadron, there was, however, evidently a great stir amongst the Russian fleet; the steamers got up steam, and all seemed on the alert to meet an attack, should the Allied fleet come within reach, of which there was little danger, as the large ships of the line could not have been floated in, and there were no other vessels with which an attack could even have been attempted.

To attack this tremendous fortress with ships, Sir James Graham said would be "to play the Russian game"—"an act of madness." Supposing, however, that a fleet could be successfully pitted against such a fortress, what were Napier's means? The French Government supplied 2,000,000 shot and shell to the besiegers of Sebastopol; with 12,000 shell the British Admiral was expected to lay in ashes the mighty range of fortifications along the Baltic shores. Mr. Earp supplies, from the Admiral's notes, a striking summary of the difficulties in the way of such an undertaking. Sir Charles Napier, commissioned to overcome these difficulties, was liberally advised by Sir James Graham, who omitted, however, to furnish the machinery with which his plans might have been carried out. Among his plans was one for blasting a trench in the ice round Oesel and Dago—cutting off two islands from a sea of ice by a season of gunpowder explosions!

In August, 1854, Sir Charles Napier would have attacked Abo, but his instructions prevented him, since the French Admiral refused to co-operate. Sir James Graham then intimated that the fleet was wanted at home. But a blow at Sweaborg was suggested, and four days afterwards came a despatch declaring that an attempt on Sweaborg was the last thing which the Admiral should propose to himself. However, one gun-boat was sent out, to illustrate the vigour of the Admiralty architects:—

It was only when the season had passed away, with neither gun-boats, mortar-boats, nor rockets supplied to the fleet, and when the public had become clamorous, that Sir James Graham urged rash impossibilities, knowing full well that the Admiral would not adopt them. This letter sealed the fate of Sir Charles Napier, though not a word of its plain, solid truth could be taken hold of. It was as guarded as it was unanswerable. For the Admiralty to be told in plain terms that all the Admiral had asked for to destroy Sweaborg was gun-boats, mortar-boats, &c., whilst the Admiralty was catching at the straws thrown to them by two engineering officers, was too true to be palatable. Henceforward it became evident that the only relation in which the Board of Admiralty and Sir Charles Napier could stand towards each other was, who should bear the blame with the public; and for this contest the Admiralty girded up its loins right manfully. The Senior Naval Lord, with a degree of frankness, apprised Sir Charles of the coming storm in the following words:—"We shall have blue-books and parliamentary questions without end. THE ATTACK FAILING AGAINST YOU, WILL BE LEVELLED AT THE BOARD; OR FAILING AGAINST THE BOARD, WILL BE LEVELLED AGAINST YOU."

The best comment, as Mr. Earp says, is

That in the second campaign, with every place thoroughly surveyed for him by Sir Charles Napier's fleet, and with means, all of which were wanting to the first fleet,

Admiral Dundas could not reduce the fortifications of Sweaborg. So satisfied was he of their impregnability, that he never even assembled his fleet for the purpose of attacking them.

The French Admiral left the Baltic in 1854 without announcing his intention to the British Government. Sir James Graham wrote on the 25th of September:—

"The intelligence of Admiral Parseval having left you has taken us by surprise. The British Ambassador was informed in Paris on Saturday last by the French Minister of Marine that a letter dated the 18th instant had been received by the French Government from Admiral Parseval, from which it was quite clear that he intended remaining with the greater part of his fleet and all his steamers as long as the British force remained."

Napier was now alone. Graham was anxious for an attack. Admiral Berkeley, however, began to feel uneasy about the fleet:—

"I am seriously thinking when it will be time to get you out of that infernal Gulf. How long do you think it will be right to permit those big ships to remain?"

We can only make room for two more extracts; the first is the Admiralty order to Sir Charles Napier to strike his flag:—

"The Baltic fleet, on its return from port, being now dispersed in different harbours of Great Britain, and several of the ships which composed this fleet being under orders for service in the Black Sea and Mediterranean, you are hereby required and directed to strike your flag, and come on shore."

That was curt enough. No thanks to the Admiral, officers, or men. Sir Charles Napier elicited an explanatory letter in an amended tone:—

"I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that the order which you have received, agreeably to custom, to strike your flag and come on shore, is always the termination of a flag officer's command; and I am directed by my Lords to take this opportunity to express to you the sense their Lordships entertain of your exertions during the period of your service in command of the Baltic Fleet."

There can be no question but that Sir Charles Napier, blamable, as an Admiralty Lord said, "not for his acts, but for his writings," is a good and gallant sailor, and that he led the Baltic fleet bravely and wisely through innumerable dangers and temptations—physical dangers, and temptations to desperate enterprises. The testimony contained in this book vindicates him altogether. In politics he may have been with his pen, but as Admiral in the Baltic he deserved well of his country.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

Sir Joshua Reynolds and his Works. Gleanings from his Diary, Unpublished Manuscripts, and from other sources. By W. Cotton, M.A. Edited by John Burnet. Longman and Co.

The severities of criticism should be merciless to men who publish books with attractively deceptive titles. Here is a Mr. Cotton who announces gleanings from Sir Joshua Reynolds's Diary, and unpublished manuscripts. Every lover of painting and literature will prick up his ears; many will order the work from the booksellers. The work arrives. The leaves are cut. The preface titillates expectation. The delighted purchaser reads:—

The letters of the Rev. Samuel Reynolds, master of Plympton Grammar School—but not incumbent of Plympton, as erroneously stated by most of Sir Joshua's biographers—will be read with interest; as they are now published for the first time, and relate to a very important period of his son's life, when he became a pupil of Hudson, the portrait painter: they also induce us to believe that Reynolds, after his quarrel with Hudson, returned to London, and was reconciled to his master, who, it is said, frequently consulted him with regard to the pictures he was painting, and likewise introduced him to the acquaintance of the most distinguished men in his profession.

The extracts from Sir Joshua's private Diary contain much that is interesting and amusing, besides giving proof of the astonishing amount of work accomplished by him; for we there learn that he was often in his studio from nine o'clock in the morning till four in the afternoon, and received as many as seven or eight sitters in as many consecutive hours. But when absent from home, he appears to have enjoyed the sports of the field, and on one occasion, in September, 1770, we find him *hunting and shooting every day during a week's visit at Saltram.*

And shortly after the delighted reader finds himself under the guidance of a twaddling cicerone who, because Reynolds was born at Plympton, undertakes, in guide-book style, to drag him over the place, enumerating the names of certain persons of small celebrity connected with that seat of learning, and telling 'all about' what no mortal desires to know. The "Letters," now first published, are soon discovered by the delighted reader, now swiftly degenerating into a gloomy and suspicious purchaser, to be Letters left unpublished because utterly without interest. The gleanings from the Diary turn out to be mere lists of "sitters." One specimen shall suffice:—

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY—1759.

This year's pocket-book contains the names of about 80 sitters. In the month of January we find

The Prince of Wales, afterwards George III.

Prince Edward his brother, who was created Duke of York the following year.

The Duchess of Hamilton.

This last was the celebrated beauty Miss Gunning, who married James sixth Duke of Hamilton. Walpole, in a letter to Sir Horace Mann, writes:—"The world is still mad about the Gunnings. The Duchess of Hamilton was presented on Saturday, and the crowd was so great that even the noble mob in the drawing-room clambered on tables and chairs to look at her."

In February the portraits of

Lord George Sackville, Lord Edgecumbe, Commodore Edgecumbe, and Miss Reynolds

were painted: and on Sunday, April 8th, the following memorandum occurs:—

Mr. Rogers at 5. Again, in August, 1761,

Thursday at 5½, Mr. Rogers, in St. Lawrence Poultry Lane.

On Saturday, the 21st, we find the name of

Kitty Fisher, and again,

Sunday, 27th, at Eleven o'clock, Miss Fischer.

So spelt by Sir Joshua, but "Miss Fisher" is also written in a different hand on the same page.

Valuable information of *this* nature does Mr. Cotton exchange for the shillings of the 'delighted reader;' whose feelings on the transaction need not specially be indicated.

An exact man is Mr. Cotton; twaddling, perhaps, but assuredly exact, and he corrects the random assertions of others: *e. g.*—

Reynolds's application was indeed great, but Farington's assertion that he frequently received five, six, or even seven sitters daily, and some of them at the early hour of six or seven in the morning, is not altogether borne out by Sir Joshua's diary, as we find no one instance recorded of a sitter coming before nine o'clock. The following extract from the pocket-book for the year 1761, gives us the names of seven sitters in as many consecutive hours, on Saturday, March 7th.

At 9 o'clock, Captain Wynn,	At 1 Lord Waldegrave,
10 " Captain Foot,	2 Mrs. Trapaud,
11 " Colonel Trapaud,	3 Mr. Fane.
12 " Lady Waldegrave,	

Notwithstanding this extraordinary pressure of commissions, Sir Joshua's care and attention never relaxed; and the great reputation he had gained only made him the more anxious to increase it. The same unabated desire of improvement occasioned frequent alterations in the progress of his pictures, and it was often long before he could satisfy himself. He was never so happy as when he was in his painting-room, and he often confessed that when he had complied with the invitations of the nobility to spend a few days of relaxation at their country seats, although every luxury was afforded which could possibly be desired, he always returned home like one who had been kept so long without his natural food. None of his hours were ever spent in idleness or dissipation.

For so exact a man, who will control assertions by gleanings from diaries, does it not strike the by-this-time-not-at-all-delighted-reader that the last two sentences contradict each other? If Reynolds spent a few days relaxing himself at country seats, how can Mr. Cotton, the exact man, say that "none of Reynolds's hours were ever spent in idleness?"

PICTURES OF BOHEMIA.

Travels in Bohemia, with a Walk through the Highlands of Saxony. By an Old Traveller. 2 vols. Newby.

BOHEMIA is one of the most picturesque countries, Prague one of the most picturesque cities, in Europe. It is the North touched with Eastern colours. When first you meet its peasants on the road, their many-tinted costumes—red, green, lilac, yellow, purple—at once attract the eye; even the men, with their long, blue garments, Hessian boots, solid countenances, and shadowy hats, make up a dramatic show. Then, the people inhabit the most extraordinary houses—tall narrow edifices, with high-pitched roofs, and windows dwindling from five in a line to one, that winks like a half-shut eye from under the eaves. The welcome of a Bohemian hotel is not unlike that of an Oriental caravanserai—begrimed with Northern smoke. Under a broad arch, into a cavernous kitchen, through long stone corridors and galleries, into rooms of vast dimensions, scantily and coldly furnished. But the traveller understands little of Bohemia until he reaches Prague of the Hundred Towers; he has seen no city like it; it is unique—a dim vision of Asia. The towers are neither enormous rotundities or squares of Norman architecture, nor aerial Gothic spires, but composites of dome and minaret, gracefully crowning the masses of private habitations, which, again, are sculptured and fretted, and quaintly wrought in traditional forms. The bridge of the Vltava, crowded, perhaps, by a procession of pilgrims, has a thoroughly Eastern aspect. Traversing it, and ascending one of the hills along the river, you look down on the turreted roofs of Prague:—

Conspicuous among them are the lofty towers of the Teyn church—a building of varied memories, that of John Huss predominating. Small turrets rise from the angles of the towers; each of the latter has a spire, composed of eight planes, in its centre, and from four out of the eight, spring slender spiral shafts: the numerous points, presented by all, are profusely adorned with glittering balls, crosses, and stars of gilded iron, gleaming brightly in the sunshine, which here, and at this season, rarely fails to add its life-giving touch to the landscape.

The writer of these lively volumes admits, and proves, that his pictorial faculties are the slightest possible. He praises, but does not describe. His book is chiefly amusing on account of its spirited narration of incidents and its store of legendary anecdotes. In his weak, faint way, too, the "Old Traveller" conjures up an occasional scene; he was charmed by the white and purple stockings of the pretty Bohemian girls, and their short, gay petticoats; but the hemp-coloured moustaches of the men were abominations in his sight. We suspect him one of those smooth-shaven Great Britains, who hate prejudices, and hate bearded foreigners. Notes of this kind, however, are interesting to home-stayers:—

Few persons visit old German towns without remarking the middle-age aspect given to the houses by the strong iron gratings which cover all the lower windows; they are sometimes exceedingly handsome, and almost always very massive, if not of rich workmanship, but they ever suggest ideas of violence and insecurity. Not a few of the older houses have besides their staircases secured at the foot, and others even at each landing-place, in the same manner, by strong iron doors or gratings namely, as was customary in the towns of Italy during the stormy times of the Italian republics: many instances of the practice may indeed be still seen in certain cities of Northern as well as Southern Italy at the present time.

Here is a tradition of the Hradschin, or palace fortress of Prague, supposed to contain four hundred rooms, and in part as old as the heathen ages:—

A certain part of the Hradschin, according to this account, was in old times used as a dungeon, to which the prisoner was let down from above by cords—a not unfrequent feature in these places of confinement; but the peculiarity in this case, if the tradition still retained here may be credited, was, that the body of him who had been previously adjudged to the frightful death of hunger in this dungeon—whence the tower itself is called the Hunger-Tower—not being removed by those who had cast him in, remained until the descent of the next sufferer, who was directed to hurl it into a lower depth, the grated door of which he was instructed to find and lift, before being himself closed up in his living tomb.

A further addition is made to the horrors of the Hunger Tower; and prisoners are said to have been let down into these dungeons in pairs, the one with hands and feet

bound, he being condemned to an instant precipitation into the lowermost depths, that receptacle for the dead before mentioned, while it was the office of his companion to lift the trap-door and plunge him in, the limbs of the latter being left free for that purpose. On one occasion two hapless brothers of a noble Moravian family were condemned to this hideous doom; but when they had reached the floor of the uppermost prison, the younger, who had remained free, cut the bonds of the elder, who was bound, and refused to obey the commands of those who called on him to cast his brother into the depths, on pain of being thrown in with him. From that time, says tradition, the miserable creature thus condemned to be the executioner of his fellow was compelled to fulfil the frightful office imposed on him before receiving his last wretched portion of food and drink.

Another fortress of Prague is the Wyssehrad, which frowns over the Vltava. The legend declares that it was built, in ancient times, by a young girl named Valasta, who originated the Maidens' War, revolted against masculine rule, retired to her stronghold with a beautiful army, and fought until conquered. Unhappily, the more muscular of the belligerents prevailed, the maidens were forced to surrender, delivered up their arms, and received a chastisement so severe and so mortifying that they promised never again to rebel, and always to remember their punishment and repent their contumacy.

These two volumes are of a light and entertaining character. They possess some novelty, and may refresh the reader weary of commonplace Nile, Rhine, or Rhone tours.

TIME AND FAITH.

Time and Faith: an Inquiry into the Data of Ecclesiastical History.

Groombridge and Sons.

THE title of this book is calculated to mislead the reader; if, indeed, it suggests any idea in his mind, a circumstance which we are inclined to doubt. It is a lengthy pamphlet in two volumes, more pedantic than learned—interesting probably to the few who delight in questions of theological antiquarianism, but not inviting to the general reader. The author commences by an elaborate inquiry into the different cycles of time as known to the ancients at different epochs. He endeavours to show how utterly mistaken are our notions about their divisions of time. He attributes, for example, to the "year" of the antediluvian patriarchs only the space of a "lunar month," which would reduce the age of Methuselah at the period of his death to less than half a century more than that of Thomas Jenkins, who died at the age of 169. It is said that some of the Russian peasantry have attained this remarkable longevity. The Aztecs, or ancient Mexicans, who possessed a more perfect method of computing time than we had adopted before the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar into this country, are also specially mentioned. The various festive seasons of the Ecclesiastical Year obtained a very remote and primitive origin, according to the author of these volumes; and he is severe upon Byron for being pleasant upon the word Carnival, which the poet interprets as "farewell to flesh," the author observing that traditional customs do not originate in puns. We fear that this censure ought to strike deeper than the facetious Byron, for what dictionary, from the oracular Doctor Johnson's downward, will not assign the same derivation to the word. More learned than Byron, or Johnson, or Walker, the author refers the origin of the term to the Greek *Karneia*, the name by which the nine days' festival of the *Isia* was chiefly known among the Greeks. We prefer, however, if it be possible of attainment, a more modern solution of such words and ceremonies; although plausible reasons for the former supposition may be found in the fact that Christianity, after it became patronised by the state, adopted and naturalized many of the institutions of the Pagan world. The complex method of the writer's argument may be shown in the following extract:—

Among the elders of a tribe there are always some who observe the stars and the order of the seasons with more attention than the rest; and thus, in the absence of almanacks, become indispensable authorities upon all the questions which almanacks now determine. Their knowledge on these subjects, acquired by experience, gives them a reputation for wisdom on others; and they are in consequence consulted in cases of sickness or other calamity, and appealed to as arbiters in disputes. Under the generic name of priests, therefore, we may discover the first astronomer, the first physician, and the first magistrate. He is the Nestor of a tribe; the venerable father—Patriarch, Papa, Pape, and Pope. He is the Sage or Sophist (*sophos*, wise and skilful)—the Persian Sophi; the Zoroaster and Confucius of his day; the scientific Majian; the wonder-working *Magician*. He is the Anchorite and the Star-seer, retiring from the villages of the valley to meditate in undisturbed solitude, and seeking some elevated spot where the stars can be best seen. He is the Minister of Heaven, or his time is passed in watching the heavens and in investigating their phenomena. He traces intelligence in the mechanism of the universe, and proclaims it. His hearers comprehend him imperfectly, and suppose that he has discovered, and is in communication with some mysterious beings in the sun and moon. The aged philosopher smiles at the error as an innocent delusion. His less earnest-minded successors encourage it when they find it profitable. The contributions of sons and kindred, the payments in kind exacted as magisterial fees and judicial penalties, assume a religious character. They are now offerings and sacrifices. The old man's hut has grown into a temple. The eminence on which it stood as an observatory is a sacred mount—and either Olympus or one of the "high places" of Baal. The hearthstone on which his provisions were dressed has become an altar. The first simple creed that the laws of justice are the laws of Heaven, has expanded into a religious code of minute and all-comprehensive regulations directly prescribed by the gods. The great feature of these regulations develops itself in injunctions that oxen and sheep, corn, wine, and oil, and at last tithes of all good things, shall be brought to the temple to propitiate the favour of the gods or avert the consequences of their displeasure.

A great variety of subjects relative to Biblical knowledge and ecclesiastical institutions, to the Old Testament, Zodiacal mythology, the Christian era, transitional Judaism, the Vespasian era, Trajan, Adrian, and the Antonines, &c., are treated of in these volumes. Moreover, Gibbon is taken to task for his errors on Roman administration and the rise of the German nation. The historical portion terminates with the death of Constantine. We are promised, however, the continuation of the work down to the fall of Rome, should the author be encouraged to proceed. We must admit that the writer exhibits the results of considerable research; his reasoning is ingenious, if not always convincing; and the whole is accompanied by varied and interesting notes.

TWO LADY TOURISTS.

Going Abroad; or, Glimpses of Art and Character in France and Italy. By Nona Bellairs. (Skeet.)—Miss Bellairs writes with a free and graceful pen, and casts upon a well-worn subject the reflexion of a vivacious mind and an elegant fancy. She begins her observations in Paris, journeys thence to Avignon, to Marseilles, to Cannes, Nice, and Savona. Her picture of Florence is artistically coloured, and warm with the light of Italy. She has much to say of the galleries and churches, of landscapes, religious groups, and pagan sculpture. Of course, we expect little novelty in a description of the City of Flowers, for who has not seen it—counted the tints of the Duomo marbles, admired the “joys for ever” in the Pitti palaces carried his optic glass to Fiesole, wondered at the fantastic manners of the *demi-monde*? Miss Bellairs, however, has an original sketch of a lady artist:—

It was on the 19th of February (I should not like to forget the day) that I went to the studio of Mlle. de Feauveau, nearly opposite to that of Mr. Power. I passed through rooms full of artistic models, to be presented to—a lady artist! I saw a tall firm figure, dressed in a velvet robe, with a jacket of the same material, with a leather belt round her waist—her hair cut like that of a boy, very short in front, and a little longer at the side, her very handsome noble features set off by a little leather cap. This dress was adopted, in accordance with a vow, when Mlle. de Feauveau left her own land to follow the fortunes of the unfortunate.

Miss Bellairs reached Milan a few hours after the execution of a priest for a frightful crime. The city seemed desolate. The lower windows of the houses were barricaded:—

It was said that every exertion had been made to save his life on the plea of the great scandal it would bring upon the church. The answer given was, “That the sin disgraced the church, and not its punishment—that one of the Apostles was Judas,” and so the priest was executed.

Summer Experiences of Rome, Perugia, and Siena, in 1854. By Mrs. J. E. Westropp. (Skeffington.)—A volume of sketches, on paper and stone, written and scratched. The illustrations, in general, represent the ancient and modern edifices in Rome, Perugia, and Siena; the descriptive passages for the most part refer to religious ceremonies, and to Italian collections of art. Mrs. Westropp has a pleasing manner, and writes intelligently on the ordinary topics of travel. A summer in Rome, however, is somewhat of a novelty; the English seldom remain in the capital during that season. Siena, and Perugia too, as she remarks, are almost always ‘done’ in a hurry.

The authoress will be very glad if her account should induce any one, in search of a summer residence in Italy, to turn their attention to these two cities, which combine beauty of scenery, treasures of art and painting, with a cool temperature and economy.

We may characterize Mrs. Westropp’s volume as a careful and interesting account of the three cities in which she made her residence, with minute details of manners, pleasantly illustrated by anecdotes, and by sketchy reminiscences. Pleasing, indeed, is the word which best describes the book.

A JONGLEUR ROMANCE.

Freida the Jongleur. By Barbara Hemphill. 3 vols.

Chapman and Hall.

This is a story of the thirteenth century, of Saxon dancers, of Templar Knights, of kings and chieftains. Its movement is slow, and its plot irregular; but there is an absence of commonplace in Miss Hemphill’s manner which marks her new novel with considerable superiority. The substance is intensely romance, much mystery being interwoven with much passion, and the personages on the stage being attired in deeply-dyed and richly-adorned costumes. In fact, every successive scene is a pageant or a tableau, often not a little effective. Miss Hemphill is careful not to offend against historical truth, and has evidently applied herself with assiduous zeal to study the manners and events of the period. It was an excellent idea to embroider a story of thirteenth-century politics and chivalry with wild and graceful illustrations from the chronicles of the Jongleur race, the Egyptians of the North, the fierce, chaste, faithful sisters of the Zingara nation. Miss Hemphill, though she manages her narrative with imperfect art, succeeds in interesting the reader, and in producing a vivid reflexion of manners as they existed in the days of Philippe-le-Bel, Guy D’Auvergne, and the formidable Valois.

The Arts.

RE-APPEARANCE—FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY—OF TABLE TURNING, RAPPING, &c.

THE vitality exhibited by imposture is remarkable in an age boasting its great enlightenment. Who would believe that after the rapping formerly given to turning tables by this journal, after the *coup de grace* administered by Professor FARADAY, a table should yet be found with face enough to dance before an English assembly? Such, however, is really the case; and at the theatre of the MARYLEBONE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION, where of late Mr. THACKERAY winged his intellectual arrows at the “four Georges,” and Miss GLYN gave Shakespearean Readings, the public have been entertained with a mountebank exhibition as revolting to common sense as it was disgusting in its impiety.

The programme of this entertainment informed us that Mr. RANDOLPH, “the American Orator,” would appear on Saturdays, February 14th and 21st, and that, “by unanimous request of the audience” (the audience yet to be assembled, we presume), “the subject of the first evening would be Phenomenal Spiritualism, to illustrate which several mediums had in the kindest manner volunteered their services, and a Table-moving, tipping, and rapping *séance* would be held.” The same authority informed us (in the shape of sundry extracts from unknown American journals) that Mr. RANDOLPH was a “Concrete Man;” that he was the “New Chilo;” that his oratory “soared so infinitely high into the sublime, that it raked human conception and imagination;” that “no less a mind than that of a NEWTON, a LOCKE, or a BACON, could do justice to such awfully sublime efforts;” that his speeches were of the “fiery-harp order;” while one trumpeter,

carried beyond discretion by his zeal, bestows the somewhat questionable compliment that on one occasion he (the trumpeter) “actually felt concerned for the physical and intellectual safety of the speaker, for both systems seemed ready to burst” with the “titanic efforts of the fiery-harp orator.”

But, however effective Mr. RANDOLPH may be with an American audience, such sound and fury declamation falls flatly on English ears. The “fiery-harp orator” has a good, sonorous voice, and speaks glibly enough; and we have no doubt, that as a methodist parson, he would soon attain a SURGEON sort of fame; but when Mr. RANDOLPH lectures us on the nature of the Deity, and declares in impious bombast that turning tables are the links between Man and the Omnipotent, we can only regret that such an easy flow of speech should be directed by a mind so distorted. After he had spoken in this strain for about an hour last Saturday evening, the “experiments” with a table commenced. This table was of peculiar construction, and it did not belong to the Marylebone Institution—an admission made by Mr. RANDOLPH in answer to an inquiry from a gentleman on the platform. The peculiarity consisted chiefly in there being a flap (apparently heavy) on one side of the table only, the lower part of which flap was cut in a sort of half-moon form, the two horns or ends nearly touching the ground. Seven people sat down at three sides of this piece of furniture and placed their hands on it in the most approved fashion, and in about ten minutes it began to move, as well as to raise the two legs facing the spectators and opposite to the side on which the flap rested. This performance being more suspicious than entertaining, a gentleman in the room suggested that it would be as well to turn the table round and have the flap fastened up; which being done, the table took umbrage and refused to dance any more. It ran about the platform, as any other table might do with the assistance of seven people; but no coaxing (and Mr. RANDOLPH spoke very kindly to it) would induce it to jump. Meanwhile the lecturer, showing signs of uneasiness at the tittering of the audience, tried to amuse them by some sneering remarks on unbelievers in Spiritualism; but, in an attempt to saddle on Professor FARADAY that which he never said, and which, in point of fact, was in direct contradiction to all he urged, the “fiery-harp orator” received from a gentleman in the room the first of a series of defeats which left him thoroughly crestfallen. It is from Mr. RANDOLPH that we first learn that FARADAY accounts for table-turning by attributing the “phenomenon” to “involuntary electricity.”

At a later period of the evening when the audience, thoroughly disgusted, were about to leave, the table recommenced its saltatory performances, and informed us by sundry taps with its legs on the ground that it was animated by the spirit of JOHN YOUNG, brother to THOMAS, and that the said spirit was very happy—far more so indeed than when, in the body, it inhabited this wicked world. As this interesting communication (it was very kind of JOHN YOUNG, brother to THOMAS, to come all the way from his present abode merely to inform some people assembled in Edwards-street, Portman-square of these facts)—as this, we say, may appear something like a rapping success on the part of the table, we must inform the reader that, in accordance with the wish of a Spiritualist in the room, the flap had again been put down and turned from the spectators.

It would hardly have been worth the loss of an inch of space to describe this wretched jugglery, but that some old ladies of either sex still allow themselves to be duped by an imposture as transparent to common sense and investigation, as it is mischievous in its effects on minds weakened by ill-health or suffering.

MR. WESTLAND MARSTON’S NEW PLAY.

THE play-goer always sees with gratification the announcement of a new play by Mr. WESTLAND MARSTON; for, though possessing several literary faults, the author is one of the few writers for the stage of the present day who originate their own plots and characters, and think that England should do something more than simply adopt the last Paris fashion. He is also a true poet and an artist, and his sympathies are with whatever is really generous and noble. It was therefore with pleasant recollections of former productions of his that we witnessed on Monday evening the first performance of his new play, *A Life’s Ransom*, which Mr. DILLON has produced at the LYCEUM, and which throws us back to the picturesque times of JAMES THE SECOND, just as the reign of that bigot was on the eve of its termination. The hero of the drama is a certain Devonshire nobleman, Lord Revesdale (Mr. DILLON), who is poor, though of a haughty soul, and who will be obliged to part with his hereditary estates if his sister, Felicia (Mrs. DILLON), does not consent to marry a lord high in favour at the Court. But she has already plighted herself to Arthur Ringwood, the son of a rich country gentleman of humble origin, and she will not break her word. Lord Revesdale casts her off in a frenzy of passion, and quits the place. Subsequently, in the midst of his ravings against the plebeian lover, he accidentally lets out, in the presence of a ferocious country magistrate, one Bancroft (Mr. STUART), a kind of petty Judge JEFFREYS, that the said lover was compromised in the Duke of MONMOUTH’S rebellion. Bancroft, who has some grudge against young Ringwood, thereupon arrests him and his wife on the night of their wedding. Lord Revesdale, now overcome with remorse and shame, offers to put into Bancroft’s power a man compromised in the movement in favour of the Prince of ORANGE, on condition of his releasing the bridal couple. Bancroft consents; the young husband and wife put to sea for Holland; and Revesdale avows himself as an Orangite, as in fact he is. But the catastrophe is fast approaching. The fugitives are suddenly seen returning; the people on the strand are clamorous with some new joy; a fleet appears close in shore; and Ringwood and Felicia rush forward, and announce the arrival of WILLIAM OF ORANGE. Bancroft is thus defeated; the brother and sister are reconciled; and all terminates with that felicity which an audience, whether wisely or not, appears to expect in a play.

The first three acts—at least, until the termination of the third—seem to us rather to prepare the spectator to be interested than to excite his sympathies at once. There is too much obvious arrangement of the figures into the right positions for the proper amount of antagonism; and consequently, though the writing always commands respect, and at times admiration, we could not avoid feeling a want of interest. The relative bearings of the characters, moreover, are not very clear for some time, and the villain Bancroft moves about as in a mist. This effect was increased on the first night by a general indistinctness of utterance on the part of all the performers. But the fourth and fifth acts are full of movement and dramatic power. By that time we see the whole scope and aim of the story, and are at once warmed into sympathy with the characters. The events succeed each other with a rapidity which leaves no room for dullness, and yet gives opportunity for the utterance of some impressive and passionate poetry; notably, the appeal of Felicia to the portraits of her brother’s and her own ancestors in the old hall, to disown their descendant for his treachery. But the conclusion of the play is rather abrupt; and how are we to account (on other than stage principles) for that sudden and pantomimic change of scene

from the prison to the sea-coast, with the Dutch fleet standing in—a change effected with all the characters remaining on the stage? The *tableau*, no doubt, makes a very pretty termination; but it is at the sacrifice of sense.

It was found necessary on the first night to make an apology both for Mr. and Mrs. DILLON, who were suffering from hoarseness, but who resolved to go on with their parts. This was courageous and praiseworthy. We did not observe much diminution of Mr. DILLON's powers; but the lady evidently suffered painfully, and at times was almost inaudible. Nevertheless, she went on with immense energy, and was loudly applauded. Mr. DILLON's acting, as usual, had one or two striking bursts of passion; but there was the invariable fault of over-loudness, excess of physical effort, and lack of those fine pencillings which give vitality to a part. Mr. STUART, also, was more noisy than effective; but the other characters were creditably sustained.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—An application to the Lords Justices of Appeal for leave to petition the House of Lords against the decision of the Lords Justices not to annul the adjudication of bankruptcy of the Royal British Bank, has been refused, solely on the ground that an unreasonable time had been allowed to elapse.—Thursday was appointed, by adjournment, for the last examination in the Court of Bankruptcy of the directors who represent the bank under the bankruptcy. Mr. Linklater applied for an adjournment, and expressed a hope that after the decision of the Lords Justices, refusing to grant an appeal against their judgment, further litigation would end; and he expressed his belief that before the next meeting, in fact, in a few days, a reasonable and satisfactory compromise would be effected between the shareholders and other parties interested, so as to prevent any further harassing proceedings. Mr. Lawrence expressed the same hope and belief, and it was agreed that the meeting should be adjourned till the 30th next April, before which time the account would be filed.

THE LATE DEFALCATIONS IN THE CITY.—James Jopp, the relieving officer to the City of London Union, at a salary of 150*l.* a year, applied on Thursday in the Insolvent Debtors' Court under the Protection Act. No creditors opposed. The consideration debts in the schedule were 922*l.*, and the liabilities on accommodation bills for John Paul, the late assistant clerk to the City of London Union, were 192*l.* Paul was entered on the schedule as a disputed creditor for 796*l.* for money lent and paid on account of the insolvent, with a statement opposite the debt. The insolvency was attributed to the non-fulfilment of an arrangement made between the insolvent and John Paul to liquidate old debts, and to the insolvent having, out of gratitude for that and occasional assistance by advances of money (expended principally on the education of his children), accepted bills for his accommodation.—The case was adjourned *sine die*.

THE HOUSELESS POOR.—On Wednesday night, at ten o'clock, the Lord Mayor, the Recorder, Mr. Under-Sheriff Anderton, and Mr. Bunning, the City architect, visited the establishment for the houseless poor, where they found nearly one hundred persons, who, after being supplied with food, were accommodated with shelter for the night. They afterwards visited the West London Union, near Smithfield, and, upon inquiring for the casual ward, were informed that this establishment was at Battle-bridge, a distance of two miles and a half. They went there, and found the building to consist of a large stable containing fourteen horse-stalls, the only provision for the lodging of the casual poor, some few men being huddled together round a fire. The place was totally destitute of either straw or bedding of any description whatever. The visitors relieved the unfortunate inmates, and then proceeded to the City gaol at Holloway, where they found the prisoners snugly housed.

A BOY SMOTHERED IN A SAND HOLE.—Three boys were playing on Tuesday at the foot of a large sand bank, near the Edgeley railway station, when a portion of the bank gave way, and buried them some feet below the surface. An alarm was given, and two of the boys were quickly dug out, but the third was unfortunately dead when extricated.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.—A public dinner took place on Wednesday evening, in the large room of the London Tavern, at the instance of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control. Mr. J. R. Mills took the chair, and several members of Parliament were present.

THREE TRAGEDIES IN ONE.—A shoemaker, of Salwick, near Preston, committed suicide by hanging himself. The news was brought to his wife almost at the same moment that another messenger arrived to say that her father had just been found drowned in a sluice. The double shock was so great that the poor woman became a violent lunatic.

A RAMPANT CLERGYMAN.—In the course of the examination into the affairs of a clergyman, named Edwards, in the Insolvent Debtors' Court, it came out that he had written to one of his creditors, who had threatened to take proceedings against him after a certain day, and who had recently lost a child by an accident, a letter, in which he said that "God's vengeance would pursue him (the creditor) for persecuting a clergyman."

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.—A public meeting of City merchants, bankers, and others was convened on Thursday at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, for the purpose of rendering additional aid to the parent society for supporting ragged schools in London and its suburbs; the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor in the chair. Resolutions in favour of this object were passed.

THE GEORGIAN RAILWAY ROMANCE ONCE MORE.—We should have supposed that this question had been finally set at rest; but Mr. Cuyler, the president of the railway, again writes to the *Times* from Savannah, enclosing affidavits from several of the officials on the line, who swear that the alleged occurrences did not take place on the day in question.—In reply to these asseverations, Mr. Arrowsmith has again written to the *Times*, saying that he made a mistake in the day; that it was Friday, not Thursday. He adds that, if some of his fellow travellers could be brought forward to substantiate the denial, the refutation would indeed be complete; but he concludes with this solemn asseveration:—"Were I as free to meet the Judgment Day as I am in this matter, it would be well with me."

Mr. HENRY MARTLEY has been appointed Chief Commissioner of the Encumbered Estates Court (Ireland), at a salary of 3000*l.* a year.

THE J. L. BOGART MURDER.—Charles O'Thurber, the first mate of the American ship J. L. Bogart, died a few days ago, in consequence of the injuries he received during the *fracas* on board that vessel when she was lying in the Mersey. An inquest, which occupied the whole of Tuesday, closed late in the evening with a verdict of Justifiable Homicide as regards Jeremiah Jones, the sailor who had been seen to strike the deceased.

WIFE-MURDER AT WELLS.—A man has been committed for trial at Wells on a charge of murdering his wife while in a fit of jealousy.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

LAMOND.—On the 24th of December, at Hongkong, the wife of William Lamond, Esq., of the Oriental Bank: a daughter.

MOSS.—On the 13th inst., at Liverpool, the lady of Gilbert Winter Moss, Esq.: a son.

MARRIAGES.

ADLEY-JAMESON.—On the 3rd Jan., at Calcutta, Charles Coles Adley, Esq., C.E., second son of the Rev. W. Adley, to Jean Lizetta Lyster, second daughter of W. Jameson, Esq., M.D., of Dublin.

CARR-FRANKLYN.—On the 7th of Jan. last, at Madras, Francis Culling Carr, Esq., of the Civil Service, to Jeanie Elizabeth Chetwynd, youngest daughter of the late Major Franklyn, of the H.E.I.C.S.

DEATHS.

ELLESMERE.—On the 18th inst., at Bridgewater House, the Earl of Ellesmere, K.G., aged 57.

HARDINGE.—On the 18th of December last, of dysentery, in the R. N. Hospital at Hongkong, Frederick Hardinge, Esq., Acting Mate of H.M.S. Encounter, second son of F. Hardinge, Esq., of Coatham Hall, Durham.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 17.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—EPHRAIM THALASSO, Bury-court, St. Mary-axe, merchant—WILLIAM THOMAS GRAVENOR, Birmingham, hatter.

BANKRUPTS.—PETER GEORGE FOSCOLO, Dunster-court, Mincing-lane, corn merchant—RICHARD FERNELL, Aldermanbury, commission agent—THOMAS BUTT, Little-hampton, Sussex, ironmonger—GEORGE INGERSMITH, Notting-hill, builder—JOHN SMITH, Staplehurst, Kent, corn dealer—HENRY CAMPIN, Watling-street, warehouseman—ALFRED BLACKMORE, High-street, Shoreditch, hosier—FREDERICK MARTIN, Brighton, innkeeper—JAMES WALKER, Walsall, bridge cutter—THOMAS BARNETT, Iron-bridge, Salop, butcher—JOSEPH MASCALL, Wolverhampton, grocer—JAMES WATTS, Norton St. Philip's, Somerset, innholder—WILLIAM ATTEWELL WANE, Highworth, Wilts, grocer—WILLIAM ROBINSON, Haversham-with-Milnthorpe, Westmoreland, licensed victualler—ALEXANDER ALCOCK NEVINS, Liverpool, merchant—THOMAS FOWLER RAYMOND, Liverpool, commission merchant—JOSEPH SANKLEY, Salford, wheelwright.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. CARMICHAEL, Dundee, corn merchant, and Monikie, farmer—NEIL M'LEAN, Clydebank, Govan, dairyman—J. GREIG, Glenberrie, farmer—J. CLUEB, Glasgow, painter—T. R. FORGAN, Carlisle, farmer—J. or J. M. CUNNINGHAM, Kilwinning, grocer—H. M'MAHON, Blairgowrie, clothier.

Friday, February 20.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN WESTON, Mottram, Cheshire, manufacturing chemist—EDWARD JOSEPH MORRIS, Malpas, Cheshire, spirit dealer—ANN OLIVER, Warrington, Yorkshire, grocer—HENRY WILLIAM COLLISON, Bath, provision merchant—THOMAS HUDSON, Liverpool, ship broker—JAMES BASNETT and THOMAS BASNETT, Liverpool, opticians—JAMES BEECH HILL, Blackfriars-road, Surrey, china dealer—HENRY GARNETT, Dover, stationer—ROBERT LEE, Crompton, Derby, currier and leather cutter—WILLIAM BAKER, Birchall-street, Birmingham, clock maker—ROBERT RUMNEY CHARLES and WILLIAM FORDYCE, Houghton, Northumberland, paper manufacturers—JAMES COWEN, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, cheesemonger—JAMES BASSE and SOLOMON LINDO, Tower-hill, wine and spirit merchants—JOHN CHALCROFT, Paddington, builder—PETER STEFFANO, Wellesley-square, Middlesex, ship chandler—SAMUEL POTTER, High street, Marylebone, livery-stable keeper—THOMAS JONES, New Broad-street, City, bottle merchant—JAMES THURSCOTT, Austin Friars, commission agent—JOHN GILLAM, Devereux-court, Strand, and WILLIAM HENRY TAYLER, Poultry, licensed victualliers—GEORGE HENDER-

THEATRICAL NOTES.

A ONE-ACT drama, from the French, called *A Wicked Wife*, was produced at the Haymarket on Monday night. It has reference to the Reign of Terror in Paris under the rule of ROBESPIERRE, and gives occasion for some pathetic acting by Miss REYNOLDS, and some stolid comedy by Mr. COMPTON. There are also parts for Mr. HOWE and Mr. ROGERS.—Another version has been produced at the OLYMPIC, with Mrs. STIRLING for the lady.

The ADELPHI has produced a new piece for Mr. BARNEY WILLIAMS, who plays an Irishman in Germany, frightened out of his wits by a sham ghost. The idea is a good one, and it is turned to sparkling and highly-flavorous account by the actor.

Mr. CRESWICK has been performing SHERIDAN KNOWLES's *Virginus* at the SURREY, to the great satisfaction of Southwark and Lambeth.

SON, Stanhope-place, Regent's-park, apothecary—EDWARD BALDWIN, Shoe-lane, newspaper proprietor.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—DONALD CAMPBELL, Glasgow, carter—JOHN ROBB, Edinburgh, painter—W. and T. KERR, Glasgow, wrights—WILLIAM STEWART, Barnalene, Argylshire, tacksman, now deceased—GEORGE CROMER, Glasgow, malt liquor merchant—JAMES NICOL, Aberdeen, bulker.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, February 20, 1857.

CONSOLS have been about 94 all the week. Foreign Stocks, Turkish Six per Cents, and Russian Fives are 1 per cent. better.

In Paris prices are well sustained, and this reacts here, in spite of the high rate of interest. Money has been lent on Government securities at 6 per cent. for short loans, and is in demand. The Bank return, it is believed, will be of a more favourable nature this week than last. Foreign exchanges have ruled in our favour; the export of gold still continues, and to this well there would seem to be no bottom.

Railway shares are briskly in demand, particularly South Eastern, Caledonian, Brighton, and Eastern Counties. Canadian Railway shares have scarcely moved. The Indian railway market seems very quiet.

Foreign railway shares are in demand, and particularly Lombardo-Venetian: the traffic returns are exceedingly good. Joint-Stock Banks have been much dealt in. Ottoman and Egyptian shares are considerably better. The London General Omnibus Company's shares are in request. One parcel of two thousand was bought this morning, and the weekly traffic returns are very satisfactory. In British mines there has been a regular but quiet business doing. Foreign mines are rather dull.

Cobre Copper, St. John del Rey, and United Mexicans have been dealt in. The closing appearance of Consols is affected, doubtless, by the present political state of affairs. Should Ministers dissolve to-night in case of defeat, or a victory by a few votes, and Lord Palmerston appeal to the country, of course such eventualities would depress Consols ½, ¾, or 1 per cent.

At four o'clock Consols close 93½, 94, for account, money. Turkish Six per Cents. 95½, 96.

Aberdeen, —; Caledonian, 66, 66½; Chester and Holyhead, 36, 37; Eastern Counties, 104, 104½; Great Northern, 92, 93; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 111, 113; Great Western, 68, 68½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 99½, 100; London and Blackwall, 6½, 6½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 108, 109; London and North-Western, 107½, 108½; London and South-Western, 104½, 105½, x.d.; Midland, 83½, 83½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 88, 89; South-Eastern (Dover), 76, 77; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 5½, 6½; Dutch Rhenish, 4, 4 pm.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 32½, 33; Great Central of France, 4, 4½ pm.; Great Luxembourg, 6½, 6½; Northern of France, 37, 37½; Paris and Lyons, 56½, 57; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 7, 1½; Sambré and Meuse, 8½, 8½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, February 20, 1857.

THE arrivals of Wheat into London from Foreign Ports during the week, consist only of 690 qrs., in addition to which, are 300 barrels of Flour. The export to Spain and the Western French Ports, continues both from London and the East Coast; yet, the trade here continues in the most inanimate state. There have been very few arrivals off the Coast, and no sales reported except two or three cargoes of Ibrail and Foxanian Maize on passage, at 40s. 6d. to 41s. 6d., cost, freight, and insurance, to the Continent. Taganrog Wheat off the Coast is held at 60s.

Barley supplies are small, and grinding and distilling quantities are a shade firmer.

The trade in Oats is slow, and without alteration in prices.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	217½	218½	218	218	218	218½
3 per Cent. Red.....	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
3 per Cent. Con. An.....	93½	93½	93½	94½	93½	93½
Consols for Account.....	94	93½	93½	94½	93½	94
New 3 per Cent. An.....	94½	93½	94½	94½	94½	94½
New 2½ per Cent. An.....	.....	.....	78	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860.....	2½	2½	.....	.....	.....	2½
India Stock.....	219	222	221	.....	220	221½
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	.....	.....	2 d	.....	2 d	.....
Ditto, under £1000.....	.....	2 d	.....	.....	par	2 d
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	1 p	.....	3 p	2 p	.....	1 p
Ditto, £500.....	4 p	3 p	3 p	.....	4 p	4 p
Ditto, Small.....	2 p	1 p	3 p	1 p	1 p	4 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds.....	102½	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ....	...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents.....	86	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents.....	100½
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	104½	Russian 4½ per Cents.....	97½
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	Spanish.....	40½
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	65	Spanish Committee Cor- of Coup. not fun.	6½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	98½	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	95½
Equador Bonds.....	.....	Turkish New, 4 ditto.....	101½
Mexican Account.....	22½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents. ....	...
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.....	80½		
Portuguese 3 per Cents.....	45		

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.
Last Three Nights of "Young and Handsome."
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the new Drama by Tom Taylor, Esq., called A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING. Messrs. G. Vining, Addison, G. Cooke, Leslie; Mrs. Stirling and Miss Maskell. A SPLENDID INVESTMENT, and YOUNG AND HANDSOME.—Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING, A CONJUGAL LESSON, and A SPLENDID INVESTMENT, in which Mr. F. Robson, having recovered from the effects of his late accident, will sustain his original characters.—Commence at Half-past Seven.

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 38s. per dozen.
Champagne, from 42s. to 72s.
Claret, from 30s. to 84s.
Post orders must contain a remittance.

KEATING'S PALE NEWFOUNDLAND

COD LIVER OIL, perfectly pure, nearly tasteless, and free from adulteration of any kind, having been analyzed, reported on, and recommended by Professors Taylor and Thomson, of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, who, in the words of the late Dr. Pereira, say, that "The finest Oil is that most devoid of colour, odour, and flavour." characters this will be found to possess in a high degree.—Half-pints, 1s. 6d.; Pints, 2s. 6d.; Quarts, 4s. 6d.; and Five-pint Bottles, 10s. 6d., Imperial Measure.
79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—A

Good Speech or an Effective Song cannot be given if the Vocal Organs are not in a sound condition, free from hoarseness or irritation. To remedy the latter and to produce melodious enunciation, every public character, whether of the Bar, the Senate, or the Pulpit, should have at hand Keating's Cough Lozenges, which are patronised by a majority of the Imperial Parliament, the Bench, and leading members of the Operatic Corps. For Affections of the Throat, or Chest, and for Winter Cough they are unfailing.
Prepared and sold in Boxes, 1s. 1½d., and Tins, 2s. 9d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., 79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London. Retail by all Druggists.

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LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

"Dr. de Jongh gives the preference to the Light-Brown Oil over the Pale Oil, which contains scarcely any volatile fatty acid, a smaller quantity of iodine, phosphoric acid, and the elements of bile, and upon which ingredients the efficacy of Cod Liver Oil, no doubt, partly depends. Some of the deficiencies of the Pale Oil are attributable to the method of its preparation, and especially to its filtration through charcoal. IN THE PREFERENCE OF THE LIGHT-BROWN OVER THE PALE OIL WE FULLY CONCUR. We have carefully tested a specimen of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil. We find it to be genuine, and rich in iodine and the elements of bile."

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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. 9d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.; Quarts, 9s.; and labelled with DR. DE JONGH'S Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by many respectable Chemists throughout the United Kingdom.

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DR. DE JONGH'S SOLE BRITISH CONSIGNEES.
By whom the Oil is daily forwarded to all parts of the Metropolis.

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. ADAM'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 Patents 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 10, 1855.

"I have submitted to a microscopic 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. Adam and Co."
CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each package bears the signature of the Patentees, J. and J. O. ADAM.

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

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MANCHESTER.....37, Brown-street.
SHEFFIELD.....12, George-street.
BIRMINGHAM.....Old Court House, High-st.
BRISTOL.....13, Small-street.
DUBLIN.....11, Temple-lane.
EDINBURGH.....Porthead Warehouse.
GLASGOW.....St. Vincent-place.

SOLERA SHERRY. — VINTAGE 1834,

guaranteed, 54s. per dozen. Queen Isabella's favourite Wine, as used at the Royal table of Spain.

The peculiar characteristics of the wine are full body, fine nutty flavour, and richness mellowed by age, constituting it at once the finest Sherry ever imported, and eminently suited to the palate of those who enjoy and appreciate a first-class wine.

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TWENTY SHILLINGS PER DOZEN.**SOUTH AFRICAN PORT.**

"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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A Sample Bottle for 24 stamps.
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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.

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