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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.*

## REVIEW OF THE WEEK—

PAGE

Imperial Parliament.....	194
State of Trade.....	195
The Great Colliery Explosion.....	196
Accidents and Sudden Deaths.....	197
Ireland.....	197
Australia.....	197
The Orient.....	197
America.....	197
Continental Notes.....	198
Our Civilization.....	199
Gatherings from the Law and Po- lice Courts.....	200

Naval and Military.....	201
Miscellaneous.....	201
Postscript.....	202
OPEN COUNCIL—	
“Common Sense of the Bank Charter Question”.....	202
PUBLIC AFFAIRS—	
Mr. Disraeli's Debate.....	204
China in Parliament.....	204
Official Refusal of a Final Search for Franklin.....	205

## Contents:

A Diplomatic Duel.....	205
The Warning to Reformers.....	206
The Victoria Cross.....	206
Free Emigrants and Cotton.....	206
Mental Alisolation.....	207
LITERATURE—	
Summary.....	208
The New Edition of Bacon.....	208
The Life of Louis Napoleon.....	209
Christianity and Infidelity.....	210
Hieroglyphic Science.....	210

German Protestantism.....	211
A Medley of Novels.....	211
Rip van Winkle Awake.....	212
THE ARTS—	
Theatrical Notes.....	212
The Gazette.....	212
COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—	
City Intelligence, Markets, &c.....	213

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## Review of the Week.

NOT only Ministers, but Members and constituencies, have been put to sore trial during these early weeks of the session, and the events are gradually convincing the public that the first good measure will be to sweep away the present House of Commons. It is, night after night, proving itself totally incapable of controlling either Ministers in office or members who want to get into office; equally incapable of selecting the best men for those posts. Where it is a question of honourable obligation towards the servants of this country, as in the case of FRANKLIN,—of Parliamentary Reform, as in the case of LOCKE KING and Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY's motion,—or of finance,—the true description of the position in which honourable members are placed, can be described by no words except saying that they are befooled.

No questions before the House of Commons have been plainer than those which are raised by the Budget. We described it last week. It is nothing more than a proposal to continue the Budget of 1856, with three alterations, one of considerable magnitude and two of minor importance. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER proposes to give up 9d. out of the 1s. 4d. in the pound Income-tax,—that is the largest alteration; he proposes that the diminution of the tea duties, fixed by the existing law for the present year 6d. out of the 1s. 9d., shall be only 2d., and that the sugar duties shall likewise be diminished in the same diminished proportion. He justifies this modified abatement of the taxes by the necessity of paying some outstanding bills on account of the war. Government will be quite open to an inquiry by the House of Commons, whether they have paid the bills at the proper time, and whether they were not paying too much to the contractors and the crowds of temporarily employed officials who have been engaged. That is the sole practical question. A member should say in the name of his constituency, "Let me see the bill; if it is correct, let us pay it off as fast as possible, and then return to peace taxation." Instead of thus leading the House of Commons to the performance of that plain English duty, which every tradesman in the country could understand, Mr. DISRAELI attempted a *dodge* for the purpose of concealing his own defeat. By remitting so large a part of the Income-tax, Ministers have taken from him the motion which he claimed as his own; he wanted something

grand to propose before the popular assembly; and instead of looking closely into the bills, he chooses a magnificent philosophical system of accounts, to balance the years 1853 and 1860. This is not the way in which business men manage their business; but it had the effect of enlisting Mr. GLADSTONE, the author of the budget of 1853, which Mr. DISRAELI is so anxious to fulfil in 1860; and out came the spiritual member for Oxford University with a flood of arithmetical vituperation hurled at Ministers for not having executed in 1857 his designs for 1860. His allegation was crammed full of blunders, as when he persisted in assuming that they must continue their present rate of expenditure into subsequent years without the slightest warrant for the assumption. The debate thus set going consisted of fanciful accusations, wire-drawn by Mr. DISRAELI, and swelled into a Ciceronian scolding by Mr. GLADSTONE, with cool replies by the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER and Mr. JAMES WILSON. The replies were thoroughly tedious, because any man of sense could anticipate each argument as it was advanced. The common herd of members occasionally joined in the debate, only to show that they failed to understand it; while here and there a party man stood forth to mark a new position for himself, as in the case of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, who magnanimously exposed some of Mr. GLADSTONE's fallacies, while he constituted himself the patron of the tea and sugar trades against the proposed increase of taxation upon those articles.

Mr. GLADSTONE had already announced that he intended to assume the post of champion to the tea-pot and sugar-basin; but what tradesman or what man of business would select that heated missionary in lieu of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, who has taken up the subject upon its plain business merits? The supplies of tea are interrupted by the war with China, and although the stocks on hand are large, the commodity is peculiarly unsuited for any increase of fiscal burden. The supplies of sugar are falling short, from the failure of produce in the Western countries and the diversion of the Mauritius trade towards Australia; the consumer suffers, and this again is an article which the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER is relieving rather than burdening.

As to the debating, it was for the most part an idle parade; the result was well known; and when the division was announced of 286 to 206, it scarcely told any news to the members on either side.

In the many reforms which press upon its own constitution, the House shows an equal incapacity

to grapple with the subject: it is at the mercy of accidents. Last week it would have carried Mr. LOCKE KING's motion, but for the comparatively feeble accident that Lord PALMERSTON is personally adverse to reforms. It is this incapacity of the House to arrive at anything like a definite conclusion which suggested to Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY the appointment of a select committee to consider the impediments to the equalization and extension of the franchise. The motion was made as a *pis aller*; the objections to it are perfectly obvious. It was indeed a censure upon the House of Commons; for it implied that in a debate upon the constitution of the House and the political liberties of the people, the fewer the Members the better the discussion; and there is much truth in Sir JOSHUA's practical sarcasm.

A disposition is gaining ground not to invoke the House of Commons itself in reform, at least in the earlier stages. As Mr. LOCKE KING is proposing to extend the ten-pound franchise in counties, so in Scotland a party of Reformers is proposing to extend to that country the English forty-shilling franchise; and the two proposals are more parallel than might in the first instance be supposed. Practically, the same sums represent higher values in Scotland than in England; and the poorer class in that part of the island is better educated, more intelligent, and more independent. At present the county franchise is, at least in many parts, entirely in the hands of a few individuals. The leaders of the new movement are endeavouring to strengthen it, and in fact to settle it, before they bring it into the House of Commons. Dr. BEGG, who constitutes a deputation from Scotland to England, attended a meeting for the purpose in Palace-yard, on Tuesday, and there he met a number of members who had supported Mr. LOCKE KING's motion, with other active Reformers.

Nothing could have been more inconsistent with the real spirit of our Government than the declaration of war against Persia, our relations with that country still being withheld from the cognizance of Parliament; nothing more repugnant to that spirit than Sir JOHN BOWRING's sudden change of policy towards the local government of Canton. The treaty of Peking secured right of entrance for British subjects into five ports, Canton among them. In consideration of the character of the people and various local circumstances, successive British Commissioners, after negotiation with the Chinese High Commissioner at Canton, have paved the right until the present day. Sir JOHN BOWRING was no

sooner on the spot than he began to assert the right. Nothing could be more proper than the interference of Parliament. It was not the Commons however, but the House of Lords which began on Tuesday in the moving of resolutions by the Earl of DERBY, condemning Sir JOHN BOWRING's course. Mr. COBDEN took up the subject in the House of Commons on Thursday; provisionally condemning the proceedings at Canton, and asking for a select committee to inquire into the state of our commercial relations with China. Ministers however, contended that Sir JOHN BOWRING was justified in insisting on the right of entry, and that the lorcha was virtually English; and the result was, that with reference to personal relations rather than political classification, 140 peers were found to sustain the Government in supporting Sir JOHN BOWRING, and 110 on the opposite side.

In the House of Commons the debate took a somewhat different turn; for though it ran principally upon the question of the lorcha and the right of entry, yet other subjects were introduced; and, before the debate was adjourned, it had brought out a great array, not only of opposition, but of independent strength against the Government. The subject was resumed last night, and again adjourned.

One law reform seems to have a fair chance of being carried in the House of Lords; it amends the law of libel and defamation. Lord Chief Justice CAMPBELL has moved for a select committee to consider the subject. The immediate cause of the move is a recent case in which Lord CAMPBELL confirmed a principle of some passed questionable judgments, by holding, first, that written libel is worse than oral defamation, and, secondly, that the responsibility falls upon the publisher and not upon the author, even in a case where the publisher is simply reporting the proceedings of a public body, like a Town Council. In the present state of journalism, it is impossible that the journals should abstain from constantly reporting matter that is technically libellous; and it needs a complete revision of the law to protect us, in the exercise of our duties, from incurring penalties which ought to fall upon others—the authors of any false and calumnious statement.

The state of the poor is a subject growing in magnitude and urgency. The "unemployed" alternately meet in Smithfield, and strive to obtain some aid in their several parishes. How the parishes do their duty, is for the hundredth time exposed by the LORD MAYOR, who has been playing the HAROUN-AL-RASCHID, personally visiting the casual wards, the charitable Refuge for the Houseless Poor, and the gaol at Islington. He finds the casual wards purposely placed at a distance of two or three miles from the workhouse; so that the poor may be deterred from relief when they need it. He found one casual ward consist of a stable, in which men and women were herded together. The Refuge for the Houseless Poor is in fact doing the duty that ought to fall upon the parishes, and the State understands decency and humanity better in the management of prisons than in the management of aid for the poor; the prisoners in gaol being better lodged, better fed, and more decently provided for in every way.

Some benevolent persons are endeavouring to organize a new emigration movement amongst the unemployed, who certainly have a right to claim the assistance of the State, while it prevents them from getting at the land which every man inherits by nature. Aids to emigration might be of various kinds. At present the Executive is not giving any active aid. The public funds for the purpose are drawn entirely from the colonies, which dictate the sort of labourers that they require. In some cases they appoint agents of their own to select the labourers. The North American colonies furnish

no emigration fund, though they receive an immense number of emigrants; but the emigrants go out at their own expense. A charitable subscription, therefore, is the direct mode for meeting the present case; unless indeed the working classes, through their representatives in Parliament—if they have representatives in Parliament—should insist upon a comprehensive measure with efficient means for conveying the unemployed to those unemployed and useless lands which lie waste in the colonies. Every man thus conveyed to colonial employment finds a better fortune for himself; and while taking away a competitor from the home market, adds a consumer for the increased profit of those he leaves behind.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, February 23rd.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, the LORD CHANCELLOR, in consequence of an appeal from Lords LYNCHURST and CAMPBELL, postponed the second reading of the DIVORCE BILL till next Tuesday, the 3rd of March.

### SUPPLY OF GUANO.

LORD POLWARTH moved for any paper or correspondence relative to the cession of the islands of Haski, Jibleed, and Ghurzoed by the Imam of Muscat to her Majesty, and their erection into a colony; and also to call the attention of the House to a license granted on the 20th of February, 1856, by the Commissioners of Emigration to John Ord and others, giving them the sole and exclusive right to raise and take away guano from these islands during five years.—The Earl of CLARENDON had no objection to give the papers moved for, and assured Lord Polwarth that there was every desire on the part of the Government to lay before their lordships and the public the fullest information with respect to those islands.—After some further discussion, in which dissatisfaction was expressed with the terms on which Captain Ord had obtained his monopoly, the motion was agreed to.—Some explanations on the same subject were given in the House of Commons by Mr. LABOUCHERE, who said:—"The Emigration Commissioners acted in the matter as agents of the Colonial Office, and therefore the Colonial Office was alone responsible. The Colonial Office had given the right of exclusive trade in the guano of those islands, for a limited period of years, to certain individuals, and there was no doubt as to their right to do so, as it was an ancient and undisputed prerogative of the Crown. When the Government of Lord Derby existed, a similar case occurred: a monopoly of the guano trade on the coast of Australia was given to certain individuals for a period of six years. In the agricultural districts in the country, he believed it was feared that the monopoly granted to the Liverpool merchants in this case would be prejudicial to the interests of the farmers; but that was not the case. The merchants had voluntarily offered to submit to the conditions that all the guano obtained by them should be sold in the open market by a broker in Liverpool, and that other parties should have the privilege of obtaining guano by the payment of a stipulated sum, not exceeding 2½ per ton. He thought this would be sufficient to assure the public that the article would be brought over in large quantities and sold in the open market."

### PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of this bill, with which Lord ST. LEONARDS expressed great dissatisfaction, and objected, among other criticisms, that it virtually placed all the testamentary jurisdiction of the country in the hands of the Lord Chancellor. The bill, also, deprived heirs-at-law of rights which had belonged to them from time immemorial. The measure should have been more specific on the subject of compensation.—Lord LYNCHURST meant to have spoken against the bill, but on looking round the House he found that there was "just one-third of a peer to each bench;" and, as he did not care to address empty benches, he should reserve his observations for a future occasion.—Lord CAMPBELL said there could be no doubt that a change was requisite in the testamentary jurisdiction; the only question was how that change was to be effected. He must confess he was not at all satisfied with the scheme of the Lord Chancellor, which amounted to nothing more nor less than this—that every contested will cause was to become a Chancery suit. First of all, the matter would come before a Vice-Chancellor, who would direct an issue to be tried at common law; the cause would then come back to him, and he would have to say whether he was satisfied with the verdict or not. From his decision there would be an appeal to the Lord Chancellor or the Lords Justices, just as there is with regard to a Chancery case, and afterwards there might be an appeal to that House. He (Lord Campbell) hoped the bill would be referred to a select committee.—Lords WYNFORD and WENSLEYDALE having expressed some doubts with respect to the measure, the bill was read a second time.

### TRANSPORTATION BILL.

IN the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Sir GEORGE GREY postponed his bill on the subject of transportation and penal servitude for a fortnight, and at the same time announced his intention of proceeding with it immediately after the estimates.

### TESTAMENTARY COURTS (IRELAND).

IN answer to Mr. DEARY, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND stated his intention of bringing in a bill for the reform of the Irish Testamentary Courts during the present session.

### ENTRIES OF EXPORTATIONS.

IN answer to Mr. NEWDEGATE, Mr. WILSON said that, in the early part of August, 1855, a representation was made by the Chamber of Commerce of Hull to the Board of Trade, to the effect that they believed that there was great carelessness in entering the shipping of goods, and recommending that steps should be taken to make them more correct. In consequence of this representation, an order was issued by the Customs on the subject. The officer at the head of the statistical department, however, considered that the errors were on both sides and balanced themselves, and that, therefore, no injury was done to trade.

### THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Disraeli's amendment to the motion that the Speaker leave the chair to go into a committee of Ways and Means, was resumed by Mr. JAMES MACGREGOR, who supported the amendment. Ample scope for diminishing the expenditure existed. There was no necessity for maintaining the camp at Aldershot or Colchester, or for keeping in full force the manufactories erected for preparing the munitions of war. The amendment was a courteous one, and merely meant, "Take back your Budget."

LORD JOHN RUSSELL expressed great surprise at the attack made on the previous Friday night on the present Budget by Mr. Gladstone. Had it not been for that attack, and for the extraordinary approximation between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, he (Lord John Russell) might have been content to give a silent vote; but he now felt bound to say that he agreed in the main with the financial scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had had to grapple with no ordinary difficulties. From some of the details, indeed, he dissented. He objected to the retention of the duties on insurances and on paper; and he hoped that the proposed tea duty scale would be revised, as he thought the consumer would not get the advantage of the small reduction of twopence in the pound. He was desirous that the income-tax should terminate in 1860; but he did not see that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had opposed any obstacle to that result. He trusted that this might be regarded as a period of amity; that we were going to make peace with Persia; and that the foolish hostilities with China were on the eve of cessation. And, seeing that we had an alliance with France, which in 1848 was a matter of considerable doubt—seeing that we had made peace with the great power which was lately our enemy—he thought we were entitled to ask for peace estimates, and that those estimates should be the foundation of what in future years would be our establishment. (*Hear, hear.*)

MR. BENTINCK was not prepared to support either the Chancellor of the Exchequer or Mr. Disraeli, and moved that the debate be adjourned till the House had considered the Army and Navy Estimates in a Committee of Supply.—MR. MONCKTON MILNES thought Mr. Gladstone had been guilty of injustice to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—SIR JOHN TYRELL supported Mr. Bentinck's motion; eulogized Lord Palmerston's Government, which he thought had not yet made one mistake; spoke of Mr. Gladstone's attitude as "gladiatorial," and his speech on the previous Friday evening as "incomprehensible;" and hinted that he might be the author of the article on the state of parties in the *Quarterly Review*.—MR. WILKINSON and MR. JOHN PHILLIMORE supported the Budget.—MR. LIDDELL supported the amendment.—MR. WHITESIDE questioned the honesty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in changing the tea duty scale, in the face of the assurance he gave to a deputation which waited upon him that the reductions according to the existing law should be retained.—SIR FRANCIS BARING gave the Budget his cordial support, and said Mr. Gladstone had exhibited great want of clearness in his opposition.—MR. WALFORD was in favour of considering the expenditure before going into a Committee of Ways and Means. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had declined to say that the remission of the income-tax in 1860 was probable or possible, and that alarming prospect should induce the House to adopt the resolution. No Budget could be satisfactory to the country unless it secured the proper adjustment of revenue and expenditure, and the fulfilment of a pledge solemnly given. He thought, also, that the House should inquire whether some reduction of the present enormous expenditure were not possible.—MR. CAMPBELL opposed the amendment.—MR. MILNER GIBSON was of opinion that the Budget is of a reactionary character. His own opinion was that a fairly imposed income-tax ought to be permanent. Those who were in favour of large military expenditure and increased taxation would vote for going into committee; those who were in favour of economy would vote against that motion. For himself, he would vote against the motion.



for the Speaker leaving the chair; but, should that course succeed, and Mr. Disraeli's resolution be proposed, he must oppose that too.—Mr. NEWDEGATE was in favour of Mr. Bentinck's amendment.

Sir CHARLES WOOD was surprised at the reasons offered by Mr. Gladstone for supporting the amendment. He was also surprised at the excitement displayed by him when he used language towards the Chancellor of the Exchequer which it was hardly decent for one gentleman to apply to another. Mr. Gladstone had lectured them, and told the House that he would not allow them to go into Committee of Supply unless they were fettered and bound by the resolution of Mr. Disraeli to adjust the income and expenditure. He (Sir Charles Wood) denied that any compact was entered into in 1852 to abolish the income-tax in 1860, whatever the circumstances of the country might be, or whether it was at war or not. What the Government then proposed to do only rendered it possible for Parliament in 1860 to repeal the income-tax. Mr. Gladstone had acted upon the principle of Arthur Young with reference to the taxation of a variety of articles to a greater extent than the Chancellor of the Exchequer had done; and yet the right hon. gentleman turned round upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and said he had departed from the policy adopted for the last fifteen years, though he had merely done in a less degree what the right hon. gentleman himself had done in a greater degree. He denied the right of Mr. Gladstone to lecture them as he had done. With regard to the Estimates for the present year, he believed it to be impossible to reduce them more.

Mr. GLADSTONE explained that nothing could be further from his intention than to accuse Sir George Cornewall Lewis of intentional deceit and falsehood, as some had supposed.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the words of Mr. Gladstone had certainly conveyed to him the impression that he meant to charge him with making substantially deceptive statements.

The House first divided upon Mr. BENTINCK's motion for an adjournment of the debate, which was negatived by 477 to 25. A second division then took place upon Mr. DISRAELI's resolution; and this was set aside by 286 to 206.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that, if any objection were made to his proceeding with the resolutions on the income-tax, he should of course be ready to move that the chairman do report progress; but, if there were no objection, he would propose, with a view to the introduction of a bill, resolutions to the effect that for the next three years a tax of 7d. in the pound be levied on incomes of 150l. and upwards, and a tax of 5d. on incomes from 100l. to 150l.—The House having gone into committee, and the resolutions having been read, Mr. DISRAELI observed that, as the resolutions would, no doubt, lead to a discussion, he hoped the right hon. gentleman would not press them.—The House then resumed, and the chairman reported progress.

THE IONIAN SUBJECTS COMMITTEE BILL, and the PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPLEMENTAL BILL (1857), were read a third time and passed.—The House adjourned at one o'clock.

Tuesday, February 24th.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, after the ROYAL MARINE FORCES BILL had been read a third time and passed, the debate commenced on Lord Derby's motion with respect to

THE ATTACK ON CANTON.

The Earl of DERBY moved a series of resolutions condemning the recent hostilities in China. The *Iorchia Arrow*, he contended, was not a British, but a Chinese vessel, being owned and manned by Chinese. Whatever doubt there might be as to whether the English flag was flying at the time, or not, there could be none that the *Arrow* had no legal right to carry that flag; and Sir John Bowring had himself acknowledged, in two documents, that the English license had expired before the events which led to the hostilities. Yet Sir John had made a directly contrary statement to Commissioner Yeh—an act of insincerity which was the reverse of that straightforwardness which should always characterise the dealings of English officials. With respect to the claims of English subjects to free admission into the city of Canton, it was true that the treaty of 1846 conferred that power, and he had no doubt that here we were in the right, and the Chinese in the wrong; but it was a question whether it was politic to press our claim at that particular moment. In 1848 and 1849, the Government, on the authority of Sir George Bonham, had come to the conclusion that it was not expedient to assert our right to enter the city; and, in the latter year, Sir George issued a proclamation prohibiting the English from entering Canton. Sir John Bowring possessed a monomania on that subject, and he would run any risk to accomplish the privilege he so greatly desired; but the Chinese were not without apprehension of a collision with the English, should the latter enter Canton—a fear which was shared by Sir George Bonham. The correspondence between the Chinese and English officials in connexion with the *Iorchia* affair showed uniform courtesy and forbearance on the part of the former, and, with hardly an exception, disrespectful and arrogant menaces on that of the latter. Hostilities were resorted to with great precipitancy, and in a very short time the question of access to Canton made its appearance. The treaties which Sir John

Bowring accused the Chinese of shamefully violating had remained unfulfilled with the full acquiescence of our own Government. Lord Derby concluded by appealing to the Bishops to declare themselves strongly against an attack which violated every principle of religion. "If the Chinese unbeliever, to whom they described the maxims of their religion as maxims of forbearance and long suffering, should find them to be uncharitable, relentless, and bloodthirsty, he would say to them 'Away with your religion! I will act according to my own light. Your religion is worth nothing; your practice is in contradiction to your morals.' (Cheers.) The Chinese should be made aware that in the country from which the officials came who ill-treated them there is a high assembly, composed of the nobles of the land, and that they will stand up as the opponents of tyranny and injustice. (Cheers.) They should know that in that assembly there are men who are the guardians of religion, and that they especially rebuked those distant officials, and vindicated the character of the country from the consequences of an unchristian outrage. He looked to them with confidence not to leave a false impression upon the minds of ignorant people, but to stand forth as the defenders of humanity and of religion. He should deeply deplore if the representatives in that House of the Church throughout this empire uttered an uncertain voice on this occasion, or if by their hesitation they gave rise to the impression that their high and holy sanction was given to deeds of violence, which in their consciences they could not palliate. But, if he should be disappointed in his appeal to them, he would turn with confidence to the hereditary peers of England. (Cheers.) To them he would make an appeal, earnestly, humbly, and with confidence. He would ask them not to tolerate the capture of commercial vessels, the destruction of the forts of a friendly country, or the shelling of an undefended commercial city; and he would beg that they would not, under any consideration, give the sanction of their voices to the shedding of innocent blood, without warrant of law and without moral justification." (Loud cheers.)

Lord CLARENDON said Lord Derby had erred in describing the relations between England and China as pacific previous to this rupture. The Chinese had long sought to violate British rights acquired by treaty; and the state of things had become intolerable. The granting of licenses to ships the property of foreigners is constantly recognized, and is practised not only in China, but at Malta, Gibraltar, and Singapore, the legality being beyond a doubt. The *Arrow* had not forfeited her license, because the vessel was still at sea, and therefore still entitled to bear the English flag. Mr. Parkes was bound to do as he had done, and indeed he had acted with great moderation and discretion. The Chinese had no conception of international law; and it was therefore necessary to make them sensible of the law of force. Various measures had been adopted, but in vain, to induce the Chinese authorities to fulfil their treaty engagements. The Government, however, would have been content to let the question of the entry of the English into Canton remain in abeyance, if the affair of the *Arrow* had been satisfactorily arranged. Were we to be told that a British force sent out to a distant part of the world should see English lives and property jeopardised, and not interfere? (Hear, hear.) Yet the third resolution of his friend would be considered out there as an order to engage in no offensive operations; it would cause consternation not only in Canton, but on all our British residents in China; the position of every British resident would be one, not only of dismay, but of the greatest danger; and the result would be the probable renunciation of nationality, and allegiance to the English flag, to seek for safety with some foreign power. What the Chinese could do, the House had heard not long since. A missionary, after being tortured three days, was burnt to death, and his heart was roasted and eaten by the executioner. In conclusion, Lord Clarendon urged that the only instructions that could be sent out to the Admiral must be general instructions, or they would be of no use. If he waited for orders, the Chinese might spend the intervening four months in fortifications; and the result would be, that the opposing force which was sufficient at the time, would, after that interval, be useless. He trusted that their Lordships would not agree to the resolutions, which would cramp the hands of her Majesty's servants in China, and bring disgrace on our name and on our flag.

Lord LYNCHURST thought the recent proceedings could not be justified upon any principles, either of law or of reason. The *Iorchia* was not an English ship, and even had it been clothed with the privileges of an English ship as against ourselves, no law, ordinance, or register, could give those privileges as against foreigners. He concurred with all the sentiments enunciated by Lord Derby, and would cordially support his motion.—The LORD CHANCELLOR reminded the House that there was a treaty by which the Chinese were bound not to seize suspected criminals on board English ships without the intervention of the English consuls. An overwhelming amount of evidence showed that the English flag was flying at the time, and therefore the ship was beneath the protection of this country. The Chinese, consequently, had no right whatever to board the *Arrow*, which enjoyed a license within the prerogative of the Crown to grant.—Earl GREY, on the contrary, contended that the *Arrow* was not an English vessel; and he thought it

was a very dangerous thing to allow subordinate officers to resort to offensive measures without reference to the Home Government. As long as our policy towards China had been one of conciliation, we had succeeded; but the late outrage had been a scandal to Christianity. Should the resolution be carried, he trusted Sir John Bowring would be immediately recalled.—The Duke of ARGYLL said that the Government would hold itself responsible for the acts of its agents, and he argued that Sir John Bowring and the others had acted in accordance with the strictest right.

On the motion of the Earl of CARNARVON, the debate was adjourned to Thursday, and the House rose at twelve o'clock.

THE TEA DUTIES.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave notice of an Amendment on the tea duties—that a duty of 1s. 4d. shall be imposed for 1857-8 and 1858-9 (instead of 1s. 7d. and 1s. 5d.); and that in 1860 the duty shall fall to 1s., as proposed in the Budget.

STATUTE CONSOLIDATION.

In answer to Mr. APSLEY PELLATT, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that the statutes relating to masters and workmen had been consolidated by the statute law commissioners. The consolidation bill was now under the revision of that body, and he believed it would be brought in and laid on the table. He was not aware that there was any intention on the part of the Government to introduce any other measure on the subject.

GENERAL BEATSON.

In answer to Colonel DUNNE, Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said the court of inquiry into the charges against General Beatson would only be open to the parties concerned, and not to the public. It was simply a preliminary proceeding, analogous to the grand jury in civil cases.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

In answer to Mr. WILKINSON, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated that the Government had prepared a measure on the subject of joint-stock banks, which would be introduced by the Vice-President of the Board of Trade as soon as there was a probability of its being considered.

OUR REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM.

Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, in moving for a select committee to consider and report upon the most practicable means for lessening the existing inequalities in our representative system, and for extending to the unfranchised a share of political power, urged the necessity for this inquiry, and the reasons why the House should take the subject into consideration. Out of a population of 28,000,000, there being 5,500,000 adult males, only 1,000,000 are electors, and, among these, coercion and influence exert a restrictive effect. Besides the limitation of the franchise and the existence of nomination boroughs, there are inequalities in the system which call for correction. He cited various authorities in support of his views, and insisted that it is due to the people of this country that 4,500,000 adults should not be debarred from the elective franchise.—The motion was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD.—Sir GEORGE STRICKLAND said that, though an old reformer, he could not support this motion. It was mere waste of time to move for "a rambling and fishing committee," without a specific and defined purpose.—Mr. STAFFORD satirised the Government, and called on them to state when they expected the fitting season would arrive for a comprehensive measure of reform.—Mr. DUNCOMBE, like Sir George Strickland, regretted he could not support the motion, the objects of which were too vague.—Mr. W. J. FOX, in supporting the motion, observed that the very notion of representation included the reform of imperfect representation. That imperfection is the germ of agitation, the yielding to which is the worst system of policy, as it weakens the confidence of the people in their governors, subjects them to the influence of demagogues, and initiates them in all the tricks and arts of faction.—Lord PALMERSTON considered the matter of too great importance, and that it involved too many and material interests, to be thrown loose to the chance decision of a committee; it should be placed before the House in the shape of some definite proposition. He thought Sir Joshua Walmsley must see that the concurrence of opinion in the House was against his motion.—Admiral BERKELEY, Mr. LOCKE KING, and Mr. WARNER, spoke against the motion, which was negatived by 190 to 73.

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CARLISLE.

Mr. FERGUSON obtained leave to reintroduce his bill to appropriate the income of the first vacant canonry of the Cathedral Church of Carlisle to the augmentation of certain ecclesiastical incumbencies within the said city.

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAYS.

Mr. BENTINCK obtained a select committee to inquire into the causes of accidents on railways, and into the possibility of removing any such causes by further legislation.

THE CIVIL SERVICE (IRELAND).

Mr. DEASY called attention to the mode of conducting the examinations of candidates for admission into the Civil Service in Ireland; and moved that an address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to give directions to have such examinations conducted, as in England, by examiners whose charac-

ter, acquirements, and experience in examinations render them peculiarly fitted for the duty.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER expressed a hope that Mr. Deasy would not persevere in his motion. On a division, the motion was negatived by 44 to 35.

#### FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.

Mr. NAPIER called attention to the communications with her Majesty's Government respecting another Franklin expedition, and the urgent nature of the claim for a further and complete search. He also moved for papers.—Captain SCOBELL seconded the motion.—Admiral WALCOTT could not support the motion. He could see nothing upon which the slightest hope of success could rest.—Sir CHARLES WOOD concurred entirely in the opinions expressed by the previous speaker. As long as there was any chance or reason to hope that some of the survivors of the expedition might be found, successive Governments spared neither risk nor expense in fitting out expeditions in search of them. Upwards of 610,000*l.* had been expended in such expeditions. The Government had a painful duty to perform; but their conviction was, that there was no hope, and that they were not justified in risking more valuable lives. Neither did he think there was any chance of recovering the log-books or other documents.—After further discussion, the motion for papers was withdrawn.

The House shortly afterwards adjourned.

Wednesday, February 25th.

#### SEA-COAST FISHERIES BILL (IRELAND).

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. M'MAHON moved the second reading of this bill, which was opposed by Mr. FITZGERALD, who moved to defer the second reading for six months. The bill was also opposed by Mr. NAPIER, Mr. GEORGE BUTT, Mr. GROGAN, Mr. MEAGHER, Lord NAAS, Captain BELLEW, Colonel DUNNE, and Mr. O'FLAHERTY; and was supported by Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOWYER, and Captain SCOBELL.—Mr. M'MAHON having replied, and stated that his object was merely to make Irish fishermen as free as Englishmen to fish upon the high seas, the House divided, when the amendment was carried by 185 to 10; so that the bill is lost.

#### JUDGMENTS EXECUTION, &c., BILL.

The House then went again into committee upon this bill; but, after a division upon the first clause, adverse to the views of the framer, Mr. Craufurd, the Chairman reported progress, in order that that gentleman might determine whether he would proceed further with the bill.

The report upon SAVINGS BANKS was brought up, and agreed to.

The COMMONS ENCLOSURE BILL was read a third time, and passed.

Thursday, February 26th.

#### THE LAW OF LIBEL.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord CAMPBELL moved for a select committee to consider whether the privilege now enjoyed by reports of proceedings of courts of justice may be safely extended to reports of proceedings of the two Houses of Parliament, and of other assemblies and public meetings.—Lord WENSLEYDALE briefly supported the motion, considering that the present anomalous state of the law on the question renders inquiry into its principles necessary.

#### THE CHINESE DEBATE.

The adjourned debate on the Earl of DERBY's motion was then resumed; but the various speeches delivered did not add much to the arguments of Tuesday night. The contention again mainly turned on the assertion by the one party that the lorcha was not an English vessel, and on that of the other side that it was. In support of the motion, the House was addressed by the Earl of CAERNARVON, Lord ST. LEONARDS (who argued that, by the Imperial law, which no colonial ordinance can set aside, a vessel cannot be considered English unless owned by an English subject), the Earl of MALMESBURY (who waived the question of legality, but condemned our reprisals as excessive), the Bishop of OXFORD (who spoke from a religious point of view), and the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH (who said he believed that no insult to the English flag had been intended by the Chinese, and who attributed all the disasters to Dr. Bowring's monomania for entering China).—The motion was opposed by Lord METHUEN, Earl GRANVILLE, and Lord WENSLEYDALE, the last of whom argued that the distance from China is too remote to permit, in case of hostilities, of a course so dilatory as sending home to the Government for instructions, and who contended that the English flag was flying at the time, that the Chinese wantonly insulted that flag, that the vessel was to all intents and purposes an English vessel, and that, in point of fact, the license had not expired, it being a rule in such matters that, irrespective of any given date, the license is considered in force for the entire period of the vessel's voyage to and from its port.—The Government was also defended by the Earl of ALBEMARLE, who said that, if the Arrow was a lorcha, it was clearly not a Chinese vessel, for the Chinese possess no such vessels, and are forbidden to have them. The lorcha is a privileged class of vessel, which was introduced by the Portuguese and adopted by the English for convenience's sake. He was one of those who considered that this collision with Canton was inevitable. However, he was opposed to any attempt to establish regular diplomatic relations with China, such attempts having

always failed, with the Portuguese, the Dutch, and ourselves. He trusted the Government would deny a report that they were about to send an envoy to Peking.

On their Lordships dividing, there appeared for the motion:—

Content—Present.....	53
Proxies.....	57
	—110
Not Content—Present.....	71
Proxies.....	75
	—146

Majority against the motion ..... 36  
Their Lordships then adjourned.

The same question formed the subject of a long debate in the HOUSE OF COMMONS, where Mr. COBDEN moved—“That this House has heard with concern of the conflicts which have occurred between the British and Chinese authorities in the Canton river; and, without expressing an opinion as to the extent to which the Government of China may have afforded this country cause of complaint respecting the non-fulfilment of the treaty of 1842, this House considers that the papers which have been laid upon the table fail to establish satisfactory grounds for the violent measures resorted to at Canton in the late affair of the Arrow; and that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the state of our commercial relations with China.” In support of this motion, Mr. Cobden urged several considerations, of a nature equivalent to those contained in Lord Derby's speech in the House of Lords on Tuesday. We had picked a quarrel with the Chinese in a manner which would cause all the world to cry shame on us. The papers laid before the House gave only a garbled account of the affair, and contained trumped-up complaints against the Chinese. Letters had been received from Sir John Davis, testifying to the civility and inoffensive habits of the Chinese; while, on the other hand, the demeanour of Englishmen in foreign countries is too often haughty, violent, and selfish. He (Mr. Cobden) admitted our right to enter Canton, but thought it would be dangerous, the Cantonese being fierce, ungovernable, and hostile to the English. Sir John Bowring had frequently acted in opposition to the principles of international law, and even to the express instructions of his Government, during the Foreign Secretaryships of Lords Grey, Malmesbury, and Granville. Our quarrel was “a dirty” one, and he believed the American Government was opposed to it.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON seconded the motion.

Mr. LABOUCHERE, in opposing the motion, accused Mr. Cobden of libelling the character of English merchants; asserted that the conduct of the Chinese had become intolerable; denied that Sir John Bowring had acted in contravention of the orders of Lord Grey when that nobleman was in power; and maintained that the lorcha was English.—The contrary view was upheld by Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, who said that, since the treaty of Nankin, the regulations of the Government of Hong-Kong could not confer English privileges on the lorcha.—Mr. LLOYD DAVIES opposed the motion, which was also resisted by Sir JOHN RAMSDEN, Mr. GREGSON, and Mr. LOWE, the last of whom observed that the question was not merely one of legality, but of animus, and that the Chinese animus was clearly bad.

On the other side, Admiral HERBERT (who had served in China) was of opinion that the proceedings of the English were inconsiderate, and that, even if any offence had been committed, the punishment had been immeasurably excessive.—Sir ERSKINE PERRY believed that the motion was founded in truth; and Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that the hostilities ought not to have been entered on without a reference to the Home Government. A grave responsibility rested upon Ministers for sanctioning the course taken by Sir John Bowring and Sir Michael Seymour. The Government ought to say what are the demands which they have made on the Chinese authorities; and the House of Commons should declare that it will be no party to so great a prostitution of England's power as had taken place at Canton. Much had been said about the prestige of this country; but he had no wish to see it maintained apart from character, honour, and reputation.

On the motion of Mr. WARREN, the debate was adjourned to Friday.

Previous to the debate, some questions were asked of Government; among others, one on the subject of

#### DECIMAL COINAGE.

In answer to Mr. BEAMISH, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the commission to inquire into the expediency of adopting the decimal coinage was dated October, 1855, and the commissioners had held eighteen sittings. He had been in communication with the commissioners, and he had received in writing a statement bearing on the subject of their proceedings. They proposed to make a preliminary report to the Crown on the evidence they had obtained. He could not say, however, when this report might be expected.

#### THE MURRAIN.

In answer to Mr. STAFFORD, Mr. LOWE said his attention had been called to the reports of disease amongst cattle in Central Europe, and he had communicated with the Foreign-office, in order that information might be obtained from consuls on the subject. He had also communicated with the Customs to prevent diseased cattle from being landed, and the landing of a calf from

Rotterdam had been prevented, in consequence of its having the disease.—Mr. HENRY BAILLIE asked whether the importation of cattle from places where the disease existed would be prohibited for a limited period?—Mr. LOWE said the Board of Trade had no power to do so.

#### STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade of the manufacturing towns during the week ending last Saturday exhibited no alteration. At Manchester, the progress of business would be satisfactory but for the uncertainty caused by the high price of cotton. At Birmingham, the iron market is well sustained, and there is fair employment in all the other manufactures of the town. The Nottingham report describes continued animation both in hosiery and lace. In the woollen districts there has been increased activity at firm prices, and in the Irish linen markets the tendency has been towards a decline.—*Times.*

The general business of the port of London during the same week was small. The number of vessels reported inwards was 81, being 47 less than in the previous week; and the number cleared outward was 93, including 10 in ballast, showing a decrease of 13.—*Idem.*

The Board of Trade have issued an account of the Customs duties received during the past year as compared with the two preceding years. In every one of the thirteen principal articles an increase is exhibited. It is to be noticed that the sum raised from all articles beyond the thirteen specified is only 544,940*l.*, and the public will be surprised to learn that, according to a return lately obtained by Mr. Ewart, there are still 139 descriptions of goods held liable to duty which severally yield to the revenue a less amount than 10,000*l.* Out of these 139 there are 31 which do not bring in so much as 20*l.* each. From the figures for 1855, it appears that ammunition, essence of spruce, manna croup, and perfumed powder, contributed 1*l.* each to the national exchequer.—*Idem.*

There have been some failures among the Greek houses in the City—viz., Messrs. Franghiadi and Sons, with liabilities, principally on acceptances, for 80,000*l.*, and assets which show an apparent surplus; Messrs. Vuros Brothers; and Messrs. P. Sinanides and Co. The liabilities in the two last cases are not supposed to be heavy. Mr. J. Basilio, a Greek merchant of Manchester, has also suspended, as well as Fustana and Co., of Liverpool, with liabilities estimated at 60,000*l.*

#### THE GREAT COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

THE proprietors of the Lundhill pit held a meeting on the morning of Friday week, at which several persons from the surrounding districts interested in collieries attended by invitation, to consult on the best means to pursue for extinguishing the fire which had resulted from the explosion. Mr. Coe, Mr. Webster, of the Wombwell Main Colliery, Mr. Maddison, of the Hoyland and Elsecar pits, and some others, had gone to the bottom of one of the shafts, to investigate the state of the mine; and Mr. Webster gave to the meeting the subjoined account of the results of this perilous undertaking:—

“On getting to the bottom of the shaft, they found that the lower portion of the slides and broadgates were entirely blown up and destroyed, and on proceeding further they found the coal around the furnace was in a complete state of ignition. The coal and woodwork in the upcast shaft had taken fire, and the flames were raging furiously. He could compare it to nothing but to a stream of molten metal being poured down the shaft. They proceeded about two hundred or two hundred and fifty yards along the south level, and found the whole of the furnace down, and the coal on fire. They proceeded up the levels and broadgates as far as they dared to venture, until they came in contact with the foul air, and were obliged to retreat. They returned to the shaft, and then made an examination of the north levels, along which they proceeded for a distance of four hundred yards, up to the fourth broadgate. During the investigation they found many dead bodies, and the men who accompanied them brought the remains to the shaft. One man was found dead close to the bottom of the shaft; further on they found ten bodies in a mass. Not far from the furnace it was supposed that a large number of bodies were lying, as the men generally congregated near the fire at dinner time. The furnace was blown down, and the stables (containing six horses) were on fire. When they got near the upcast shaft they saw immense masses of coal and rock falling down. The shaft was like a furnace. The difference in the state of the fire when he entered the pit and when he left it was very great. They were in the pit above two hours. The stoppages and brattices between the two shafts were completely blown away, and, therefore, except in the level, the pit was dead—i. e., full of bad air. They would have succeeded in putting up stoppages, but the fire increased to such an extent that they were obliged to retreat. They were so placed that if they had not retreated they would have been excluded from the air and suffocated, because the air was ‘backing’ direct from one shaft to the other. He, Mr. Coe, and Mr. Maddison ascended the shaft and held a consultation; but their companions ascended in haste, saying that it was impossible for any one to remain down any longer. Of course they then considered it their duty to acquaint the owners



with the position of the mine, and to state that it was imperative to close the shafts, as there was no probability of saving any more lives, and that it was the only chance to render the pit in a condition fit for working in again. He consulted with the men who had gone down with them. They were called in separately, and asked if they were of opinion that it was impossible to get any more bodies out of the mine. They concurred with them, and they acted upon their resolution and their own by covering over the tops of the pits. In a few minutes after they left the mine, the cupola shaft was filled with fire, which reached fifty yards above the summit, and the sparks from that body of flame ascended one hundred yards higher." Mr. Morton, the Government Inspector, said that was very strong evidence that they had nearly remained too long. Other gentlemen concurred in the conviction that the mouths of the pit had not been stopped up till every chance was over of the men below being still alive; and also that the measure was necessary as the only means of staying the progress of the fire.

The proprietors of the pit have given 500*l.* towards a subscription for the relief of the wives and families of the men who have perished. Other sums from various wealthy persons have also been received. The heat from the pit began to diminish on Friday week, and this continued on successive days.

An inquest was commenced on Monday, and adjourned to that day week. The principal witness was John Warhurst, one of the firemen, who gave some additional particulars of the visit of Mr. Webster and the others to the bottom of the pit after the accident. He said:—"We found fifteen or sixteen bodies in all, but only removed about half of them to the bottom of the shaft. We did not remove them all to the bottom, because we were afraid the shafts would fall in. I went to the cupola and found the fire burning about twenty-five yards each way, and I went and told the other persons that the furnace would fall in. Indeed, I saw the arches of the furnace and some masses of burning coal fall from the sides of the drift leading to the furnace. I expected that if we remained we should all be killed, and the other men were of the same opinion. I saw the stables on fire. We could not get to both ends of the stables, for the gas fired in the lamps about thirty yards up the north board. We went up every board, both north and south, as far as we could get. We found inflammable gas up every board. The greatest distance we got up any board was about forty yards."—The Coroner: "Can you form any opinion as to the cause of the accident?"—Witness: "I cannot form any opinion, unless it be that some trapper had left a door open in one of the boards. But this is a mere supposition."

It is doubtful when it will be thought safe to reopen the pit.

Steam has been forced into the pit, to facilitate the extinction of the fire. The number of bodies still in the pit is one hundred and eighty-two. "Anecdotes of painful interest," says a communication from the spot in the daily papers, "keep coming to light in connexion with the shocking affair. A story is told of a man named Simmonds, who came to the bottom of the pit during the period of the explorations on Thursday, but, being delirious from the gas he had inhaled, broke away from the men who endeavoured to hold him, and ran into the dangerous part of the pit, where he perished. Among the victims is also a young man, the son of respectable parents residing near Holmfirth, who left home, and, after pursuing a career of recklessness, was driven by want to work at this pit, where he had just been discovered by his parents. He had promised to return home on Saturday evening."

#### ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

The eight A.M. Dover express train met with an accident last Saturday, which was fortunately unattended with any injury to passengers. The break-van next the engine left the road about one mile below Headcorn station, and the last six vehicles in the train became soon after detached by the breaking of the coupling. The engine kept on the line. The van and five carriages that remained attached to the engine suffered no damage, but the others were overturned, and are considerably broken. All the passengers reached London in safety about two hours and a half after time.

A shocking railway accident happened at Southampton on Monday. Just as a London goods train was slowly starting, a breaksmen signalled the train to return for more waggons. In getting on the line to couple the additional waggons to the train, his foot got between the rails where a slanting commenced, and he could not extricate it before the train came upon him, knocked him down, and nearly cut him in two.

A man employed at the Bow Alum and Tar Works, Stepney, fell from a plank placed over a copper of boiling tar, which he was crossing, and became immersed in the scalding liquid. He was extricated and conveyed to the London Hospital, where few hopes are entertained of his recovery.

Mr. Favell, coroner, concluded on Monday a long inquiry at South Shields into the cause of the death of Francis Maese, who was killed, and three other seamen badly injured, by an explosion of gas coal on board the

Prince Philippe, of Ostend, as she was leaving the Tyne for Trieste. The explosion has done extensive injury to the vessel, and the evidence proved that it was occasioned by the mate, Eugene Kestile, taking a lantern into the forehold, at which the gas exploded. Eugene is fearfully burnt, and Maese and Jacob Holstein, another seaman, were blown over the vessel's foreyard into the Tyne. The coals with which the vessel was laden were of a very fiery nature. The hatches were closed; ventilation was impeded; and a light carburetted hydrogen was created, which took fire. The jury returned a verdict that the death of the seaman had been caused by the explosion.

Earl Fitzhardinge was thrown from his horse last Monday while following the fox-hounds in Berkeley Vale, Gloucestershire. The injuries he has received are said to be serious.

While a man of weak intellect named William Smith was willowing cotton and wool together, in the teaser, or willow room, of a mill at Kirkheaton, the friction of the machinery ignited the cotton. Smith drew the burning cotton out of the machine and threw it upon a mass of wool and cotton lying by, which was thus ignited. The flames spread with great rapidity, and, before they could be extinguished, damage to the extent of about 2000*l.* was done. The charred and burnt body of Smith was found crouched behind some oil-casks.

Miss Maitland, daughter of Captain Maitland, the commander of the gunnery ship Excellent at Portsmouth, has been thrown from her horse, and received some severe fractures of the arm. She is going on favourably.

About half-past ten o'clock on Thursday morning, the whole of the extreme eastern portion of the metropolis was startled by a terrific explosion at the fog-signal factory of the Eastern Counties Railway, adjacent to the works at Stratford. Only two of the workmen were in the building when the catastrophe took place; these were a labourer and a lad. They were engaged in the process, it is supposed, of packing the signals, when the latter exploded. The roof and walls of the building, which was of substantial brick, were blown into fragments. Several of the company's workpeople were immediately on the spot, and search was made for the persons who were known to have been in the factory. The remains of the lad were found sadly mutilated. The body of the man was also much disfigured. Both were, no doubt, instantly killed. The corpse of another sufferer was also found. It was that of a blacksmith, living at Stratford. He was in the act of crossing a field on the opposite side of the line when the explosion occurred, and he was struck on the head by a piece of brick; and killed on the spot. Some other persons were injured.

#### IRELAND.

**A DIFFICULT AND COURAGEOUS ARREST.**—The police have just effected an arrest under very extraordinary circumstances, which remind us of some of the exploits of freebooters in former times on the Scotch border. The details are thus given by the *Kilkenny Moderator*:—"A warrant has been out since last September against John Fitzpatrick, of the Slate-quarries, in this county, for a felonious assault on a deaf and dumb girl; and he has ever since baffled the police, although frequently hunted through the counties of Waterford, Clare, Tipperary, and Kilkenny. However, constable Crowe, of the Slate-quarry Constabulary station, acting on private information as to the delinquent being at work in his father's quarry, a distance of about two miles from the barracks, laid an admirable plan for his capture, and subsequently carried it out with success. The quarry is on an eminence, from which all approaches are visible for a considerable distance, so that no policeman could come near the spot unobserved by one on the look-out. The constable sent two men in plain clothes by a circuitous route to place themselves at a given point on the Tipperary side of the quarry, and two more, similarly attired, by another devious path, to place themselves also at a specified place at the Kilkenny side of the quarry; while he himself with two men in uniform, fully armed, proceeded from the barracks direct. The moment the latter party came in view, an alarm was given by a woman, posted for the purpose, on which Fitzpatrick started off towards the county of Tipperary, pursued by the police from the three points, those at the Tipperary side being close to him; but he soon left all behind except sub-constable Burke, between whom and the outlaw the race entirely lay, both taking their fences in sporting style, for a run of about two miles across a 'stiff country.' After a time, Burke was closing on his man, who, like a jaded fox, made one desperate effort to escape by leaping into a river, with a view to cross it; however, Burke also sprang in, and secured his object until the constable and his party came up, handcuffed, and brought off the prisoner. On the march to barracks, a formidable mob of quarrymen collected and gave evident signs of an inclination to rescue, when Crowe ordered his men to load and fix bayonets, and told the mob to disperse, as the slightest approach to an attempt to rescue would be instantly followed by a deadly discharge of musketry. This had the desired effect; and on Saturday Mr. Hanna, R.M., committed Fitzpatrick to the county gaol for trial at the next Assizes."

**THE IRISH VICEROYALTY.**—A rumour prevailed during part of last week that it was the intention of Government to abolish the Viceroyalty; but the report was denied by the Lord-Lieutenant himself at a banquet given by the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

#### AUSTRALIA.

The official opening of the new Parliament at Melbourne took place on the 25th of November, with a great deal of state and ceremony. The day was observed as a general holiday, and the streets were hung with flags. Dr. Palmer, the former Speaker of the Legislative Council, has been re-elected to that position, and Dr. F. Murphy has been elected Speaker of the Assembly. His Excellency the Governor delivered a kind of royal speech to the Houses, in the course of which "he pointed out that it would be their constant duty to watch the operation, and to amend the defects, of the fundamental law from which they derived their existence and powers. The circumstances under which the charter was prepared and granted rendered it likely that many changes would be necessary; but he should only call upon them to adopt those which actual experience demonstrated were necessary. While he would not recommend a recasting of the electoral division of the country until the results of the census, proposed to be taken during the summer, were ascertained, their attention would be drawn to the patent imperfection and inequality of the electoral franchise, and they would be asked to extend the basis of the suffrage, and to amend the law regulating the registration of electors. He should submit to them a measure founded on the same principle as that adopted by the Home Government, for the reorganization of the civil service, by which the admission to the junior grade of the ordinary civil service would be determined by competitive examination." His Excellency afterwards touched upon various topics of social interest, and then retired. An address, coinciding with the proposals and recommendations of the Governor, was afterwards carried unanimously.

"Melville, the man concerned with other convicts in the attempt to escape from the convict guard, in the course of which two men were murdered," says the *Times*, "has been condemned to death. His fellow-prisoners were acquitted. Melville, after being sentenced, delivered a long harangue on the horrors and cruelties which the convicts had to suffer daily. His address has gained him many sympathizers, though the evidence showed him to be an atrocious villain of superior ability."

The supply of gold from the diggings continues to be excellent, and a great trade is expected to spring up in a mineral called "black sand," which appears to contain a large proportion of platinum and tin. Trade is reported as being in a healthy condition.

#### THE ORIENT.

##### CHINA.

The steamer America, from Alexandria, which arrived at Trieste on Wednesday, has brought a few items of news from the far East. No change had taken place in the position of affairs in China. The Chinese had made an unsuccessful attempt to retake Tea Totum Fort. The Europeans on board the steamer Thistle, in all eleven persons, had been treacherously murdered by assassins in disguise among the native passengers. The steamer was carried off, and abandoned after being dismantled. The Government of Hong-Kong had increased the police force, and were taking precautionary measures against incendiarism. Prices of tea had advanced, and freights were depressed.

The Mandarin, Syh, Governor of Shanghai, has died suddenly. The lower classes of the population attributed his death to the Europeans, and serious disturbances were apprehended; but the presence of the English and French ships, and the energy of the commandant of the Tartar troops, who co-operated with them, had the effect of maintaining tranquillity.

##### PERSIA, &c.

The intelligence from Bushire is to the 17th of January. The troops were still unmolested by the enemy. An attack had been made by a detachment of cavalry and horse artillery on a depot of Persian stores and ammunition twenty-two miles from the camp. The object was attained without loss. The despatch of reinforcements had been commenced, and the Government had opened a new Five per Cent. Loan for three crores. The Bank of Bengal had raised its discount to eleven per cent. on private bills.

#### AMERICA.

Congress has rejected the Dallas-Clarendon Treaty, by recommitting it to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Various statements are given as to the extent of the majority. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Journal of Commerce* says that the opposition was mainly directed to one point—"the large boundaries which Great Britain, or rather Lord Palmerston has heretofore claimed for the Mosquito kingdom, and which may be claimed again under the present treaty, as the senators understand it." Another authority states that

great dissatisfaction was excited by the adoption in the treaty of what is called "the Wilnot proviso." This proviso is incorporated in the convention with Honduras, and stipulates that, inasmuch as slavery does not now exist in the Bay Islands, it shall never be introduced there, but shall be perpetually prohibited. The determination arrived at by the Senate is said not to be conclusive against the bill in an amended form. The Committee will communicate with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in order to decide upon some modifications to be proposed to the English Government, which, it is thought probable, will agree to them. Against the assertions on the part of American papers that the treaty has been rejected, we may place a statement by our own Government organ, the *Morning Post*, that those assertions are erroneous, and that the Senate has passed a favourable vote.

In the House of Representatives, the Senate's Submarine Telegraph Bill has been committed to the Post-office Committee by a majority of twelve. The Tariff Bill has been discussed without any result. It is reported that the naval committee of the Senate have prepared a bill authorizing the construction of an armed steamer of 500 tons burden, for the protection of American commerce from piratical attacks in the shallow waters, creeks, and rivers of China, and asking an appropriation of 120,000 dollars for that purpose.

The schooner Jane T. Glover has been seized at New York on a charge of being fitted out as a slaver.—Several large fires have occurred at various parts of the Union.

The frost is over; but the breaking up of the ice on the rivers has caused great damage. Bridges have been carried away, ships driven from their moorings, houses submerged, and several persons drowned, as at present supposed. Several slips, also, have occurred on the railways.

The report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Charges of Corruption at Washington is very soon to appear. The correspondent of the *New York Times* has been released from custody.

The inquiry into the murder of Dr. Burdell was not concluded on the starting of the last steamer; but nothing important had been added to the evidence. There seemed to be every probability of the suspected persons getting clear off, owing partly to a defect in the evidence, partly to the gross mismanagement of the coroner, who, though he has abandoned his indecent jesting, has exhibited so much blundering incompetence that the indignation of the citizens is loudly excited against him. According to the *New York Times* correspondent of the *Times*, this clumsy official "put the whole family [of the Cummings] into close confinement, as witnesses; as such they applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*, in the return to which he specified Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham as being detained as accomplices, charged with the murder. By order of the Superior Court, all the witnesses, except these two, were released; but these chief witnesses, being charged into principals, of course immediately took other ground, and by the advice of their counsel, on being brought up for examination, refused to answer any questions. The blunder will most likely be fatal to the case. Their testimony, whatever it might have been, is lost, and, as principals or accessories, the evidence against them is only presumptive, hardly amounting to circumstantial."

There is but little additional intelligence with respect to Walker. "As it was reported," says the *Times* New York correspondent, "that among Walker's recruits detained at Punta Arenas, unable to ascend the river, there were some British subjects very willing to abandon the enterprise (they had been induced to join in total ignorance of the state of affairs), Captain Erskine, of her Majesty's ship *Orion*, the senior officer on the station, sent Captain Cockburn, of the *Cossack*, on shore, to offer them protection if they chose to quit. Captain Cockburn proceeded to the quarters of the detachment, and Colonel Lockridge, its commander, at his desire mustered the recruits. The offer of protection was read to the men, and twelve immediately stepped out and claimed it, and were taken beyond the reach of intimidation, under protest from Walker's officer."

It has been asserted, in the course of the trial of some people accused of enlisting troops in the state of New York for military service in Central America, that President Pierce had a pecuniary interest in lands and colonization in Nicaragua. Several witnesses spoke to this, and the assertion produced a great deal of indignant feeling; but the retiring President, through the Attorney-General, the Hon. Caleb Cushing, has given a flat denial to the imputation.

The difference between the Mexican and Spanish Governments (according to a letter from Cadix) has entered a new phase. After having exhausted all means of conciliation, Señor de Sorela, Minister of Spain, has demanded his passports, quitted the city of Mexico, embarked on board the *Perla* frigate, and anchored in the bay of Vera Cruz, which has been placed at his disposal by General Concha, Captain-General of Cuba. Great preparations are being made in Spain for a vigorous commencement of hostilities.

In the New York money market, there has been a quick demand, and nine to ten per cent. was readily paid on call loans.

## CONTINENTAL NOTES.

## FRANCE.

COLONEL OUSELEY, Professor of Persian, and interpreter of that language to the East India Company, has arrived in Paris from London. He has brought despatches for the British Ambassador, whom he is to assist in his conferences with Ferukh Khan, which are to be resumed on Monday. It is said that the British Government, besides the Island of Karrack, demands authority to found an establishment on the Island of Ormus, and to establish depôts of coal on several points of the Persian coast. Letters received from Teheran almost all speak of the fact of a recent treaty between Russia and Persia. The only difference of opinion among the writers is as to the terms of the treaty.—*Times Paris Correspondent*.

The *Moniteur* publishes the text of the treaty of friendship and commerce concluded between France and Persia on the 12th of July, 1855. One of the three consulates which France will henceforth have in Persia will be at Bender-Bushire; and a Persian consul is to reside in the French colony established on the Isle de la Réunion in the Indian Ocean.

The *Leader* of last Saturday, together with several other London weekly newspapers, was seized in France, on account of the comments on the Emperor's speech to the Legislative Assembly—exacerbated, probably, in our case, by the letter from M. Louis Blanc.

The *Constitutionnel* has a semi-official article denying the allegations made by Mr. Disraeli as to the "secret treaty" between France and Austria. The Convention was signed, and France engaged to employ its efforts "to maintain order in Italy" on the condition that Austria should declare war against Russia. Austria did not declare war, and the object of the Convention ceased to exist. The Convention was not executed, had no duration, and is, in fact, a dead letter.

M. Thiers has definitively declined to come forward in the approaching election for Rouen, or any other place, notwithstanding very pressing invitations from the Rouennais. The historian is said to have expressed himself highly pleased with the allusion to his work in the Emperor's speech on the opening of the Legislative Chambers. Louis Napoleon has sent him a very flattering letter.

## SPAIN.

The elections are being conducted by the Government with every species of illegality. Electors are prevented from voting on the merest caprice. Among others, the vote of Señor Olozaga was refused.

## RUSSIA.

The *Caucase* of Tiflis gives some account of an expedition of the Russians in the Great Tchetchnia, for the purpose of opening with the hatchet a passage through the forest of Maïourtoupe, which is considered one of the greatest obstacles to the conquest of the territory of the Tchetchenes. This feat they accomplished (notwithstanding the opposition of Schamyl), with the loss of eight men killed and twenty-five wounded.

Russia, in conjunction with Persia, is projecting the establishment of a railway from Tiflis to Teheran.

A strange incident has just created great indignation at Moscow. A dispute took place in one of the leading salons between Count B— and a very old professor of history in the Moscow University, the subject being Sir Robert Peel's remarks on his Russian journey. The Count took the side of Sir Robert Peel, and the professor expressed his astonishment that a Russian could do so. The altercation ended with a sudden onslaught of the Count on the old man, whom he threw down and trampled upon, inflicting such injury upon him before the bystanders interfered, that the professor's life is despaired of.

## PRUSSIA.

The Government has been defeated in the Chamber of Deputies upon its proposal to alter the constitutional law by shortening the interval between the two readings of any bill to ten days, it being at present twenty-one.

## AUSTRIA.

The rumours which have been for some time current in the financial world, relative to a new loan by Austria, have now assumed a more definite form, and some details of the projected measure are even given. The amount, it is said, will be 150 millions of florins; the interest five per cent., and the capital reimbursed in fifty years by periodical drawings. The titles will be for 250 florins, divisible into fifths. It is thought that they will be issued at 90.

The Archduchess Sophia of Austria has presented a very magnificent jewelled breast-pin to a Mr. William Bernard McCabe, an Irish gentleman, who recently published a work in which he showed the early connexion of the German Empire with Lombardy.

The Emperor and Empress intend to leave Milan on the 5th of March, and to be back in Vienna on or about the 15th.

The Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian has accepted the Governor-Generalship of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. He will hold extremely full powers; will be dependent on the Emperor alone; and will communicate with him direct, instead of (as usual) through the ministers.

The Imperial presence is still regarded by the Milanese nobility with extreme coldness, many of them keeping

aloof from the Court. Some grand balls which their Majesties intended to give during the carnival have been abandoned, out of a fear that the spacious state apartments might be ill filled.

The Austrian passport system is about to be greatly simplified.

## TURKEY.

The Armenians who inhabit the Ottoman Empire, and who form a community of about 3,000,000 people, have resolved to appoint a special agent at London and Paris to protect their interests. Their choice has fallen on a member of the family Duz, one of the most influential Armenian families throughout the East.—*Times Paris Correspondent*.

Rifaat Paşa is dead. He leaves a fortune of 25,000,000 piastres. Messrs. Baltazzi have granted a loan of 10,000,000 piastres to the Porte. Kabouly Effendi has been proposed for President of the Divan *ad hoc*, which is to meet at Jassy. Kiamil Bey is designated to fill the same office at Bucharest. Admiral Lyons has officially announced his proximate departure. Two vessels have already left for Malta. A new landing of Russian troops has taken place at Balfruck, on the shore of the Caspian Sea. It is reported that warlike stores have been forwarded in the direction of Teheran.

## ITALY.

Sir James Hudson, the English Ambassador to the Court of Turin, conferred the Order of the Bath, on the 17th inst., on six Piedmontese officers who distinguished themselves in the Crimea.

Count Buol, it is said, has addressed an energetic note to the Sardinian Government, protesting against the "licence" of the press in Piedmont. A rupture between the two Governments is feared; but it is not thought that there will be any hostilities.

The *Italia e Popolo*, one of the Republican journals published at Turin, has ceased to exist.

Domiciliary visits continue at Naples, and the public feeling has been shocked by a case exhibiting more than usual cruelty and oppression. Antonio Salvi, supposed to be a natural son of the Prince de C—, a well-known devoted adherent of the King, was found one day lighting a match, by which he intended to kindle his cigar, in the royal stables at Caserta, where he was employed. It was immediately supposed by the frightened servants that the youth intended to set fire to the stables. He was beaten and dragged before the Commissary of Police, who struck him on the face, and nearly knocked him down. He was asked where he got the match, and replied that it was given to him by one of the grooms of the Count d'Aguilar, the King's brother. The groom was sent for, but denied the imputation, probably from fear. The youth was accordingly conveyed as an incendiary to Naples, thrown into a dungeon, and put to the torture. He was beaten till his body, in the words of a writer from Naples, "presented one huge wound." The object was to wring from him a confession of accomplices; but, of course, this was a species of information which could not be given, as no "accomplices" existed. The Prince de C— did all he could to effect the poor youth's release; but, so far from succeeding, his house was visited by the police, under suspicion that he was concerned in the imaginary incendiarism. What wonder that, with these mortal hatreds of his tyranny being engendered day by day, the King should still remain shut up at Caserta, under a black cloud of fear and wretchedness? It is said that he is even afraid of his own brothers, and still more of his son, the heir to his crown.

The writer of the letter from Naples, from which the foregoing facts are derived, gives another instance of Government rascality:—"The heritage of the sons of the Duke of Malisto-Sambieze is disputed by the Messanelli family, much favoured by, and very faithful to, the Court. The sons of the Duke have for their advisers the three best members of the Neapolitan bar, Stavace, Minesvini, and Vignoli (ex-Minister of 1848). It is said that some of the judges do not conceal the fact of the heirs of Malisto having right on their side, but as among the heirs to the property is the Duke de San Donato Sambieze, one of the three or four members of the high aristocracy of Naples who joined the revolution and fought on the 15th May—who is now in exile, and who has written an admirable pamphlet on the actual condition of the Two Sicilies,—the Court leaves nothing undone to induce the judges to decide against him, and on behalf of the favourites of the King."—An advocate has been banished the kingdom for reading the *Civiltà Cattolica*, a religious journal, and the organ of the Jesuits. The police define the reading of any newspaper to be a deadly offence.

An address to the King, signed "The Army," has been twice circulated. It sets forth that the military in 1848 co-operated with the King in the suppression of "exaggerated demands," on the understanding that there was no intention to abolish the "spontaneously conceded" constitution. "But now eight long years have elapsed, and all is tranquil in the kingdom, and nothing prevents your Majesty from finally giving new life and vigour to the Constitution already granted and sworn to. This is the desire, more or less concealed, of us all, now that the army has at length acquired a knowledge of itself. Let your Majesty consider what



Europe must say of us, that, when another Italian army has covered itself with so much glory, we are only kept in guard over our brethren, who in every point desire what we desire, that which brings general prosperity, and hence also the prosperity of our families. Now that cries are uttered everywhere in behalf of this unfortunate people, must we point at their breasts our bayonets and our swords? and can such a state of things long continue? Your Majesty will certainly provide, according to reason and prudence, for the future; this, we repeat, it is the desire of the whole army, which wishes to preserve its honour and its conscience, but does not think it can do so as long as your Majesty refuses to satisfy the common desire."

Some citizens of Modena and Reggio have presented Count Cavour with a medallion. On one of its faces is stamped the effigy of the President of the Sardinian Council, round which is inscribed—"To Count Camille de Cavour, Modena and Reggio," and on the other a group of allegorical figures, representing the towns of Modena Reggio, to which Piedmont, armed, is extending her hand, and under which are the words, "*Quod Deus conjunct, homo non separet.*"

## GREECE.

The Senate has rejected the financial arrangement concerted with the protecting powers. The Ministers, having deliberated thereon, communicated the opposition of the Senate to the representatives of those powers.

## OUR CIVILIZATION.

## THE WORKHOUSE SYSTEM.

A POOR MAN, named Frederick Taylor, appeared before Mr. Selfe, at the Thames office, to make a complaint against Mr. Kirsting, one of the relieving officers of the Stepney Union. He stated that he had been out of employment for six months, and was in very great distress, and his wife was far advanced in pregnancy. He had applied to Mr. Kirsting at the Ratcliff Workhouse for a midwifery order, and told him that he could not afford to pay for a doctor, and his wife's accouchement was expected hourly. He was directed to call again in the evening, which he did. Mr. Kirsting then said he could not give him the order, as it was not an urgent case. He also asked Mr. Kirsting for a little relief, and told him that he and his family were without bread. Mr. Kirsting refused him any relief, but said he must come again on the following Monday (it was then Thursday), and in the meantime he would visit his family. The officer, however, had not been to him, and he was in continual expectation that his wife would be taken in labour. Mr. Selfe caused inquiries to be made, and the result was that the chairman of the Board of Guardians attended, and expressed his disapproval of Mr. Kirsting's conduct. The magistrate, who observed that he often heard of cases from the Stepney Union which "stirred his blood," gave the man five shillings from the poor-box.

Two old men, named Campbell and Bethell, inmates of St. Saviour's workhouse, preferred a charge at the Southwark police court against Millbank, the porter of the Union, whom they accused of ill-using and violently assaulting them. Campbell, who seemed to be about sixty, and who trembled excessively, apparently from illness and want, stated that he had formerly carried on the trade of baker and confectioner, which he had been compelled to give up in consequence of a severe attack of palsy. One night, about a week ago, feeling extremely ill and faint from want of nourishment and shelter, he went to the Union workhouse and requested admittance. After waiting two hours, the porter at length admitted him, and (according to the man's statement) put him to sleep in a miserable bed. On the following morning, when Millbank and another man came into his room to tell him to rise, he complained of being ruptured, and begged that the doctor might be fetched. Millbank told him that this was all nonsense, and that he must get up; and at the same time he forcibly dragged him out of bed, while his companion struck him several violent blows, from the effects of which he was still suffering, and almost tore off the little clothing that he had on him. He had since voluntarily left the workhouse, partly in consequence of this ill-treatment, and partly owing to the very scanty quantity of food he had been supplied with while he remained at the Union. The other complainant, William Bethell, made a very similar charge against Millbank, who, he said, had scarcely given him any bread with his bone soup, and, when he complained to the master, Millbank threw him down stairs, and so severely injured him, that the blood gushed from his ears. The porter entirely denied the statements of the two old men, the latter of whom had but a short time previously been sentenced to a week's imprisonment from this court, for disorderly behaviour in the workhouse, and, on the present occasion, had threatened to strike with a red-hot poker the man who kept the workhouse bread. A counter-charge was likewise made against Campbell, whom Millbank denied having used, while he was in bed, in the manner he described. He had merely searched him on hearing him rattle some money, and, when the man said

he was ruptured, he told him to wait until the doctor came, instead of which he left the place. Mr. Burcham said that the charges against Millbank had not been proved, and he must therefore dismiss the case.

## A BURGLAR SHOT BY A CLERGYMAN.

The residence of the Rev. Mr. Nodder, near Ashover, Derbyshire, was broken into about a week ago by two men, supposed to belong to a gang of burglars infesting the neighbouring county of Nottingham. Mr. Nodder's house is situated in a lonely and secluded spot, at the distance of half a mile from the village. It happened that, about one or two o'clock in the morning, Mrs. Nodder was awakened by the cries of her baby, who slept in a cot in the same room with herself, and, while attending to it, heard a low, slight noise, which she thought at first was occasioned by her husband poking the fire in the room adjoining. She therefore took no heed of it, but presently afterwards heard the same noise again, and, looking through her bedroom window, saw a man standing close to the casement. Mrs. Nodder thereupon hastily withdrew, and, catching her child up in her arms, rushed out of the room, and closed the door, which she afterwards fastened on the outside. In the meantime, several panes of glass, and a portion of the framework of the window, were broken, and two men entered the house, having climbed to the window of Mrs. Nodder's room, by means of a ladder which they had taken from the stackyard. A Miss Heely, niece of Mr. Nodder, who slept in a room adjoining, which the thieves subsequently entered, was so alarmed, that she got out of the window of her apartment into the yard, fell a height of fourteen feet, and ran in her night-dress to the rectory-house in the village, three-quarters of a mile distant. Mrs. Nodder, after securing the door of her bedroom, went into that in which her husband slept, and aroused him, on which he got up and armed himself with a pair of loaded horse-pistols, with which he threatened to shoot the burglars, who had by this time succeeded in forcing the door of Mrs. Nodder's room and gaining the outer passage. The men, nevertheless, broke open the door, which had likewise been previously locked by Mrs. Nodder, and one of them walked into the room, when, after a little parleying, Mr. Nodder fired one of his pistols, and shot him in the abdomen. The thieves fled directly, and effected their escape by jumping into the yard from a window adjoining the one by which Miss Heely had already retreated. No traces of them could be discovered at the time; but a short time afterwards, a butcher, travelling from Kirkstow to Chesterfield market, overtook a man lying by the roadside, who was severely wounded, and who was probably the burglar shot by Mr. Nodder. This person the butcher took into his cart, and drove to Chesterfield, whence the wounded man rode by omnibus to the railway station, and there took a ticket for Derby.

The wounded burglar has been tracked to a house where he lived, and been arrested in bed. He is badly hurt.

Miss Heely, the young lady who escaped by the window, and who was much hurt, is recovering.

THE MORMONITES AT CHESTERFIELD.—Several Mormonites were baptized by night a few days ago in the river Rother, just outside Chesterfield. The scene is described as having been most disgraceful. The men were naked, and they walked down to the river side through rows of women, some of whom were waiting their turn to be dipped by the "priest," who stood in the middle of the stream. A great deal of indecent jesting went on, and he banks echoed with shouts of laughter. This ceremony was conducted by the light of a few candles stuck into the mud by the river side.

THE GAROTTE.—A garotte adventure is thus narrated in the *Times* by the sufferer, a Mr. T. H. Lea:—"I had occasion on Tuesday evening last (the 17th inst.) to cross the neighbourhood of Hampstead-Heath. I therefore proceeded well armed on my journey, keeping my eyes on the alert. I had gone about half the distance when I was startled on perceiving a lantern about twelve yards in advance of me, with the rays directed full on my body. I immediately pulled a revolver from my pocket, and advanced towards the light. I had, however, only time to step about a couple of yards when an arm was thrown tightly round my neck, which caused me great pain, at the same instant the lantern disappeared, and I felt a violent blow on the head. I remember no more after this till finding myself lying on the ground experiencing an uncomfortable sensation in my throat. The money which I had about me—viz., two 5*l.* notes and some silver, with a gold snuff-box—had been stolen."—Lieutenant Brent, of the Royal Marines, was attacked, on the night of Thursday week, in the High-street, Chatham, by three men, one of whom seized him by the throat from behind. The lieutenant, however, escaped from his grasp and had a severe struggle with the men, one of whom he secured, and the two others have been since apprehended. During the struggle, one of the men got possession of Lieutenant Brent's watch.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION.—Three inquests have been held at the London Hospital on the bodies of men who have died from destitution. Two were workmen;

the third was a Malay seaman. The jury expressed great indignation at the closing of the casual relief ward of the Whitechapel workhouse.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.—Frederick Goodwin, a boy who pleaded Guilty of throwing a brick at an express train on the London and North-Western Railway, has been sentenced to three months' hard labour, the first and last weeks to be solitary. This was a mitigated sentence, on account of the boy's years and of this being a first offence. The full punishment would have been two years' imprisonment.—William Britton and Alfred Wheeler, the two boys convicted, on the evidence of an accomplice, of robbing a beer shop in the neighbourhood of St. John's Wood, have been sentenced to twelve months' hard labour each. [This case was erroneously referred, in our last week's impression, to the Central Criminal Court, which was not sitting, instead of to the Middlesex Sessions.]

CRUELTY TO GIRLS.—An inquest has been held at Dawlish, Devonshire, on the body of a girl, aged fourteen, who was alleged to have died through the ill-treatment which she received from her father, a shoemaker, named Newberry. The coroner's jury did not consider the evidence sufficient to justify them in returning a verdict of manslaughter, but requested the coroner to censure Newberry for his conduct to the child. Since then, the magistrates for the division have caused him to be apprehended; and last Saturday, after hearing evidence, they committed him for trial at the ensuing Assizes on the charge of manslaughter.—Mr. Walker, the haberdasher in the neighbourhood of Shoreditch charged with cruel neglect and ill-treatment of his orphan niece, was finally examined by the Worshipful-street magistrate on Wednesday, and discharged, Mr. D'Eyncourt observing that he did not think an indictment could be supported. At the same time, he highly reprobated the man's inhumanity.

A GANG OF BURGLARS—consisting of two men and two women, who are supposed to have been concerned in several recent robberies—were arrested on Friday week in a house at the foot of Chatham Lines. One of the women has been set at liberty on becoming an approver; the rest are committed for trial.

ASSIZES.—The Spring Assizes of some of the provincial towns have opened this week. At Appleby, three young men have been tried for night poaching, and for an attack on the gamekeeper of the Earl of Lonsdale. They were found Guilty, but recommended to mercy by the jury, on account of their youth. Two were sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and the third to four months.—John Jackson has been found Guilty at Carlisle of uttering a forged 5*l.* note, and was sentenced to transportation for fifteen years.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT BY A TAX-COLLECTOR.—Mr. J. Cope, recently collector of taxes at Darlaston, has been committed for trial on a charge of obtaining money from several persons on pretence of its being due for land-tax. He was admitted to bail.

ROBBERY AT EDINBURGH.—The shop of a jeweller and optician at Edinburgh was broken open in the course of the night of Friday week, and property to the amount of nearly 1500*l.* was carried off.

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO POISON A MOTHER.—Catherine Speed, an exceedingly ugly young woman, of such dwarfish stature that her head barely reached the top of the bar, was charged at Bow-street, on Tuesday, upon suspicion of having administered to Catherine Speed, her mother, a dose of twenty grains of antimony, with intent to poison her. The mother was a lodging-house keeper in Grafton-street East, and was seventy-seven years of age. The daughter lived with her, but they were not on very friendly terms, and it was alleged that the accused put the antimony into the mother's beer. Considerable sickness ensued, but no mortal result was feared. The case was adjourned.

PROCURING ABORTION.—A gentleman of large property, named Joseph Hoggood, who was once in practice as a surgeon, was charged before the mayor and magistrates of Tiverton on Monday with administering to Mrs. Craze, the widow of an ironmonger of the same town, and for whom the accused was acting as trustee, a noxious drug, with intent to procure abortion. It was admitted by Mrs. Craze that before and after her husband's death she had had criminal intercourse with Mr. Hoggood. She had herself requested him to give her something which would induce abortion, and he gave her two pills; but they were not of a noxious character. Nevertheless, he was committed for trial; but bail to the extent of 1000*l.* was accepted.

SEVERAL BURGLARIES have been committed within the last few days in Yorkshire.

THE HOMELESS POOR.—The Lord Mayor, accompanied by some other gentlemen connected with the City, has been again inquiring into the night accommodation provided for the homeless poor of London. On Monday night they visited the Refugio Playhouse-yard, Whitecross-street. Here they found between five and six hundred men, women, and young persons, including infants, housed for the night. These individuals receive half a pound of bread on their admittance, and the same amount when they leave in the morning. The visiting party then proceeded to the City of London Union at Bow, where they found only nine persons in the ward for the reception of the casual poor. It was

admitted by the officials that large numbers that evening had applied for admission, but, not having an order from the relieving officer in Fenchurch-street, they could not be taken in. The distance thus necessary to be traversed is about three miles.

**THE DOUBLE MURDER AT WALWORTH.**—Another examination of Bacon and his wife took place at the Lambeth police court on Wednesday, when the chief additional witnesses were, Mr. Wendover, an assistant at an ironmonger's shop in Bishopsgate-street Without, who said that Bacon purchased a chaff-knife of him on the 24th of last December; and Mr. Dixon, a tailor at Stamford, to whom Bacon went on the 4th of January (after the murder), and asked him to repair his trousers, which he said had been torn by accident. "While doing it," continued the witness, "he asked me if I recollected having made a great-coat and other things for him a long time back; but I told him I never recollected having made a great-coat for him at all. He then said, 'You must recollect it; it was a sort of rough coat.' I replied that I could not call it to mind, upon which he said, 'You will be sure to be called about those clothes—a great-coat and a suit of clothes, which were stolen from my house on the day of the murder, with 7*l.* in money and a watch.' I saw him again on the same evening on the platform at the railway station, as he was going to London by the train, and he then said, 'You will do what I ask you? It will be doing me a great kindness, and will do you no harm.' Shaking hands with me, he said, 'You will do so, and say nothing to any one.' What he wanted me to do, was to say I had made the clothes that had been stolen. He said, 'If they find the clothes, there will be no marks about them to swear they belong to me.'" While saying these things, he was in a state of the utmost excitement, and could scarcely hold a limb still. He showed Mr. Dixon the picture of the two dead children, and said, "Who would ever think that my wife could murder two dear children like these?"—Both prisoners were again remanded for a week.

**ATTEMPTED MURDER.**—An attempt has been made to murder one of the warders in Reading Gaol by a prisoner, one Gorman, a ticket-of-leave man. The warder was struck heavily on the head with a piece of wood; but another prisoner succeeded in overpowering the ruffian.

**EXTENSIVE BURGLARY IN THE CITY.**—Information has been given to the police of an extensive burglary on the premises of Messrs. Tegg and Co., booksellers, Queen-street, Cheapside. Property to the amount of several hundreds has been carried away. The burglars, no doubt, were concealed on the premises, as no forcible entrance was made.

#### GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

**HENRY MILWARD WEST**, a sorter in the General Post Office, has been examined at Bow-street, and committed for trial, on a charge of stealing a letter containing two shillings. It appears he had previously stolen a book which was being transmitted through the post.

A "swell mobster," named Henry Moore, well known to the police as an old offender, is under remand at the Marylebone police-office, charged with attempting to extort money from a gentleman's footman. The man had gone into a public-house in the New-road, where Moore and some of his companions came in, and wanted to sell the footman some necktie pins; but he refused to purchase, saying he had no money. Moore then offered to lend him money, but this he also declined. One of the men next drew forth some nuts, and requested the footman to pick up one, which he did, whereupon Moore said to the other sharper, "Now you are a witness that I lent him a sovereign upon the throw, and that he has lost it." The footman then left, but was followed by the sharpers, who said they wanted the sovereign, and Moore asked the servant where his master kept his plate, which of course the other refused to reveal. Moore then threatened to knock his brains out with a stone. The men tracked him home, and waited outside the house, and the footman, being frightened, gave them a sovereign; but, a constable coming up shortly afterwards, Moore was charged and taken into custody. He admitted that he had received the sovereign, and produced it, but he violently resisted being apprehended. Flash notes and cards were found in his possession. The case was adjourned for further evidence.

Two pawnbrokers have been fined each forty shillings and costs, by the Worship-street magistrate, for advancing money upon property pledged by a little girl who had robbed her father. The law inflicts a fine upon any pawnbroker receiving goods from a person apparently under sixteen years of age.

The Southwark magistrate was engaged last Saturday for several hours in investigating charges of a very serious nature against two of the wealthiest hide merchants and glue manufacturers in the district of the court. Four labourers were charged with stealing upwards of eight hundredweight of hide-pieces from the premises of Mr. Arthur Waring, hide merchant, Spa-road, Bermondsey; and Messrs. James Proctor and Alfred Bevington appeared on summonses charging them with receiving the same from one of the prisoners, knowing them to be stolen. In the latter part of January, Mr. Waring

closed his yard owing to the severe frost, and Tobin (one of the accused) was among the men he discharged. He was seen afterwards leaving Mr. Waring's premises with bundles of hide-pieces, but the persons who saw him believed he was still in employ. On the 29th and 30th of January, he hired a cart of a greengrocer, living in the Spa-road, and conveyed a number of bundles of hide-pieces from Mr. Waring's premises to Messrs. Proctor and Bevington's, hide merchants and glue manufacturers, in the Grange-road, to whom he sold them at a much lower price than the then market value. The defence was that Messrs. Proctor and Bevington believed the transaction to be *bona fide* and honest, and that the regular price had been given for the pieces. The case, however, was sent for trial, and the members of the firm were held to bail to appear and answer the charge at the sessions.

An action has been brought at the Lancaster Spring Assizes (which commenced on Thursday week) for an assault committed by one of the county magistrates on another. A difference of opinion occurred between the four magistrates officiating at the Haslingden Petty Sessions respecting the renewal of a public-house license to a woman whose husband was in a lunatic asylum. The plaintiff (Mr. John Hoyle) and another magistrate were in favour of renewing the license; the defendant (Mr. Ralph Holden) and the fourth magistrate were against it, on the ground of the woman having allowed some men to toss in her house for a pot of beer. The fourth magistrate, being the senior and the chairman, gave the casting vote; on which Mr. Hoyle observed that he saw no more harm in two poor men tossing for beer than in a magistrate tossing for the price to be paid for some of his land. Mr. Holden asking for an explanation, Mr. Hoyle said he alluded to him (the defendant); and it would seem that he also used very abusive language, and shook his fist in Mr. Holden's face. The latter then struck Mr. Hoyle with his stick, and knocked him down, causing him to faint with the pain. The defence rested on the great provocation received. The jury gave a verdict for Mr. Hoyle; damages, 40*s.* The Judge refused to certify for costs.

Some petty gambling transactions between two clerks were revealed in an action in the Court of Queen's Bench, brought by a young man residing with his mother at Fulham, to recover 20*l.* 11*s.* for money lent and paid for the use of the defendant. The defendant pleaded various pleas, and amongst them one that 8*l.* 11*s.* of the amount was won by gambling. Mr. Serjeant Ballantine said that the plaintiff and defendant were formerly fellow clerks in the Law Union Fire Insurance Office, and that the present action arose out of some gambling transactions between them. He proved the plaintiff's case by the production of two I O U's, one dated July 7, 1855, for 8*l.* 11*s.*, and another dated August 10, 1855, for 12*l.* Mr. Hawkins, for the defendant, complained that the plaintiff had not been called to explain the transactions. The defence was, as regarded the I O U for 8*l.* 11*s.*, that it was given for a gambling debt incurred by losses in playing at cricket and billiards at Chalk Farm, and by a bet against the Lord of the Isles, a horse which won the 2000 Guineas Stakes at Newmarket. A defence was also set up against the remainder of the claim. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for 12*l.*, considering that the other I O U was given for a gambling debt.

Mr. Edward Holmes Baldock, M.P., was summoned at the Westminster police-court on a charge of assaulting William Hulman, a man in the employment of Mr. Sparkes Hall, the Queen's bootmaker. Hulman was with his master in his dog-cart on Saturday, February 14th, when they observed Mr. Baldock talking to Lord Newport, in Halkin-street, Belgrave-square. A dog was standing by, which Mr. Hall thought had once belonged to him; and he and Hulman got out of the chaise, and requested to be allowed to look at the animal. Mr. Baldock said the dog was his; but Mr. Hall still exhibited some doubt, and expressed a wish to examine the dog. Hulman then stooped down and began looking at the collar; when Mr. Baldock struck him with his cane. The injury, according to the man himself, was serious; but a medical gentleman, to whom he went some four or five days afterwards, said the bruise was but slight. After this assault, Mr. Hall demanded Mr. Baldock's card, but it was refused. A policeman was then spoken to; but he would not take the gentleman into custody. Mr. Hall subsequently called at Mr. Baldock's house, when he refused to give an apology. The tradesman was again assured that the dog was Mr. Baldock's; but he expressed incredulity, though, at the examination before the magistrate, he admitted that very likely the dog did belong to its present owner. The magistrate thought the charge was a slight one, and that Mr. Hall had acted very improperly. He inflicted a fine of two shillings and costs; in all, four shillings.

An old man, named William Wilson, was charged at the Bow-street police-office with obtaining money from Lord Rokeby under false pretences. Early in January, Wilson called on his lordship with a letter, purporting to be written by a woman whom he (Lord Rokeby) had formerly known, named Louisa Duke. The letter contained a very piteous tale of the writer's present circumstances, and stated that the bearer, Mr. Wilson, although he was himself very poor and had a large

family to keep, had greatly assisted her in her troubles, and had saved her from going without a dinner on Christmas-day. The note also said that the writer was only just recovering from a severe attack of paralysis, and that she knew not how to pay her rent, her landlord having threatened to turn her out; and though she was well aware that she had no claim on Lord Rokeby, she hoped that he would help her in her destitute condition. As Lord Rokeby fully believed the contents of the letter, every word of which was confirmed by Wilson, who pleaded Mrs. Duke's cause with great earnestness, his lordship handed him 5*l.* for her relief. He called upon Lord Rokeby again on two subsequent occasions, bringing with him each time a letter from Louisa Duke, written in a very similar strain to the first, informing his lordship that the writer's health was growing daily worse and worse. The second time, his lordship gave Wilson 3*l.* more for Mrs. Duke; but, on the occasion of his third visit, having previously entertained some suspicions as to the nature of the case, he desired the man to meet him at a particular hour on a certain day, at the Wellington barracks. One of the letters being dated from Felix-street, Lambeth, Lord Rokeby went there to make inquiries, and learned that no one of the name of Louisa Duke lived there. He therefore communicated with Sir Richard Mayne, who sent a couple of detective officers to the Wellington barracks. Wilson met his lordship at the appointed time, when the latter told him he had ascertained that no such person as Mrs. Duke lived at the place mentioned in the letter. Upon this, Wilson confessed the fraud, and offered to repay Lord Rokeby the 8*l.* if he would not prosecute him; but he was given into custody. The magistrate was about to commit the accused for three months; but, a police inspector in court having said that he believed he could bring forward other charges of a similar kind against him, he was remanded.

William Darley, a boy about thirteen years of age, and dwelling with his mother in Star-street, Commercial road East, was brought before Mr. Yardley, at the Thames office, charged with stealing a 50*l.* Bank of England note; and Morris Lipman, a Jew, and described as a general dealer of Petticoat-lane, Whitechapel, was charged with feloniously receiving the note, well knowing it to be stolen. The money belonged to the boy Darley's mother, and the lad took it to another boy, named Sharp, who told him the note was for 50*l.*, Darley believing it was only a 5*l.* note. Sharp then disposed of the note to the Jew, Lipman, who it would seem gave only 2*l.* for it. A great familiarity with thieves' slang and with thieves themselves was exhibited by Sharp, who was only fourteen years of age. The accused were remanded for a week.

A case arising out of the Sadleir frauds was tried in the Court of Exchequer on Tuesday. Mr. Ginger, the plaintiff, a farmer at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, sought to recover damages from the defendant, Mr. Law, for an alleged fraudulent representation as to the value and condition of certain shares in the Tipperary Bank as an investment, and the honesty of a prospectus and balance-sheet relating to the same, on the faith of which the plaintiff had purchased forty of such shares. The representations of the defendant were treated in the second count as the foundation of a contract for the breach of which the plaintiff sought to recover the purchase-money, amounting to 500*l.* A third count was for money had and received. The defendant pleaded not guilty; a denial of the allegation that the plaintiff was induced to buy the shares through his representations; and never indebted as to the money count. Mr. Ginger, in his evidence, swore that he bought the shares under the belief that they were old shares, not a new issue. It appeared that the Tipperary Bank issued certificates of shares in blank; and Mr. Kelly, the manager of the bank, said, in his cross-examination:—"The books showed a capital of 100,000*l.* paid up. John Sadleir owed 120,000*l.* to the bank, which was treated as capital. At the meeting of 1856, a prospectus was put forward with the names of the additional directors. I spoke to him about it, and he said he had their authority. The whole was a fraud concocted between James and John Sadleir." A consultation between the counsel on both sides finally led to an agreement, one of the terms of which was an undertaking on the part of Mr. Law to refund to the plaintiff and all the other English shareholders the sum received by him by way of commission, and for the transfer stamps which never were used. The Chief Baron then directed the jury to find a verdict for the defendant. Both Judge and jury expressed their strong disapproval of the practices resorted to by the Tipperary Bank.

The case of Smith v. Lakeman, which had already occupied the Court the whole of three days, was resumed in the Court of Queen's Bench on Thursday morning. It was an issue directed to be tried by the Lord Justices of Appeal in Chancery, and the questions of fact raised for the decision of the jury related to the genuineness of certain documents which disclosed the state of accounts between the parties, who had been jointly engaged in extensive mining and railway speculations. At a previous stage of the case, the facts were laid before our readers. The jury now found for the defendant on all the issues. Lord Campbell fully concurred in the verdict.



## NAVAL AND MILITARY.

**A COURT MARTIAL** assembled on Saturday on board the flagship *Impregnable*, 104, in Hamoaze, to try Lieutenant Ross, of the steam-sloop *Conflict*, on charges preferred by Commander Cochran for neglect of duty and for absenting himself without leave. The first charge was partly, and the second fully, proved; and the Court adjudged Lieutenant Ross to be severely reprimanded, and to be placed at the bottom of the list of lieutenants for two years.

**SWANSEA HARBOUR.**—It is the intention of Government to fortify the harbour at Swansea by mounting two heavy guns on the salient angle of the east pier.

**PROPOSED CRIMEAN MONUMENT.**—A large meeting, presided over by Mr. Pye Smith, the Mayor, was held at the Town-hall, Sheffield, on Monday, to adopt measures for the erection of a monument to perpetuate the memories of the soldiers—natives of Sheffield and neighbourhood—who fell in the late war. The movement originated with a body of working men. Having obtained the approval of Miss Nightingale, a deputation went to London and obtained an audience at the Horse Guards with the Duke of Cambridge to solicit him to lay the first stone.

**DESTITUTE SOLDIERS' WIVES.**—Writing to the *Times* on the subject of the destitution around the camp at Colchester, which was recently brought before the notice of Parliament, Dr. Martin Duncan says:—"It will surprise those who imagine that the soldier is being made a respectable, moral, and religious member of society, when they are assured that more than a hundred and thirty soldiers' families were, at the commencement of the late severe weather, utterly destitute of proper clothing and bedding, and nearly starving; that, had it not been for the charity of their officers and of the townspeople, they would have perished; and that even now, if the benevolence of those who visit these unfortunates be relaxed, the same result would ensue."

**DAMAGE TO SHIPPING ON THE COAST OF PORTUGAL.**—The weather had been very boisterous on the coast of Portugal. During the night of the 11th inst. several small vessels broke their cables in the Tagus, and were driven on shore; many of the large vessels received very serious damages, and so did the lighters and shore boats. Among the vessels wrecked on the coast, advices had been received of the total loss at Sines of the English schooners *Nimroud*, W. G. Tucker, of which one man perished, on the 9th, and the *Queen of the East*, Wm. King, on the 10th. These two vessels had left Lisbon in ballast on the 5th, and were taking in cork for England. Near Faro, the *Redbreast*, of Liverpool, Alexander Ross, had been driven on shore on the 11th after losing her masts at sea, as also three of her crew. She was bound from Cadiz to Liverpool, with a cargo of sherry wine, of which it was expected part would be saved.

**THE CRIMEAN COMMISSIONERS.**—The Edinburgh Town Council has unanimously carried a motion "that the Council resolve to present a petition to the House of Commons, praying them to take measures for marking the sense which the public entertain of the important services rendered to the country by Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch, in their inquiry into the causes of the disasters that befel our troops in the Crimea, and in the valuable report submitted by them to Government."

**SHIP LAUNCH.**—A fine vessel, named the *Suffolk*, of 1022 tons register, was launched from Money Wigram's ship-building yard, at Northam, near Southampton, on Thursday. She is intended for the Australian emigration trade, and will be commanded by Captain Martin, late of the *Essex*.

**WRECK OF THE MADRID STEAMER.**—The Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer *Madrid*, with the outward Peninsular mails, struck on a rock on the 20th inst. while entering the harbour of Vigo, but all on board were happily saved. No particulars are yet received.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE COURT.**—Prince Albert, on behalf of the Queen, held the first levee of the season, on Thursday afternoon, at St. James's Palace.

**JUDGE OF THE SOUTHWARK COUNTY COURT.**—Mr. C. S. Whitmore, Q.C., of the Oxford Circuit, and Recorder of Gloucester, has been appointed Judge of the County Court of Southwark, in the room of Mr. G. Olive, who has been elected member for Hereford.

**ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.**—The official declaration of the poll at Maidstone give the numbers at the late election thus:—Martin, 3557; Riddell, 3149: majority for Martin, 408.—The Colchester election has ended in the return of Mr. Rebow. The numbers stood thus:—Rebow (Liberal), 563; Miller (Conservative), 462; Havens (Radical), 7.—A petition is in course of preparation against the return of Mr. Weguelin, M.P. for Southampton, on some technical ground of an adjournment having taken place at one of the polling booths for half an hour on the day of election, and two other booths having been pulled down a few minutes before four o'clock.

**MEDICAL RELIEF TO THE POOR.**—The board of directors and guardians of the poor of Marylebone has resolved to abolish the present resident medical staff

(which consists of very young men), and to appoint a non-resident senior medical officer to take the medical treatment of the poor, and to supply the drugs; this gentleman to have under him a resident medical officer and a dispenser; the whole to be done by contract. Against this alteration, the Marylebone Representative Council has carried a motion, after considerable discussion.

**THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY COMMITTEE.**—The House of Commons committee on this subject has commenced its sittings. The only witness examined on the first day was Mr. Ross, who had been Solicitor and Attorney-General for Upper Canada, and Speaker of the Legislative Council. He was in favour of the retention of the Company's privileges, which he thought are not inimical to colonizing; but he was of opinion that much colonization, implying tillage, would prevent the territory being used as hunting ground.

**FIRE IN TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD.**—Between three and four o'clock on Monday morning, an extensive fire broke out in Tottenham-court-road, at the chapel known by the name of the *Tabernacle*. The conflagration originated at the eastern side of the building in the boys' schoolrooms, and was caused by the overheating of a pipe-stove. The flames made such rapid progress that they reached the roof of the building before anybody was aware that it was on fire, and the whole of the immediate neighbourhood, as well as the country for many miles round, was illuminated by the glare. Engines from various stations were obtained as speedily as possible; but the roof of the chapel being completely burnt through, fell in. The belfry was entirely gutted, and many of the monuments and fittings of the chapel were greatly injured before the flames could be extinguished. The building, which was insured, was one of the first chapels erected by Whitfield, the celebrated Methodist clergyman, and therefore possessed an historical interest.

**MR. HUMPHREY BROWN, M.P.** for Tewkesbury, has been presented with a piece of plate by some of the inhabitants of that borough, who believe that he has been wrongfully judged in connexion with the Royal British Bank.

**AN HISTORIAN'S MISTAKE.**—The Lord Justice Clerk, in the Second Division of the Court of Session at Edinburgh, has given a decision in the case of an appeal against a judgment of Sheriff Alison, the historian. The Sheriff had made a singular blunder, which we have related at full in our leading columns; and to these we refer the reader for the particulars of the case.

**THE PERSIAN AND CHINESE WARS.**—Meetings for the purpose of protesting against these wars have been held during the week at Southwark, Hereford, Leominster, Worcester, and Eversham. At the last four places, the chief speaker has been a Mr. O'Neill, of Birmingham.

**MR. SERJEANT WILKINS** is dangerously ill.

**FALSE ALARM OF FIRE.**—An alarm of fire, entirely without cause, was raised last Sunday evening at the Brompton Oratory, where Cardinal Wiseman was preaching. A great rush towards the doors immediately took place, and the women and children made loud outcries; but the congregation were at length reassured, and resumed their places without any accident happening.

**A FACT FOR GEOLOGISTS.**—We hear that Mr. W. R. Brodie has been successful in discovering in the Purbeck beds in Dorsetshire Bay, what Sir Charles Lyell states to be three new genera of the oolitic mammals.—*Salisbury Journal*.

**THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.**—The sixth annual meeting of the Association for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge was held on Wednesday evening at St. Martin's Hall. The attendance was very large. Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P., took the chair, and the other speakers were—Dr. Epps, Dr. John Watts, Mr. Herbert Ingram, M.P., Mr. Serjeant Parry, and Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P. Several resolutions, with a view to the abolition of the tax, were unanimously carried.

**FREE EMIGRATION TO THE BRITISH COLONIES.**—A meeting, convened by the British Workmen's Association, was held at the Great-hall, Broadway, Westminster, on Tuesday evening, in favour of this object. The chair was taken by Mr. Neale Porter; the hall was crowded to suffocation by the working men of the locality, and the meeting was of a most orderly and unanimous description. Resolutions in accordance with the desired result were unanimously passed; and Mr. Henry Drummond, M.P., who was present, said he had never heard in the course of his life an hour and a half of such good speaking; and this was because the speakers had uttered the real feelings of their hearts.

**MR. WILLIAM HOWITT** has been recommending in the *Times* that Government should send out the unemployed labourers to Australia, where their work is wanted, and would be paid for at very high rates.

**THE TEA DUTIES.**—A deputation from Hull on the subject of the tea duties had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer last Saturday, at his official residence in Downing-street. The deputation was introduced by Mr. Clay, M.P., and Mr. W. J. Seymour, M.P.

**THE INSOLVENCY OF MR. ALARIC WATTS.**—Mr. Watts, on Monday, petitioned under the Protection Act. Two creditors opposed in person. The insolvent's debts are about 600*l.*, and the insolvency is attributed to the payment of former debts. He is in receipt of a

pension of 100*l.* a year from the Crown for services rendered to literature, and, until recently, he had a salary of 75*l.* per annum as clerk to the Special Commissioners of Income-tax; but by his insolvency he has forfeited that appointment. The creditors asked that some portion of the insolvent's income might be set aside for the gradual liquidation of the debts; but Mr. Commissioner Phillips declined to make any order, as the pension of 100*l.* formed the only source of income to the insolvent, who has to maintain a wife and daughter.

**A BRITISH BANK BANKRUPT.**—An examination meeting took place in the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday, in the case of Edmund Goddard, provision dealer, of 103, London-wall, 3, Old Jewry, 161, Fenchurch-street, and 17, Aldgate. The case is one in which the bankrupt's liabilities as a shareholder in the Royal British Bank had compelled him to have resort to the court, his estate being otherwise perfectly solvent. He was allowed to pass.

**THE BROADSTAIRS BOATMEN.**—Mr. Croskey, the United States Consul at Southampton, has received from the Life-saving Benevolent Association, New York, a letter enclosing 45*l.*, to be distributed among the families of the nine men who perished in the lugger *Victory*, while endeavouring to rescue the crew of the American ship *Northern Belle*, wrecked near Ramsgate in the early part of January. The medal of the association will be sent to each of the men who eventually succeeded in saving the Americans, as soon as a correct list of names shall have been received at New York.

**THE SCOTTISH FREEHOLD MOVEMENT.**—A meeting of members of Parliament who supported Mr. Locke King's motion for the extension of the county franchise in England was held on Tuesday, at the King's Arms Hotel, New Palace-yard, Westminster, for the purpose of hearing the explanation of a deputation from Scotland, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Begg, Baillie Grieve, and Mr. Duncan McLaren, on the subject of extending to Scotland the forty-shilling freehold franchise of England. Mr. McLaren was in the chair, and Mr. Cobden moved one of the resolutions. The proceedings were very successful.

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—The total number of deaths registered in London in the week that ended last Saturday was 1243. In the first week of this month, the deaths rose to 1368; with a warmer temperature during the succeeding two weeks, they have been on the decline. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1211; and, in order that the deaths of last week, which occurred in an increased population, may be compared with the average, the latter should be raised by a tenth part, in which case it will become 1332. The result of the comparison is favourable as regards the present state of the public health.—Last week, the births of 975 boys and 904 girls, in all 1879 children were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1592.—*From the Registrar General's Weekly Return.*

**THE VICTORIA CROSS.**—The *London Gazette* of Tuesday contains a list of names of those who are to be honoured with the Victoria Cross—the first who have yet received it. The recipients range from Commanders to common sailors and privates in the army.

**GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA.**—The Imperial Geographical Society at St. Petersburg is preparing the publication of a geographical dictionary of the dominions of the Czar.

**THE MANCHESTER ART EXHIBITION.**—Prince Albert has appointed the 5th of May for his state visit to Manchester. On that day, therefore, the opening of the Exhibition will take place.

**THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE CASE.**—We understand that the judgment of the Committee of Council in the case of the Knightsbridge churches will probably not be delivered until next May.—*Union.*

**THE BUDGET CONDEMNED.**—The Liverpool Financial Reform Association, at their last meeting, unanimously condemned the Budget of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a retrogression from free-trade principles.

**THE SUNDAY LEAGUE IN NEWCASTLE.**—An immense meeting on the Sunday question was held in Newcastle-on-Tyne on Saturday. The Rev. J. H. Rutherford appeared as the advocate of the religious party. After three hours of debate, a petition in favour of the objects of the Sunday League was enthusiastically carried. There were but six dissentients, and the proceedings terminated with three cheers for the League.

**A NEW COMET.**—The *Phare de la Manche* of Cherbourg of the 18th inst. states that a very brilliant comet was seen there on the previous evening in the west. It had no tail, but appeared to be surrounded by nebulous rays of light.

**THE REV. G. C. GORHAM**, says the *Western Times*, lies hopelessly ill.

**THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.**—The affairs of this bank again came before the Vice-Chancellor last Saturday, when Mr. Giffard, in completion of the evidence already given, read an affidavit of Mr. Humphrey Brown, M.P., stating that he had been a director of the bank from February, 1853, to February, 1856, and that during that period it had been the practice of the company not to require any formal assent of the directors to transfers of shares. No actual directions had been given to the officers of the company on the subject, but a non-adherence to the terms of the charter in this respect had been, in point of fact, acquiesced in. Mr. Glasse, in

reply, relied upon the evidence of Paddison, the secretary, and the transfer clerk, as conclusively establishing the fact, that the practice was to require the assent of the directors to be given. The affidavit of Mr. Brown was not sufficiently explicit to maintain this evidence. The Vice-Chancellor asked to be furnished with the evidence, and reserved his judgment.

Mrs. ALLSOP again appeared before the Marylebone magistrate on Wednesday, when she was subjected to further questioning, and her answers strengthened the opinion previously entertained that her statements were not in accordance with truth.

**STRIKE AT THE BIRKENHEAD DOCK WORKS.**—The 'navvies' employed by Messrs. George Thompson and Co., the eminent contractors, in carrying out the works for the deepening of the Great Float at Birkenhead, have struck. The men assert that their work is too arduous for the pay they receive.

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF A CRIMEAN HERO AT PRESTON.**—An unsuccessful attempt at suicide was made by Mr. Heath Heyland Chanter, late senior ensign in the 57th Foot, in the public streets of Preston on Tuesday afternoon. The young man, who is only twenty-one, is said to be the son of a justice of the peace in Devonshire. After his return from the Crimea, he sold his commission, and a few days ago he obtained £l. 10s. from an officer upon a cheque on Messrs. Cox and Co., London, where he had no account, and another sum from a second officer in the same way. He was tracked to Preston, and seeing himself watched, began drinking some laudanum from a phial; but he did not succeed in taking much. He was arrested, brought before a magistrate, and remanded.

**THE THEATRICAL FUND.**—The annual meeting of the members of this body was held in the saloon of the Lyceum Theatre on Wednesday, under the presidency, as usual, of Mr. Buckstone. The balance-sheet showed a prosperous state of the society, and it was resolved to raise the secretary's salary from 40l. to 80l. a year.

**THE UNEMPLOYED.**—Another meeting of the unemployed was held on Thursday afternoon on the site of the Smithfield Market, for the purpose of giving some information relative to the system of Poor-law relief, and also with regard to free emigration to the colonies. About 2500 persons were present.

**THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE EARL OF ELLESMERE** took place on Thursday at Worsley with great plainness.

**NEW ARCTIC EXPEDITION.**—In consequence of the adverse decision of the Admiralty in the House of Commons on Tuesday, Lady Franklin is under the necessity of undertaking, on her own resources, the completion of the search for her husband's expedition. The late period at which this decision is made known renders it impossible to make the requisite preparations for proceeding by the east. The western route by Behring's Straits will, therefore, be adopted.—*Daily News.*

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, February 28.

### LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE House sat for a quarter of an hour, the only matter brought forward being the subject of the Murrain in Cattle, which, on the part of the Government, it was said would receive attention.—Lord PALMERSTON, in the Lower House, made a similar statement.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### THE ARCTIC MEDAL.

In answer to Admiral WALCOTT, Sir CHARLES WOOD said, it had been determined to grant one medal for all the Arctic voyages to the officers and men engaged in them, and not a medal for each voyage.

##### THE SARDINIAN COMMISSARIAT.

In answer to Lieut. WILLIAM GRAHAM, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that about 17,000l. were due to this country from Sardinia for commissariat stores in the late war, of which 15,000l. had been paid.

##### SIR JOHN McNEILL AND COLONEL TULLOCH—THE PERSIAN QUESTION.

In answer to Mr. LAYARD, Lord PALMERSTON said that an offer of 1000l. each had been made to Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch, but declined by them.—Also, he said, on the authority of the Russian ambassador here, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he could state that there was no foundation for the report of a treaty between Russia and Persia by which the latter ceded a portion of territory in Central Asia to the former. The negotiations with the Persian ambassador at Paris were still going on.

##### THE DESTITUTE SOLDIERS' FAMILIES AT COLCHESTER.

In answer to Sir JOHN TYRRELL, Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said that a report on the subject of the destitution of the soldiers' wives at the Camp at Colchester had been received, and would be laid on the table.

##### THE LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON brought forward the case of the officers of the Land Transport Corps, most of whom had been disbanded, while a few of them had been put into the newly raised Military Train, but in inferior ranks to those which they held in their former corps. He wished

to know what was to be done with them.—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said that a great many of the Land Transport Corps officers had been put into the Military Train, and the others would have an allowance of five shillings a day.

##### CHINA—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate on Mr. COBDEN's motion was resumed by

Mr. WARREN, who supported the motion, and went more particularly into the law of the case, which he declared could not be controverted as laid down by Lord Lyndhurst.—The LORD ADVOCATE followed, and did controvert the law as thus laid down.—Mr. WHITESIDE supported the motion both on the legal ground and on the ground that the proceedings of Sir JOHN BOWRING in China were an outrage on humanity.—Mr. HORSFALL opposed the motion, believing that the British Commissioner had kept strictly within the bounds of international law; and he defended the Liverpool merchants against certain imputations made on them by Mr. Cobden.—Lord ROBERT CECIL supported the motion; and Sir CHARLES NAPIER defended Admiral Seymour, and contended that the course pursued in China was the only one that could have been taken under the circumstances.—Lord GODERICH supported the motion, and Mr. BENTINCK opposed it on the ground of the effect a vote of censure on the Government would have in complicating the state of things in China, and also because he preferred the present Government to any of that party which for many years had advocated anti-Protestant and democratic measures.—Sir JAMES GRAHAM, in supporting the motion, defended Sir Michael Seymour, urging that he had been compelled to act by the civil representative of the Crown, who left him no discretion. As regarded Sir John Bowring, he thought him a man who formed strong opinions, always pushing them to extremes, and more remarkable for his self-confidence than his judgment. The Government, however, in upholding his acts, relieved him from responsibility; and he (Sir James Graham) thought that Sir John Bowring believed he was carrying out the wishes of the Government.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL having spoken at length on the law of the case, the debate was adjourned.

##### THE CONTINENT.

The trial at Paris of the directors of the "Docks Napoleon," which commenced on Wednesday, has excited a very unfavourable impression on the public mind, which was scarcely prepared for the barefaced swindling unveiled in the course of the trial.—The *Siecle* has received a second warning, for an article describing the labours which might be effected by the Legislative Chambers. This journal has been so firm and honest a friend to England, that it would be ingratitude not to sympathise with its tribulation.—*Globe Paris Correspondent.*

A most violent and exciting debate, according to the *Morning Post* Athens correspondent, has taken place in the Greek Senate on the memorandum which the Government had addressed to the protecting Powers, setting forth a brilliant, but, it is alleged, a fallacious, account of the financial affairs of the country. Some of the members accused Ministers of truckling to the interests of "Bavarian satraps," and of insulting "magnanimous England." The Finance Minister, says the account, trembled, turned white and speechless, and finally disavowed the document. The narrative has an appearance of being coloured as highly as the Government statement of Finance.

**FREE EMIGRATION TO THE COLONIES.**—A meeting to promote this object will be held at the Nova Scotia Gardens, Birdcage-walk, Bethnal-green, on Monday next, March 2, at half-past twelve. The Borough members have been invited to attend.

**ACCIDENT AT THE DOLPHIN BREWERY.**—A man employed at the Dolphin Brewery, Broad-street, Radcliffe, slipped yesterday morning into a copper full of boiling liquor, and was immersed to his waist. He was speedily drawn out, but no hopes are entertained of his recovery.

**THE REIGATE OUTRAGE.**—The highwayman who shot at Mr. Ovendon in the neighbourhood of Reigate is believed to be in Liverpool, and there is every reason to hope that he will soon be captured.

**CALIFORNIA.**—The latest news from California is interesting. Governor Johnson, in his message to the Legislature, denounces repudiation, and recommends the payment of the illegally contracted State debt. The entire State debt amounts to only a trifle above three millions of dollars. On the 9th ult., California was shaken by a violent earthquake. The shock, however, was attended with but little damage.

**THE LUNDHILL COLLIERY.**—It has now been resolved on to turn water into the pit, so as fully to quench the fire, and then to open the shafts.

**CHINA.**—Private letters from Macao, of January 10th, state that the Emperor of China has placed the five ports of the empire, which are open to Europeans, in a state of siege. Should this news be confirmed, the consequences to European commerce will be very serious.—*Le Pays.*

**CRYSTAL PALACE.**—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, February 27th, 1857, including season ticket holders, 8908.

## 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

### "COMMON SENSE OF THE BANK CHARTER QUESTION."

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—With reference to your article thus entitled, allow me to observe that if the opponents of Lord Overstone's views are beaten, it is their misfortune that, like Lord Wellington's soldiers at Waterloo, they are too dull to perceive it. It may be owned that Lord Overstone has beaten all the opponents he has chosen to encounter. The supporters of monetary freedom, like other bodies of men, have no doubt some weak brethren amongst them; and an opposing champion who makes a point of always singling these out may gain many a cheap victory. There certainly are men in the world unwise enough to desire a paper money defined by nothing, and guaranteed by nothing, except, indeed, by its reception in payment of taxes; and the Overstone writers invariably assume that such is the desire of all who impugn their arguments—just as Ferdinand of Naples counts all as anarchists who doubt the blessings of his rule. Let Lord Overstone and his disciples have done with this knocking down of men of straw, and address themselves to the facts and arguments of those, who, after having thought as earnestly as themselves, have arrived at a different conclusion, and are prepared to show their reasons. Let both parties earnestly try to discover precisely in what they agree and in what they differ, in order to reduce the question to its narrowest dimensions.

Lord Overstone states the sole object of the act of 1844 to be the very proper one of securing identity of value between the paper portion of our currency and the coin for which it officiates, so that a five-pound note may never become of less value than the five sovereigns, that is than the 1½ oz. of fine gold, which it purports to represent. We accept this as a *sine qua non*. We could no more tolerate a Russian paper currency, with its paper rouble, worth but a fraction of its silver prototype, or an Austrian currency, whose paper florin is (or but recently was) in the same plight, than could Lord Overstone himself. Let this point, therefore, be put at rest once for all. Our objection to his plan concerns not his end, but his means. Lord Overstone thinks his means efficient, unobjectionable, and, indeed, the only possible means; whilst we regard them as of imperfect efficiency (having broken down upon one memorable occasion), as attended with most serious collateral evils, and as quite inferior to other means which have born long years of trial in Scotland, Ireland, and France; and as still more inferior to means which have been proposed, embracing the excellences of the Scotch, Irish, and French plans, without their defects.

Lord Overstone's plan is built upon the assumption that, if we had never introduced the use of paper, but had confined ourselves to the use of coin, we should have possessed a currency as perfect as human means could make it, excepting as to economy and to a certain measure of convenience; hence, that in order to secure the convenience and economy of paper money without losing the other attributes of a good currency, we must bind ourselves to use paper to the precise amount of the gold we displace, never exceeding and never falling short of such amount. This in appearance is plausible enough; but will it bear a close examination? What is the use of currency? What the better are we for having it? What the worse should we be if we had it not? Again, what are the qualities it ought to possess in order to fit it for its purpose, and in what quantity must we have it, if it is to serve that purpose effectually?

A nation destitute of currency could only transact its dealings by means of barter; and an infinite number of dealings which we, having the use of currency, transact with perfect ease, could not, by a nation so circumstanced, be transacted at all. The advance in civilization of a moneyless people, beyond a very rude stage, would be next to impossible: a good currency would therefore seem an indispensable condition of high civilization.

The use of currency, therefore, is to supersede the rude and inefficient plan of barter, and thereby to facilitate to the utmost those incessant interchanges of commodities, services, and privileges which men resort to in order to obtain what they want in exchange for what they have to spare.

Except with a view to interchange, first or last, I know of no use whatever of currency; for to a people not practising interchange, currency must be wholly



useless. A system of currency, to be successful, must afford at all times and in all places the greatest possible facility to interchange. That is the ultimate test of its success, whatever elements may go to its composition: no other test can be final, and if to apply this test be within our power, it is idle to resort to any other.

The most important step in effecting an interchange, whether of commodities, services, or privileges, is that of accurately measuring their respective values. Thus, in order to ascertain the total value of certain goods estimated by weight, we may require to know, firstly, the precise number of pounds avoirdupois they contain, and, secondly, the precise value of each pound weight of the commodity. We cannot do this, unless for the first purpose we have an accurate standard of weight, and for the second purpose an accurate standard of value. One is just as necessary to a correct result as the other—uncertainty in the pound weight could not more effectually vitiate the result than would uncertainty in the pound sterling. The like is equally true as to quantities ascertainable by measure—linear, superficial, or cubical. A piece of cloth may be measured for fifty yards, and the value of each yard be estimated at a guinea. We assume that we know the exact length of the yard measure, and the exact value of the guinea, and we pronounce the cloth to be worth 50 guineas. But if any uncertainty attach either to the length of the yard measure or to the value of the guinea, the result must necessarily be uncertain. The complexity of many of our transactions spreads them over great lengths of time—annuities, rents, &c., are instances—and any change (intermediately) in the value of the standard unit of the currency changes the virtual terms of all these contracts. It affects also all debts, taxes, salaries, wages, &c. Lord Overstone's plan has the grievous defect of neglecting this most important consideration. Lord Overstone seems to have been unaware that, whilst engaged in cementing the alliance between our paper money and its metallic basis, it was most important to guard against disturbing that basis itself. So far, indeed, from endeavouring to shield the metallic base of our currency from the disturbing influences by which it is liable to be assailed, or trying to break their force, if circumstances should rouse them into action, Lord Overstone expressly counts upon sudden, extensive, nay, even dislocating changes in the value of our standard unit, the pound sterling, as the necessary and proper means of carrying his purpose into effect. But if the coin change its value, so likewise must the paper which is bound up with it; his plan for preventing the paper from varying in value, therefore, defeats itself, like that of a mariner, who, in mooring his ship to a buoy, should so blunder in his mode of doing it as to loosen the moorings of the buoy itself.

We charge Lord Overstone's plan with this grievous error,—an error, too, committed in the face of the success of the French, Scotch, and Irish systems, which, based upon sounder principles, and gifted with superior freedom of action (though still far from perfect), had vindicated their superiority by their successful resistance to the commercial storms under which the English system of banking monopoly and legislative meddling had succumbed, and which again, in the great convulsions of 1847, kept their ground firmly, although standing so close to England as necessarily to feel the throes by which she was then convulsed. Indeed, France and Scotland, so far from sharing the danger and difficulty into which England was then plunged, were able each to hold out a hand to extricate poor England from the slough into which she had fallen. England is accustomed to help others, not to ask for help herself; nor would her case have been then so lamentably reversed but for her absurd bank-monopoly, and her blundering currency legislation. If the success of one set of principles, and the failure of another set, were ever placed in strong, unmistakable contrast, it surely was in the year 1847, when we witnessed the triumphant success of monetary freedom on the one hand, and the utter failure of monopoly, "central control," and legislative meddling with mere trading operations, on the other. France, Scotland, and even Ireland, vastly less wealthy, less advanced in civilization, greatly inferior in the means of making good any occasional breach in their resources, nowise superior—if equal—in industry, prudence, thought, and energy, but superior in monetary freedom, bore the commercial storm certainly without flinching, almost without feeling it; whilst England, in the pride of her wealth and power, was prostrated in the dust. But once let a man become fairly possessed by a theory, and then, until it shall be exorcised, he will become blind and deaf to the most obvious facts that run counter to his prepossessions.

Thus Galileo's opponents, even after they had witnessed the simultaneous fall of bodies of unequal weight from the top of the leaning tower of Pisa, walked away, maintaining, as they ever had maintained, that heavy bodies must necessarily fall at rates proportioned to their respective gravities; a body twice as heavy as another, therefore, necessarily falling twice as fast. A resolute theorist sets facts at de-

fiance, or surely the insufficiency of the Overstone principles, and the sufficiency of the contrary principles, must have been admitted long ere this. The recent monetary misfortunes of France, too, contrasted with her long previous immunity therefrom, and coupled with the fact that within the last two or three years she has unluckily let go the safeguard which she had so long enjoyed (apparently without perceiving its extreme value), would seem enough to startle even the hardiest theories. Lest I should here speak of what may not be generally known, allow me to explain that until recently, although the French legal standard money was of silver, gold might be legally tendered in payment, reckoned, however, at its market value in silver. Upon occasion, therefore, of a pressing demand for currency, the French were free to use gold, in any procurable quantity,—in aid of their silver,—thus dividing the pressure between the two metals, instead of allowing (as we do) its unbroken force to fall upon one alone. Every one can judge of the comparative ease with which a divided force may be borne, even in cases wherein, if undivided, the force might prove overwhelming. Now this excellent plan,—by which, in times of necessity, the one precious metal could aid the other, with a complete avoidance, be it observed, of the evil of a double standard,—was denounced and resisted by Lord Overstone in his reply (now republished) to the "Merchants and Bankers' Petition," which complained that when in October, 1847, we were scrambling for gold as for our lives, and an unusually large supply of silver came in from the Pacific (which, by the exercise of a little ingenuity, might have been made of the utmost service in eking out the insufficient gold), it was found that the theorists had barred the way, and thus, even in the midst of our direst necessities, with the successful use by the French of a similar remedy actually before our eyes, prevented our acceptance of the timely relief. And at last, as though to push absurdity to the uttermost, these same theorists, whilst refusing to issue notes upon the security of the silver so opportunely received, determined to sanction their issue without the security of anything of any visible kind whatsoever.

To return. As to the quality, which, before all others, a good currency must possess, the most important function it exercises being that of measuring the values of all interchangeable articles, common sense must surely decide that unchangeableness in its own value, i.e. in the value of the gold of which its unit, the pound sterling, is composed, must constitute its cardinal excellence, as changeableness therein its worst fault.

And next, as to its quantity, what has common sense to say? How much currency is it best for us to have, if we can get it? Lord Overstone everywhere confounds the quantity which would be most serviceable to us could we obtain it, with that which (under his system) we can get—two quantities no more necessarily identical, than is the quantity of food which the nation obtains identical with that which would most healthfully sustain its population; quantities but too widely different, as millions of underfed creatures can sadly testify.

We want currency to help us to effect our multifarious interchanges; the more interchanges we have to effect, therefore, the more currency we must require; and the less interchange we have, the less currency we want. Count (for instance) the respective quantities employed: first, at Weyhill fair; secondly, at Weyhill market; and, thirdly, at Weyhill on an ordinary day. If Weyhill and its frequenters were confined to the latter quantity only, the additional interchanges of the market and of the fair could only be effected by barter. Enough currency, whether at Weyhill or elsewhere, therefore, is just that quantity which will render barter unnecessary. We want no more; we can do with no less. If we have more, the competition amongst us to get rid of our respective shares of the excess must needs lower the value of the whole, and thereby render it a false measure of the value of other things; whilst, if we have less, the competition amongst us to increase our respective shares must needs raise the value of the whole, and thereby render it a false measure of the value of other things. Correctness of quality, as respects the currency, is therefore impossible, except in conjunction with correctness of quantity; understanding by correctness of quality, unchangeableness of value, and by correctness of quantity, just as much as will effectually supersede barter, and no more. A successful system of currency must therefore supply us, or allow us to supply ourselves, with this precise quantity. If our dealings increase, it must allow us to increase our currency correspondingly, by a suitable addition of gold, silver, or paper money, as we may find most convenient; and if our dealings fall off, it must help us at once to get rid of the coin or notes thereby thrown out of use.

So says common sense; but to the Overstone school the whole of this must sound like "flat blasphemy."

In conclusion allow me to put a case, as recently put in effect by "Philo-Mercator." First, suppose the country to be in an average state both as to ordinary commodities and as to currency, so that we

are not either increasing our stock of gold at the expense of our other commodities, or increasing these at the expense of our gold; next (without any other change), suppose our harvest to fail to the extent of twelve millions' worth of corn: we should at once export in purchase of corn whatever we could best spare at home that was likely to prove acceptable abroad. Gold and silver being easily got hold of, light of carriage, and sure of acceptance, would probably go first, the merchants racing to get first into the foreign markets. Suppose that ten millions of sovereigns were taken out of our currency towards such purchase. Ought our dealings under these circumstances to decrease, and this to such an extent that we should feel no inconvenience from the abstraction of these sovereigns? I believe both parties will join in saying no, though for wonderfully different reasons. Lord Overstone says that general prices at home ought to fall (which could not be unless the circulation were felt to be insufficient), and that abroad they ought to rise, in order, by the joint operation of the two disturbances of price, to force back the gold forthwith.

We deny the validity of these reasons; for we regard the contemplated disturbance of the home standard, by reason of the insufficiency of the currency, as one of the greatest of commercial misfortunes, infinitely worse than that of our being obliged to make shift for a time with ten millions' worth of paper money in place of the exported coin. And if the standard of the corn-supplying country be gold too, we regard its contemplated disturbance, by reason of the temporary glut of gold, as an almost equal misfortune to such country—a misfortune only to be averted by the withdrawal from circulation in such country of an equal quantity of paper money. The hasty expulsion of such a mass of gold from the foreign country, and the speedy recovery of it by ours, which is the "fixed idea" of the Overstone school, would be dearly purchased by the distrust at home, endangering panic and the wild speculative excitement abroad, which the sudden twofold disturbance of prices must necessarily engender. Its effect, too, upon production and consumption in both countries, would in the main be precisely the opposite of what any one in his senses could desire. Then in straitened circumstances, as we should then be, we ought to produce more and to consume less, until the times should mend. But the general fall of prices at home would check production and stimulate consumption. On the other hand, the more prosperous foreigner might, not imprudently, increase his consumption, without working any harder than usual. But the general advance of prices which he would experience would check consumption and increase production, by stimulating his domestic manufactures; this last just at the time when such competition would be the furthest from agreeable to us.

Our reason, therefore, for concluding that our interchanges ought not to be lessened when food becomes scarce with us, is simply, that we regard it as our plain duty at such time to bestir ourselves to make up for the failure of our crops by redoubled industry: 1st, in the cultivation of our lands for our next harvest; and 2ndly, in the production of anything and everything, by the sale of which we may in the meantime procure supplies from abroad. We say, "Let the hammer ring yet more loudly on the anvil—let the 'rapid axle glow' with even a heightened velocity—let the shuttle fly backward and forward with enhanced celerity—let the plough cleave the glebe, and the ship the wave, with a quickened speed—let idleness be banished and profusion be restrained." But how? Do we invoke despotic power? Do we ask a Cincinnatus to command every one to his post? No; the days of the Dictator, like those of chivalry, are gone. We ask only that the industrial activity, which alone can enable us to make good the breach in our resources, shall not, out of deference to any man's theory, be thus paralyzed at the moment of our greatest need by an insufficiency in the supply of currency, the instrument without whose help those rapid and multifarious interchanges, which are the life of the "division-of-labour" principle, must necessarily come to a stand.

We point to the fact, that the members of the Overstone school, so far from denying that in times of scarcity such paralyzing, such dangerous insufficiency must result from their plan, do actually speak of it as though it were a benefit.

We are prepared to show the means by which, if allowed sufficient freedom of action, we can safely effect the timely removal of those disastrous excesses in the currency which, when they occur, suddenly and unwarrantably raise prices, and thereby engender speculative excitement, and by which means also we shall be enabled, safely and promptly, to supply those still more disastrous insufficiencies which depress prices suddenly and unwarrantably, engender distrust, and endanger panic. We challenge inquiry, confident that what we have to propose does not contravene any one of the great established economic principles.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,  
EDWIN HILL.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.  
Several "Open Council" communications are unavoidably omitted this week.  
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.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 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.

### MR. DISRAELI'S DEBATE.

THE crisis has not come. Toryism has been rejected by the House of Commons. Instead of benefiting himself politically by his financial debate, Mr. DISRAELI only exposed the empirical qualities of his mind. He spoke of a settled plan of finance, as though he were prepared with a settled plan of events, and produced a general impression that he never can rise above the position of a troublesome debater. The discussion, however, had results far more important than those which concern the character or prospects of Mr. DISRAELI. It showed the House of Commons shaken into chaos; the members not knowing how to find a way out of their antecedents, perplexities, and pledges. Mr. ROEBUCK and Sir JOSEPH PAXTON followed the Tory leader; Mr. LAYARD and Mr. TITE supported the Government; Major REED, Chairman of the Anti-Income Association—a straw flying with the wind—voted for the Budget; the van of Liberalism and the rear of Conservatism were split by the division; Sir JOHN TYRELL confessed himself bewildered, and followed Lord PALMERSTON into the lobby, where he found Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, Mr. SPOONER, and Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE in curious fraternity. On the Opposition side, Sir FREDERICK THESIGER became the momentary ally of Mr. CORDEN, Mr. DISRAELI of Sir JAMES GRAHAM, Sir JOHN TROLLOPE of Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, and Mr. MIALLE and Mr. MURROUGH of HENLEY, JOLLIFFE, and TYLER. General PEEL voted on one side, Sir ROBERT PEEL on the other. The recent elections had given Lord PALMERSTON several supporters. But it was to Lord JOHN RUSSELL—the conspicuous expectant—that he principally owed his safety. Not one of the hereditary Whigs conspired with the Tories. When Mr. LOCKE KING, however, had driven the Opposition and the Ministry into the same camp a hundred and seventy-nine Liberals voted against the Government. Had the Tories been absent, the majority against Lord PALMERSTON would have been as four to one. In connexion with the subject of parliamentary reform, therefore, he represents the Tories, not the Liberals. Of this argument much use is made by the Tories, who complain that the Cabinet, though professing Liberalism, rests upon Tory support. But they, in their turn, when they attack the Government, solicit Liberal aid, and, without it, are reduced to incapacity. What would have been Mr. DISRAELI's following on Monday night, had he not coalesced for the time with Mr. GLADSTONE and a number of independent members?

There was really no financial question at issue, touching the financial scheme of the present year. Mr. DISRAELI proposed to lay down rules for the guidance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1859-60; but he failed to show that a large deficit would be probable in that year, even if the plans of Sir

CORNEWALL LEWIS were allowed to pass unchallenged. The naval and military estimates may settle down to an ordinary peace level, or may experience an upward pressure; the liquidation of the debt may be accelerated or postponed; it would be irrational, however, to anticipate the policy of three years, and to establish a compact binding on the members of some future Government, especially as the probable course of circumstances is by no means easily defined, and as no vote of the House of Commons in 1857 could have any practical effect on the finance of 1860. It was, perhaps, natural, but certainly impolitic, on Mr. GLADSTONE's part, to act so prominently in behalf of the Tory leader, simply because that cunning tactician had flattered the Budget of 1853—the Budget that triumphed over his own, the Budget that he then impugned, the Budget of the statesman who had treated Mr. DISRAELI's proposals with scorn, as the wares of a fiscal shopman.

The House of Commons, then, had no alternative but to reject Mr. DISRAELI's motion, which emanated neither from statesmanship nor from economy, but from faction, which had no practical meaning, and which, if carried, could have had no advantageous result. Lord JOHN RUSSELL's resolution on the tea duty belongs to a different category. It is designed to relieve the tax-payer, and to force still further the reduction in the public expenditure. This is practicable, if the House of Commons will do its duty. The estimates are too large, the army is too dear. A revenue of sixty-six millions is not wanted. Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS proposes to maintain establishments too great for times of peace and too small for times of war. There seems no reason why Lord JOHN RUSSELL should not extort the acquiescence of the Government, or obtain a parliamentary victory. It may be anticipated that the body of Bedford Whigs will follow him, and that the independent Liberals who voted with the Ministers on Monday night will co-operate to cut down an unpopular tax, burdensome to trade. Nor is it likely that the Tories, on whichever side they act, will be disorganized by such a confusion of ideas as that which necessarily resulted from the feeble platitude moved as a resolution by Mr. DISRAELI. At all events, Sir JOHN TYRELL will know where he is, and not be compelled, for one night more, to acknowledge the noble lord the member for the City of London, and throw a sad reproach in the face of his political *cicerone*.

### CHINA IN PARLIAMENT.

LORD DERBY's speech on Tuesday evening was an imperfect compilation of the Canton despatches. Lord CLARENDON's reply placed the whole question clearly before the House. In the first place, the Tory Earl had falsely described the relations existing between the British and Chinese authorities before the 8th of October last. Instead of being amicable, as he stated, they consisted of justifiable vexation on the part of the English, and irritating insolence on the part of the Chinese. There was not a merchant in China who had not satisfied himself that it would be impossible to continue long on friendly terms with the representatives of the Imperial government. No such feeling as amity existed at Canton; the English had ceased to reside there; the encroachments of the governor and his police became continually more and more aggressive. Nor is it correct to describe the Lorchu rupture as having closed a peace of fifteen years' duration. The Bogue forts were captured in 1847, and 800 guns were spiked by General D'A GUILLAR, to chastise an act of unendurable contumacy. Since that period the jealousies of the native officials

seem to have been embittered, until last autumn they resolved to fly in the face of the White Devils upon the first opportunity. That their proceedings were directed against the English, and not against their own suspected countrymen, was proved by their gross disrespect to our flag, and by the defiant attitude they at once assumed, as though it were their object to force a quarrel. It is not contended, even by Lord DERBY, that Mr. PARKES did not make the most courteous representations before he called in the plenipotentiary or the admiral. But, as Lord CLARENDON very properly pointed out, an Opposition in search of a political excuse is scarcely as well qualified to estimate the necessities under which our representatives have acted in China as the British community on the spot, and by the British community the conduct of Sir JOHN BOWRING and Admiral SEYMOUR is all but unanimously approved. They, no less than the native inhabitants of Canton, have suffered from the bombardment; much of their property has been destroyed; their trade has been interrupted; in some cases their lives have been endangered; yet they do not complain, for they feel that the British authorities have acted in their interests to protect them in future from outrage and offence. The assailants of the Government have found it necessary to overlook this essential element in the case.

The Arrow, it is now shown, had a right to carry the British flag. What was the value of that right if it did not bring the vessel within the meaning of the treaty of 1842? A British flag does not confer British rights as regards British jurisdiction only, but confers British protection against all attacks whatever. That is the distinct, settled principle of all international law. The Arrow, therefore, belonging to Hong-Kong, manned by a Hong-Kong crew, placed on a British register, and provided with a British flag, was in all respects British, and, as such, entitled to the guarantee which accompanies that character in all parts of the globe. It may be said, perhaps, that the Chinese of Hong-Kong are not British subjects. Supposing, however, the Isle of Wight was ceded to France, would the natives of that island be French or British subjects? Would an Isle of Wight ship be British or French? We exercise in Hong-Kong a right of sovereignty precisely on the same basis with that we exercise in Malta. But it is objected that the Arrow had allowed her register to expire a few days. Lord CLARENDON supplies an answer even more decisive than we had expected: "Although the register had expired a few days, there was a provision that ships should not be obliged to renew their register if they remained at the station. She was there; the English flag was flying." This is altogether satisfactory.

The collateral question, whether the British Government has the right to grant such registers, has been disposed of with equal success. Similar registers have been granted for a long period at Gibraltar, and for several years at Singapore, and on the Malabar coast. In the presence of barbarous governments, always eager to make an arrogant show of their authority, incapable of logic, and disdainful of general interests, it has been found impossible to foster the commercial enterprise of British subjects in the Eastern settlements without some such regulation. The Imperial Court of China naturally regards with a sort of vindictive jealousy the Chinese in Hong-Kong, released from its control, owing allegiance to an outside power, and therefore takes every opportunity of snatching them back within the limits of its irresponsible jurisdiction. They who know China know



what Chinese official vengeance is. The poor French missionary, tortured for three days, hung, and disembowelled by the executioners, who ate his heart, rebukes from his grave the sentimentalism of those oracles of humanity who talk of China as a land of helpless innocence and exalted simplicity.

Lord DEBY had obviously prepared his long oration after certain models, of which, no doubt, he has many in his library. It was a disappointment to him, however, when he reached his studied peroration—an appeal to the Episcopal Bench—to find that most of the lawn-sleeved peers had drifted away, so that he was compelled to force a parenthesis of regret, and to declare what he *would have* addressed to them had they been within hearing. They had not waited to watch the dying fires of the Parliamentary RUPERT.

#### OFFICIAL REFUSAL OF A FINAL SEARCH FOR FRANKLIN.

THE Government has refused to send out an expedition in search of FRANKLIN's remains, and, in refusing, Government has chosen to take a very low standard of public or personal morality. There was every reason for acceding to the petitions from the widow and scientific men urging the expedition; the reasons against it were few and feeble. We will not argue, we will do nothing more than state facts. There have been some traces of the lost expedition; but there are a hundred and thirty-five men who have been lost, and we have no reckoning of them. It is not probable, but it is possible, that some of them may be alive; if even one is so, he, imprisoned within the icy circle of the Arctic region, will never lose the faith that his countrymen will not leave him to perish unsought. The searches that have hitherto been made have traversed a great deal of the ground, and they have settled the question with respect to all but a comparatively small spot; there is one place that has been left unsearched, and the tracks of those who have been engaged in the quest completely surround this space. The person to whom Government has adjudged the reward for discovering the traces of the last expedition, Dr. RAE, has never reached that circle. The place is perfectly well known, the route to it is well known. By means of dogs, the whole space could be completely swept, every rood of it could be accounted for. It is tolerably certain that the remains of the expedition lie within that area; it is most likely that some relics of them are there, awaiting recovery, some records, some direction, some bequests. This precise nature of the search renders it certain that the expedition now asked would be final; it would finish off the field that is to be examined, and it is most likely that it would actually bring to us the crowning information respecting the fate of FRANKLIN and his followers. So much for the object of the expedition.

The means. Government is not asked to plan an expedition as an entire novelty; a large portion of the apparatus exists. For a ship, there is the *Resolute*, presented to this country by the Americans, and refitted at American expense. It is laid up in ordinary, to rot away in idleness; but there could not possibly be a more graceful return for the graceful gift than to employ it in a new expedition. Most certainly the Americans themselves would highly applaud such a use of their present. Captain SCOBELL admitted, in the debate on Tuesday night, that if an expedition were sent out, a second vessel ought to accompany the other. This is not quite certain, but it may be so, and if the United Empire shrinks from the expense, we feel some confidence that the United Repub-

lic would not hesitate to stand by us; for the spirit which animated Mr. GRINNELL in his munificent contributions towards the search is not extinct. The stores are in existence, and there are other stores buried in the Arctic shores. A number of officers have competed for employment; amongst them are COLLINSON, RICHARDS, MCCLINTOCK, MAGUIRE, and OSBORN. The only things wanted are a modicum of money and the sanction of the Government.

Government hesitates to grant the money; why, we cannot conceive. If the appeal were made direct to the English people, whom it would cost something less than a farthing a family, the mite would be given to the widow without a moment's hesitation. Sir CHARLES WOOD professes to shrink from "the responsibility" of risking life. Now, in point of fact, there is no enterprise at all testing the hardihood of the British sailor which has been so free from casualty as the Arctic exploration. The loss of FRANKLIN is the exception to the rule. The pleas of Government, therefore, are beggarly in spirit, and disgraceful to the country in whose name they are uttered.

The appeals to Government have been many, and they are of a kind to deserve attention. In the summer of 1856 was presented a memorial urging an expedition. This memorial was signed by many names the most conspicuous in practical science, and it is well known that those eminent men felt not only a scientific but a personal interest in the final search. To this appeal, the Admiralty gave its 'consideration,' but then replied that it was too late that season to equip an expedition. At a later date, the subject was again pressed upon Government by Lord WROTTESELEY, to whom Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY replied in a favourable tone, intimating that if Government sent no expedition, Lady FRANKLIN should be assisted in fitting out one of her own. Thus the season of 1856 was tided over, and the widow, claiming a debt due from the English to her lost husband, was put off with procrastinating excuses; and thus she was prevented from turning away and raising that assistance which might then have been collected from her own friends, the friends of FRANKLIN and of science. In the winter she turned from that lost summer to the season of the present year; early in December, Lady FRANKLIN made a direct appeal to Lord PALMERSTON, in a letter which has since been published by Mr. RIDGWAY. In this letter, written with all the plainness and force of natural feeling, Lady FRANKLIN strung together the practical reasons why the final search should be made, and the reasons why it should not be refused. That letter was written on the 2nd of December; three months have passed away,—three months proper to be employed in preparations; and now, in February, Sir CHARLES WOOD gives the answer with new reasons, falsifying the pretexts upon which the assent was put off last year. The answer amounts to this: "no reasonable person entertains the expectation that any man of Sir JOHN FRANKLIN's expedition could be found alive;" Dr. RAE's report implied that they perished in 1850; a court of law has decided that their survival is improbable; it is not likely that FRANKLIN has left any records in a part where they could be found; the only relics would probably be pieces of ships, wood, oars, and things of that kind. Sir CHARLES regretted the FRANKLIN expedition when it was sent out, and he "will not incur any fresh responsibility, or give any encouragement to the proposal to send out another expedition." Now some of these reasons are counter to facts. To take one instance,

it is extremely probable that FRANKLIN *has* left relics where they could be found, Arctic travellers being constantly in the habit of making such deposits. Another instance: Dr. KANE, Sir GEORGE BEAUFORT, and Captain OSBORN all believe that some men of the expedition may still be alive. The dilatory replies of last year were almost a promise—if, indeed, there was not a direct promise—of assistance. Cold, heartless counsels have prevailed, and the Government shows itself unworthy of the country which has produced a FRANKLIN.

#### A DIPLOMATIC DUEL.

A LITTLE NAPOLEON in the East of Europe, Prince GHICA, has prohibited the circulation, in the Danubian Principalities, of any journal which advocates the Moldo-Wallachian union. We find ourselves for once, therefore, in the pleasant company of the *Nord* and the *Moniteur*. But journalists in the West address themselves to their own governments and their own public; so that Prince GHICA, potentate as he is, cannot sprinkle on us even the ashes of a thunderbolt.

We regret to state that serious differences have arisen in Eastern Europe between Lord DE REDCLIFFE and Sir HENRY BULWER—differences which have excited considerable anxiety among the Liberals of Moldo-Wallachia. Lord DE REDCLIFFE had assented with surprising facilities to the original draft of the firman convoking the Assembly of the Provinces. In this original draft the middle and professional classes were altogether ignored, and the Divan was so constituted as to represent only the corrupt imbecility of the Boyards. Lord DE REDCLIFFE, probably, had not contemplated such a result; but he knows little of the Principalities, and learns nothing of them except through the Consul at Bucharest. Whether inspired by that individual, or governed by motives of mistaken public policy, our Ambassador seems for a year past to have consecrated his energies to one end—that of aggrandizing the GHICA family. Now, we have had sufficient experience of GHICA statesmanship. It means snatching at public money, contempt of popular claims, obsequious servility to the Boyards.

Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, under the original firman, would have vested this petty prince and petty aristocracy with a monopoly of representation in the Moldo-Wallachian Assembly. His tactics seem to have opened the way to a diplomatic success, achieved by the French Ambassador, M. DE THOUVENEL. He saw that the distinction in favour of the Boyards was unpopular, and insisted that it should be set aside, and that the members of the Divan should be elected by all classes of landed proprietors, great and small. The firman was modified to this extent, and we believe we are right in stating that M. DE THOUVENEL received the aid and approval of Sir HENRY BULWER, whose advice to REDCLIFFE PACHA was also in favour of the more popular plan of election. Lord DE REDCLIFFE was indignant, but he would have spared himself this mortification had he consulted the British Commissioner before dictating to the Moldo-Wallachians.

On another point, the Ambassador and the Commissioner are reported to be at variance. Sir HENRY BULWER does look upon the union of the Principalities with the same alarm as Lord DE REDCLIFFE, who professes a very wholesome horror of Bonapartism, as though it were rational to believe that the Moldo-Wallachians would accept a Bonaparte prince, or that whether the territories were united or not, Russia, Austria, Great Britain, and Turkey would consent to such a scheme. Once it was Russia that was said to promote the union, for purposes of her own; now

it is France. Meanwhile, it is certain that under their divided viceroyalty the people are grievously oppressed, and that they attribute many of their wrongs to the Government of Great Britain. Great Britain, they know, desired to prolong the Austrian occupation; in other words, the reign of military terror along the line of the Danube, as savage as Turkish tyranny, as arbitrary as Russian 'protection.'

Sir HENRY BULWER is understood to have detected the real character of GHICA and SAUTZO in Wallachia, and BALSCHIE and KATARDJI in Moldavia, who are hated by the mass of the population. The blundering tyranny of the Kaimakans has excited the reprobation even of Lord DE REDCLIFFE and REDSCHID PACHA; but the personal differences between the Ambassador and the Commissioner threaten to interfere with pernicious effect between public men and public interests. We trust that the attention of the Government at home will be directed to this episode in the story of our Danubian diplomacy.

#### THE WARNING TO REFORMERS.

It was the misfortune of Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, on Tuesday night, to make an unanswerable statement to which no answer was necessary. To what purpose does a Liberal member inform the House of Commons that it is elected by a limited number of the people, that numerous large towns are unrepresented, that wretched little boroughs rank in the scale of influence with large constituencies, that with a population of twenty-eight millions we have only one million of electors? And whom does he expect to convince by quoting the opinions of LOCKE, FOX, Sir WILLIAM JONES, BURKE, a Duke of RICHMOND, and "a noble member of the House still living," in favour of Reform? The House of Commons has heard all this, knows it well, is weary of it, and asks, "What then?" To which Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY replies in these really cogent words: "We shall have neither bill nor committee while the people are quiet, but as soon as the people demand with a loud voice, there will be a bill, whether there is first a committee or not." That sentence contains the whole truth of the question. We will quote, as its parallel, some remarks which fell from Lord JOHN RUSSELL during the debate on Mr. LOCKE KING's motion:—"I think it may be said that there is no great pressure in the public mind, no national urgency for the adoption of a comprehensive measure of reform. For my own part, I should think it was very imprudent in my noble friend (PALMERSTON) if he were now to say that it was the intention of the Government to disturb the legislature and the mind of the country by such a comprehensive measure."

What is wanted, consequently, is, not a select committee, but a national agitation. Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY makes that his threat; Lord JOHN RUSSELL makes it his apology. From the Government no proposal can be expected; Lord JOHN RUSSELL cannot be reasonably asked to assume the initiative without an impulse from the nation; besides, that which might seem to him to complete the constitutional edifice would, in all probability, fail to satisfy the popular advocates for an extension of the suffrage, and its liberation from corrupt control. While the old Registration Associations are dissolving, while political life is languid outside of Parliament, while a new Reform Bill is treated as a chimera, while annual motions are made and not believed in, the House of Commons will never be influenced in favour of that comprehensive measure to the immediate introduction of which Lord JOHN RUSSELL has objected. It is true

that upon Mr. LOCKE KING's motion Lord PALMERSTON could not retain the support of forty members of his party; it is true, also, that a hundred and seventy-nine Liberals voted against him; but if those hundred and seventy-nine men were sincere, could they not easily obtain the assent of the Premier to a moderate plan of reform, drive him out of office, or summons him to show cause against a Bill at a general election?

Let the Liberal party understand that "pressure from without" is as necessary now, as at any previous time. However desirable a tranquil state of public opinion may seem, it is not by tranquil public opinion that great reforms have been effected.

#### THE VICTORIA CROSS.

THE new decoration for military services is one of the best things that we have got from the present Government, if, indeed, we must not ascribe it to Queen VICTORIA herself. It consists of a plain cross, with a small gratuity to those men in the humbler classes of the army or navy who would value the aid. Nothing can be simpler than the decoration itself, or the organization of the order which it constitutes; and yet it is more thoroughly an order of chivalry than any of those which pass by the name, and still enable grandees to play at knighthood on occasions of ceremony.

It has been bestowed upon comparatively few persons—eighty-five; and it has been remarked that surely more brave men might have been found in the British army and navy. We believe so, indeed, but that is not the point: the cross is given, and properly given, to those who have distinguished themselves by extreme bravery or devotion—given for that kind of exploit which brave men would desire to perform if they had the opportunity, and which, when done, all admire by the sheer impulse of instinct. Where others were courageous and strict in discipline, the man who wears the cross has likewise been courageous and strict in discipline, but has also carried his devotion and gallantry to a generous excess. In the case of such an order the abuse would be, if it were given too generally; it is desirable that there should be many who have strong claims—claims that may be made the subject of question; for it is an order to which many should aspire, and few attain.

This is the more necessary, since it constitutes a new rank, overleaping the ordinary barriers of social distinction. The list of the exploits has been published in the *Gazette*, and it reads like a set of extracts from the old chivalrous romances, or from old heraldic chronicles, telling the deeds of early chiefs. A large proportion of the achievements consists, either in daring attacks upon the enemy, or in picking up a live shell and throwing it out of the reach of mischief, or in saving wounded companions at the risk of life. In these services, all ranks were engaged, and the distinction falls equally upon them all. The mere fact of being named in such a history is in itself a glorious distinction. Here is an example of the commingling:—

"Henry James Raby, Commander; John Taylor, Captain of the Forecastle; Henry Curtis, Boatwain's Mate.—On June 18, 1855, immediately after the assault on Sebastopol, a soldier of the 57th Regiment, who had been shot through both legs, was observed sitting up and calling for assistance. Climbing over the breastwork of the advanced sap, Commander Raby and the two seamen proceeded upwards of 70 yards across the open space towards the salient angle of the Redan, and, in spite of the heavy fire which was still continuing, succeeded in carrying the wounded soldier to a place of safety, at the imminent risk of their own lives. (Letter from Sir S. Lushington, June 7, 1856.)"

Here is another pair:—

"Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Francis Maude.—For conspicuous and most devoted bravery on Sep-

tember 8, 1855, when in command of the covering and ladder party of the 2nd division on the assault of the Redan, to which he gallantly led his men. Having entered the Redan, he with only nine or ten men, held a position between traverses, and only retired when all hope of support was at an end, himself dangerously wounded.

"Private John Connors (No. 2649).—Distinguished himself most conspicuously at the assault on the Redan, September 8, 1855, in personal conflict with the Russians; rescued an officer of the 30th Regiment, who was surrounded by Russians, by shooting one and bayoneting another; and was observed inside the Redan in personal combat with the Russians for some time. Was selected by his company for the French war medal."

Another:—

"Private Samuel Parkes (No. 635).—In the charge of the Light Cavalry Brigade at Balaklava Trumpet-Major Crawford's horse fell, and dismounted him, and he lost his sword; he was attacked by two Cossacks, when Private Samuel Parkes (whose horse had been shot) saved his life by placing himself between them and the Trumpet-Major, and drove them away by his sword. In attempting to follow the Light Cavalry Brigade in the retreat they were attacked by six Russians, whom Parkes kept at bay, and retired slowly fighting, and defending the Trumpet-Major for some time, until deprived of his sword by a shot."

In one sense, this is probably the most democratic measure given to us by the British Government, confounding ranks and classes: "WILLIAM PEEL, Captain," gets exactly the same decoration with "JOHN SULLIVAN, boat-swain's mate," or "THOMAS REEVE, seaman." As we have already seen, HENRY JAMES RABY, THOMAS TAYLOR, and HENRY CURTIS not only received the same cross, but are grouped in the same paragraph which records their exploits. It is an honour conferred without respect of persons; it is thoroughly "levelling."

On the other hand, this levelling tendency is entirely of an elevating kind. If there are many private soldiers and seamen in the new order of only eighty-five persons, it is a matter of just pride to each one of them that he ranks on a level with Captain PEEL or Captain BUCKLEY, Colonel MAUDE or Colonel DIXON; and most assuredly those same officers will feel a pride in this distinction that they can scarcely feel either in their military title or in the ordinary *Gazette* honours. For what are blue ribbons and green ribbons given at the present day? By what services do men acquire the right of adding after their names, "G.C.B." or "K.G."? What persons have not been included in those orders? What arms, even, have we not seen over the stalls in St. George's Chapel at Windsor? Commonplace men, mean men, traitors, sycophants, and cowards, have tarnished the glory of that order. A man may rise to it by such equivocal services, that the decoration proves nothing more than success—certainly asserts no personal qualities. Officers who attain to chivalrous distinctions even of that kind may feel proud, because the character of their services is known; but those chivalrous men who won the Victoria Cross must feel that they are enrolled in an order of chivalry untainted by these adulterations.

If, therefore, it introduces a democratic element into our aristocratic institutions, it introduces a chivalrous feeling amongst our democratic classes. The very plainness of the order, the absence of anything like ordinary profit, will make it an instrument for calling forth a higher spirit than that which has been generally cultivated of late years in this competitive and trading country. It is impossible that men should not covet such a distinction, and it will constitute a motive of action divorced from ordinary ostentation and selfish gain.

#### FREE EMIGRANTS AND COTTON.

THE Manchester manufacturers have invited the Liverpool merchants to co-operate with them in a plan to abolish the cotton mo-



nopoly at present enjoyed, naturally, by America. They do not propose to cultivate cotton in India or the colonies, but to encourage practically its cultivation—to render production safe and demand certain. They are able and willing, they declare, to receive materials that would employ the industry of the country, and have ample means of paying for them. That was well known before the actual discussion arose. But Manchester has gone a step further. It is prepared, in conjunction with Liverpool, to found an association to effect the removal of all obstacles to the increased growth of cotton in the British colonies and dependencies, to supply, gratuitously, the best qualities of seed and the necessary machinery for the preparation of the raw material, and to provide instruction through competent teachers as well as through printed manuals. Manchester, therefore, has been roused, and is at work. Not that it has hitherto been idle. Mr. MACKAY'S Indian mission, and a body of researches in the West Indies, Africa, Syria, and Australia, prove the contrary. But the time for accelerated movement has arrived. It is known that the cotton of Australia is of excellent quality; by the Chamber of Commerce it was declared "really beautiful,"—"well got up," and "in perfect condition for the spinner." The gold, as the *Daily News* remarks, has kept the cotton waiting. However, a considerable tide has set in from the diggings to the cultivable plains, and we may expect, at no distant day, to hear of cotton cargoes floated down the Murray. At least, the new association will undertake to supply the necessary facilities, and to buy what the Indian or Australian planter may produce.

With reference to the Australian plantations, no opening could be conceived more advantageous to the proposed free emigrants than that which may be created by such an impetus to cotton-planting in the colonies. Flood the Australian colonies with labour, and labour will overflow into the agricultural provinces. Manchester and Liverpool, therefore, having a direct interest in the result, should accept the working classes as allies, and open a path to the colonies for those who are willing to go.

#### MENTAL ALISONATION.

CERTAIN respectable gentlemen who had been engaged in a curling match at Limekilnburn about a year ago, were little aware that they were performing an impromptu drama to illustrate the history of Europe,—dramatizing a commentary on ALISON'S huge work. Yet such was the fact. Mr. THOMAS MORTON, a farmer, had borrowed a horse from Mr. GEORGE TURNBULL, a merchant in Glasgow, in order to go to the curling match in his gig with some friends. In returning home, the night was dark, the road was glazed with ice, and 'the social glass' had had its influences; although it is assumed, as a matter of course, that Mr. MORTON was sober, for he was a Free Kirk elder. Near the top of the hill stood a toll-bar, and near the toll-bar a horse and cart, whose driver was looking with a candle for a lost whip. There are no gas-lights in those parts, and Mr. MORTON did not discriminate between space and the cart and horse; the consequence was a collision, in which each horse was stabbed with the shafts of the other vehicle. Mr. TURNBULL proceeded against Mr. MORTON for the value of the horse. In England, such a claim would be settled at once; but in Scotland, it seems, the borrower is acquitted if the disaster be the effect of accident and not of negligence; and accident was the defence set up. The Sheriff Substitute at Hamilton adjudged that the borrower should pay the

value of the horse; a judgment, it will be perceived, which implies that the Free Kirk elder was at least negligent after the social glass. Mr. MORTON appealed to the Sheriff Principal, who is no other than Sir ARCHIBALD ALISON, the elucidator of Europe, the Rhadamanthus before whom all the great men of the country have passed. He pronounced what is called an "interlocutor," in which he relates the story of the collision. It says: "The judge having heard parties, &c., thinks it proved that the pursuer's horse was left standing in the centre of the road by the pursuer's servant, when the defendant's horse and gig ran into it;" "finds, in point of law, that there were faults on both sides—on the defendant's side in not looking properly and driving faster than was prudent on so dark a night, on the pursuer's servant's in leaving his horse and cart alone"—and so forth; and accordingly the judge acquits the defendant, and condemns the pursuer to pay one-half of the defendant's costs. In short, throughout the whole of this recital of the facts, Mr. Sheriff ALISON had made the horse which Mr. TURNBULL lent to Mr. MORTON figure in both parts—it was the gig-horse driven by Mr. MORTON, and also the cart-horse belonging to the carrier; so that, in his view of the matter, Mr. MORTON was driving Mr. TURNBULL'S gig-horse into Mr. TURNBULL'S cart-horse, and Mr. TURNBULL was in the unfortunate position of having, either by the borrower or his servant, been guilty of the "faults on both sides." It is a favourite resort of your modern judge to assume that there are faults on both sides; but we have never seen the faults distributed with such remarkable ingenuity as in the present instance.

When the case came before the Court of Session, on the further appeal, the Lord Justice Clerk, in his innocence, thought that the wrong judgment had been printed. This is a curious example of defective reasoning; the Lord Justice Clerk assumed that the interlocutor could not be Sir ARCHIBALD'S recital, because it was inconsistent with the facts; a very large assumption. Sir ARCHIBALD has a very historical mind, and he brought that to bear in his recital of the case; he combined the parts of SOLOMON and GIBBON. The composition which was laid before the Court of Session was a page of history. It differed, indeed, from common history in some respects. In the first place, Sir ARCHIBALD was laid under a peculiar obligation to be accurate; wherefore we may assume that he applied the very flower of his faculties to the study of the case. The facts, too, were simple. It was not, like a question of the Vienna Congress, or the Treaty of Paris, complicated by every kind of consideration, controversy, and obscurity; but the facts were few, the evidence was direct, and the whole lay within the compass of the historian-judge. It was with these advantages that he produced the page of history which astonished the Lord Justice Clerk. There was another peculiarity. Pecuniary results turned upon the accuracy of the account; it was a question whether or not Mr. TURNBULL should lose a horse and something more for having been so indiscreet as to have his horse killed, or whether Mr. MORTON should pay that formidable sum, 207. "and expenses."

But as a specialty this last consideration is more true on the surface than in fact. No doubt there must be many a page of history about as close to the truth as this brief story of the gig and cart collision, and if it is true that the wisdom of mankind is the accumulated knowledge of the past, how much deliberate foolishness must be imparted to students of history when the facts of the past are inverted. The French people, for exam-

ple, is represented as wantonly running into the inoffensive French court, and the French noblesse as not driving over a prostrate people, but as wantonly assailed in placid passiveness. If pages of history are read in good faith and such representations are trusted, the penalties wrongfully incurred, and suicidally enforced, must in some cases, though they cannot be so clearly identified and defined, be quite as wrongful as that 207. and costs. It is possible, however, that even before the disclosure of this exquisite case, Europe had learned to doubt its own biography, written as it is by Sir ARCHIBALD ALISON. In this case he has only performed a more ingenious feat than that of putting the cart before the horse: putting one horse before two carts, he has punished an aggrieved man for having suffered a wrong, just as he adjudges the verdict in the matter of the French nation.

**DEATH OF THE EARL OF HAREWOOD.**—This nobleman, who, about the close of last month, was thrown from his horse while hunting and severely kicked on the head, died on Sunday morning at Harewood House, near Leeds, after some three weeks of suffering. He was born in June, 1797, and in early life was in the army. At the Battle of Waterloo, he was slightly wounded. As the Hon. Mr. Lascelles, he represented the borough of Northallerton in Parliament for some years. His politics were Conservative. Strange to say, the previous Earl died suddenly in 1841 after following the fox hounds; and, several years ago, the late Earl (before he came to the title) had a narrow escape from death by the bursting of a gun with which he was shooting—an accident which caused serious injury to three other persons, but little or none to Mr. Lascelles. The Earl is succeeded by his eldest son, Henry Thynne, Viscount Lascelles.—An inquest was held on the body on Monday, and terminated in a verdict of Accidental Death.

Dr. LIVINGSTON, the African traveller, had an interview with Prince Albert on Friday week at Buckingham Palace. Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P., Mr. Arthur Anderson (chairman), and Mr. Fergusson (manager of the Crystal Palace Company), Mr. Costa, and Mr. Bowley (treasurer of the Sacred Harmonic Society), had an interview with Prince Albert last Saturday, on the subject of the Grand Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace.

**A METEOR.**—"T. D. S." communicates to the *Times* an account of a singular meteor he observed on Blackheath on Sunday night. He writes:—"I was crossing the heath about twenty minutes after eleven P.M., going south. It was very dark, though the stars were shining. Suddenly I was astonished at perceiving the ground for many yards before me illuminated by a delicate blue light. It reminded me of the 'good people' of other days, now replaced by garotters. I looked up, and above head, at a considerable height, was a pale blue luminous orb, so like a Roman candle in shape and appearance, that, had it not been Sunday night, and so late, I should have concluded it was a *feu d'artifice*. The meteor (for such it was) descended obliquely but rapidly towards the west, gradually diminishing in size, but deepening in (blue) colour. When it had travelled as far (apparently, from my point of view) as the belt of Orion, it collapsed, and vanished, seeming to eject, at the moment of collapse, a small yellow star, which, after going westward about an (apparent) inch, disappeared also. The light must have been very powerful when it first appeared, for I saw the road, which is one hundred yards off, as distinctly as in broad day."

**"THE GOOD OLD TIMES!"**—There is now living in Epperstone, Notts, an octogenarian who has been blind for several years from the effects of an accident. He says that when he was a child white bread was considered a great luxury; so much so that when his father (who was a framework-knitter) used to take his work to Nottingham, he would frequently promise to bring the children a white penny loaf each on his return, and such was the anxiety of the little ones to possess the luxury, that they have many times gone the distance of three or four miles to meet their father, in order that they might have it a little sooner, and this in depth of winter, in frost and snow. What would the present generation say to this? —*Leicestershire Mercury*.

**THE BRITISH EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE.**—Mr. Charles Alison, Oriental Secretary to her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, has been appointed Secretary of Embassy to the same mission, in the place of Lord Napier, lately named Minister to the United States.

**OUR NEW REPRESENTATIVE AT WASHINGTON.**—The royal mail steam-ship *Persia*, Judkins commander, took her departure from Liverpool last Saturday for New York, having, besides a large cargo, one hundred and fifty passengers on board, including Lord Napier, who goes out to re-establish diplomatic relations at Washington.

**DEATH OF A GASTRONOME.**—Chevet, the famous Paris retailer of eatables, was struck at nine o'clock on the night of Friday week with apoplexy at his house in the Palais Royal.

## 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*.

"SHAKSPEARE in France," as we have noticed on more than one occasion, is becoming a significant phenomenon. While a PONSARD makes himself the laughing-stock of France, as of England, by uttering nonsense about the "divine WILLIAMS," and a DUMAS adds a new and improved fifth act to *Hamlet* in a few hours *de ce travail rapide et foudroyant* which his admirers marvel at, other and more serious minds are giving patient devotion and clear sagacity to the reverential study of our great poet. From whom ought we to expect such noble labour more than from a son of VICTOR HUGO? That son, FRANÇOIS, has just published a volume containing a complete translation of the sonnets into prose, with a very interesting Introduction; and as the volume appears in the 'Collection Levy,' price only one franc, our readers should not hesitate to possess themselves of it. The translation is admirably executed, although, of course, for an Englishman it can only have the interest of curiosity. The Introduction, on the other hand, has the interest of literary discussion. Readers will see with pleasure the careful study this Introduction exhibits; and perhaps will agree with the views it sets forth. Very ingenious, and we believe novel, is the *rapprochement* M. FRANÇOIS HUGO makes of SIDNEY'S *Defense of Poesy*, and SHAKSPEARE'S answer thereto in the prologue to the fourth act of the *Winter's Tale*, where *Time* is made to justify every departure from the unities. More questionable to us is the hypothesis, not novel, although M. HUGO supposes it to be so, which makes the sonnets tell a distinct story. Mr. ARMITAGE BROWN has already done this, in a volume which Shakspearean students well know; Professor MASSON has also done it, in a volume still inedited; others have had a similar conception of the sonnets; but for our own parts we can only regard the conception as one of the many ingenious plausibilities of literature, not tenable in the presence of rigorous criticism. By rearranging the sonnets according to his own fancy, and by including among them a poem from the *Passionate Pilgrim*, which is not SHAKSPEARE'S, M. HUGO does give a certain unity to these various poems, and that unity may increase their interest; as a matter of criticism, however, the grounds on which this arrangement is made, must, we think, be regarded as mere shifting sand-banks of plausibility in the face of the fact that the sonnets were not at all thus arranged in SHAKSPEARE'S lifetime, and the fact that poets avail themselves of the sonnet expressly for occasional poems. It is a debatable question, and will continue to be debated; critic opposes critic; commentator scorns commentator; everybody differs from everybody; as EURIPIDES says in the *Cyclops*, "no one will listen to any one or anything;"—

ἀκούει δ' οὐδὲν οὐδὲς οὐδένος

—and M. FRANÇOIS HUGO is as well entitled to a hearing as another. He has earned a right to be heard; let our readers judge for themselves; they will listen, at any rate, with interest, and that interest will not be diminished by their recognition of certain accents which the celebrated preface to *Cromwell* have made familiar.

We promised to return to the *Edinburgh Essays* for the purpose of considering Dr. GEORGE WILSON'S admirable essay on *Chemical Final Causes*. We cannot afford room for the many suggestive passages we had marked, and must content ourselves with referring the reader to the essay, which is not only full of fine thoughts, but contains little which those who repudiate such inquiries will object to. The bearing, indeed, of the whole argument, namely, why do certain chemical elements rather than others enter into the composition of plants and animals? we consider a purely otiose inquiry; as well ask, why does an acid combine with a base to form a salt? why are chemical combinations definite? But although the question raised is essentially unanswerable, the facts elicited are of very great interest; and no one better than Dr. GEORGE WILSON knows how to treat science so as to be intelligible to general readers: with felicitous illustrations, scientific and poetical, he brings the most abstruse questions into the clearness of day. There is a passage towards the close of his paper which, however, we not only think unacceptable as philosophy, but which we are persuaded he will, on reconsideration, acknowledge to be so.

I ask for an indulgent estimate of a method of research in which I have scarcely a predecessor; but I submit to criticism examples of the method, because I believe it to be logically free from objection. It only assumes that whatever properties a chemical element possesses before its entrance into an organism, it retains after its entrance. Thus, if iron be crystallisable, magnetisable, electrifiable, oxidisable in various degrees, and ready to unite with organic matters out of the body, I assume that it will continue to exhibit those properties within it, whatever may be the additional properties which it manifests in virtue of its being placed in such new conditions as can be realised only in a living organism. When we examine substances in a perfectly dark apartment, we discern no colour in them, but when we carry them with us into a lighted room, and perceive the tints which they then display, we do not doubt that they retain all the properties which they exhibited in darkness; and that these moreover are closely connected with their assumption of colour when light falls upon them. We make a similar but not less legitimate assumption, when we take for granted that all the properties which exist in an element when part of a dead mass, remain in it when part of a living one.

Either we have altogether mistaken him, or this clear-sighted chemist has been guilty of a strange oversight. One of the first principles of philosophy is,

that when the *conditions* are changed, chemical forces manifest themselves differently; and this out of the organism no less than within it. Chlorine and hydrogen, for example, have a powerful affinity for each other; but Dr. WILSON knows as well as any man that these gases may be mixed together in the dark without ever uniting; the change of condition from light to darkness is sufficient to prevent these gases from manifesting their affinity. Again, a certain degree of cold prevents many chemical combinations which take place at the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere. Such changes of condition are slight compared with the changes which bodies undergo in passing into the organism; so that instead of our being able to say that the properties manifested by a body when out of the organism will continue to be manifested by it when in the organism, we are never entitled to assume this *à priori*. Indeed, it is owing to this very fact that the absurd idea of a "vital force controlling or suspending chemical force" has gained such general currency. Were Dr. WILSON'S assumption granted, we should be able to explain all physiological phenomena deductively, from the known properties of chemical elements; which is not the case. We propound our objections with some misgiving, for we naturally enough suspect that Dr. WILSON must have meant something different from what he says.

## THE NEW EDITION OF BACON.

*The Works of Francis Bacon.* Collected and Edited by James Spedding, Robert Leslie Ellis, and Douglas Devon Heath. Vols. I. and II. Longman and Co.

At length an edition of Bacon, worthy of him and of English scholarship, begins to issue from the press. It is somewhat humiliating to our national pride that this our grandest name in philosophy, a name for ever on our lips, an influence for ever directing our minds, should hitherto have inspired neither of our universities nor one of our scientific bodies with the desire to do it such justice as could be done by setting forth the *Opera Omnia* in all the advantage of careful and competent editing. Corporate bodies have declined the task. Commercial speculation has declined it, not feeling sufficient confidence in public sympathy. Three private students—all honour to them!—have taken it upon themselves; and, to judge from the two volumes now before us, they have executed the task with a fulness, sagacity, and loving care which will leave little for successors to improve. We use a hackneyed phrase when we say no English gentleman's library should be without this edition of Bacon; but we use the phrase with precise earnestness of meaning, for the edition is in all respects so admirable that we have only one regret, namely, the impossibility of the edition not finding its place on the shelves of every thinking man, owing to the inevitable cost of such a work.

We have gone through the two volumes pencil in hand, and possessed ourselves of all the editorial matter in the shape of prefaces and notes. Having done so, we cannot restrain the expression of our surprise that critics should have thought proper to put forward trifling objections to points of quite minor detail, instead of bestowing all their space in explaining the merits of this edition. Not that assent to every opinion, or approval of every detail, could be expected. When we have more than a thousand notes on various topics, it is natural that many of these notes will seem questionable; when we have a new arrangement of materials, it is natural that some differences of opinion will be called forth. But in presence of so great a work, executed with such rare ability and care, the obtrusion of critical objections on minor points seems to us a deviation from the true office of the public press.

The present edition arranges Bacon's various works under three general divisions. First—the philosophical literary works addressed to mankind at large, and intelligible to all cultivated readers; secondly—the professional works, addressed more exclusively to legal readers; thirdly—the occasional works, such as letters, speeches, charges, tracts, state-papers, and other writings of business. The advantage of this classification is not only obvious in its convenience to the reader, it admits of a corresponding division of editorial labours. For the idea of any one man editing Bacon is preposterous; and when that one man is a Birch or a Montagu, it becomes simply ludicrous. Three editors, at the very least, are requisite. Three editors have co-operated in this edition. Mr. Spedding, who is editor-in-chief, undertakes the literary and occasional works; Mr. Ellis the philosophical works (aided by Mr. Spedding); and Mr. Heath the professional works.

The two volumes already issued contain the "Novum Organum," the "Parasceve ad Historiam Naturalem," the "De Augmentis," the "Novus Orbis Scientiarum," the "Historia Ventorum," the "Historia Vitæ et Mortis," the "Historia Densi et Rari," the "Inquisitio de Magnete," the "Topica inquisitiones de Luce et Lumine," the "Sylva Sylvarum," the "Scala Intellectus," and the "Prodromi." All these works have their prefaces, explaining their relations chronological and philosophical, and are liberally annotated throughout. Rawley's *Life*, with notes by Mr. Spedding, is prefixed; and Mr. Ellis furnishes a general preface to the philosophical works, in which he expounds and criticises Bacon's Method and historical position. All who can make their way through Latin prose, will prefer reading the Latin versions rather than the translations which in future volumes will be given to render the edition available even to English readers; and, if the suggestion come not too late, we should urge on Mr. Spedding the desirability of reprinting at least the bulk of the notes in their respective places with the translations; the increase of printing will be more than compensated by the advantage to the English reader. The printing and paper are excellent, and the whole aspect of the edition is one which charms the eye.

Descending from generals to particulars, we have to notice in the prefaces and notes such copiousness and variety of erudition at the service of such desire for precision, as makes this edition stand conspicuous among all works executed by Englishmen. Mr. Ellis displays an extent of accurate knowledge which is truly remarkable. Not only does he correct the very frequent misquotations from and references to ancient authors, and furnish parallel passages or curious *rapprochements*, which alone would require con-



siderable extent and accuracy of erudition; but he is at all times ready with stores of learning culled from the schoolmen, the Italians of the Renaissance (Telesio, Campanella, Bruno, &c.), and the writers of our own day, none of these being dragged in ostentatiously, but always justifying their appearance; and over and above these stores, he has a remarkable familiarity with the scientific writers, so that Bacon's errors can be corrected and his anticipations confirmed by reference to writers on science from Galileo and Gilbert down to Faraday and Owen. We will cite a specimen or two merely to indicate the quality of these notes. Bacon, inquiring into the nature of whiteness, says:—"Yet it is no slight advance" (we translate) "towards the discovery of the Form of Whiteness, that two bodies in themselves more or less diaphanous (*i. e.* air and water, or air and glass) when brought into contact, in minute portions, exhibit whiteness from the unequal refraction of the rays of light." Upon this, Mr. Ellis remarks:—"Bacon would perhaps have given, as another illustration of what he has here said, the beautiful whiteness of frosted silver, if he had been aware that it is in reality silver foam. It appears that when silver is in a state of fusion, a very large quantity of oxygen is condensed on and within its surface, the whole of which escapes at the moment of solidification. This explanation of the appearance of granulated silver is due, I believe, to Gay Lussac."

Here is another note: "An excellent instance of the 'deductio nonsensibilis ad sensibile,' occurs in the experiments recently made by Messrs. Hopkins and Soule for determining the melting-point of substances subjected to great pressure. The substance acted on is enclosed in a tube out of reach and sight. But a bit of magnetized steel has previously been introduced into it, and is supported by it as long as it remains solid. A magnetic needle is placed beside the apparatus, a certain amount of deviation being, of course, produced by the steel within the tube. The moment the temperature reaches the melting-point the steel sinks; and its doing so is indicated by the motion of the needle."

Is not this the kind of annotation which Bacon needs, even more than the citation of parallel passages which have only a literary merit? We turn the page and read this note, which may be cited as a specimen of the more erudite annotations:—"The epithet 'perfecta' is generally given to those animals which cannot result from putrefaction. Cæsalpinus in the *Questiones Peripat.*, v. 1, maintains that all animals may result from putrefaction, and that this was the doctrine of Aristotle. The same opinion had, I believe, been advanced by Averroes. That mice may be produced by equivocal generation is asserted as a matter not admitting of dispute by Cardan, *De Rerum Varietate*; Cæsalpinus refers to the same instance, but less confidently than Cardan. It is worth remarking that Aristotle, though he speaks of the great fecundity of mice, and even of their being impregnated by licking salt, does not mention the possibility of their being produced by putrefaction. (*De Hist. Animal.*, vi. 37; *Problem* x. 64.) Paracelsus, *De Rerum Generatione*, affirms that all animals produced from putrefaction are more or less venomous. Telesius's opinion is that the more perfect animals cannot result from putrefaction because the conditions of temperature necessary to their production cannot be fulfilled except by means of animal heat." It might have been well to have extended this curious note by a reference to Redi's *Experimenta circa generationem insectorum*, 1671, which opened the series of experiments subsequently pursued by Wrisberg, Spallanzani, and others, and utterly routed the partizans of equivocal generation.

These three specimens will convey an idea of the quality of the annotations, but only actual reading can convey an adequate sense of their extensive erudition. We have left ourselves no room to speak of Mr. Ellis's views of Bacon's Method; their importance demands a separate article, which we shall devote to them on a future occasion.

#### THE LIFE OF LOUIS NAPOLEON.

*Louis Napoleon, Emperor of the French: a Biography.* By James Augustus St. John. Chapman and Hall.

SEVERAL passages in the career of Louis Napoleon have been overlooked by the writers who have professed to compile his biography. Such passages are:—his flight with Queen Hortense after the Restoration, his residence at St. Leu during the Hundred Days, his adventures for fifteen years after the battle of Waterloo, above all, his Italian enterprise, so courageous, so full of romance, yet so utterly neglected by the writers who have preceded Mr. St. John. The truth is, that the Cochelet Memoirs, and others of equivalent interest, are little known in this country. We are glad, therefore, to receive a biography of the French Emperor, constructed of the right materials and reviewing in detail every important event connected with his progress from the cradle to the throne.

Louis Napoleon was born on the 8th of October, 1808, not at the Tuileries, as the compilers say, but at the private palace of Hortense. When two years and a half old, he was baptized by Cardinal Fesch at Fontainebleau, Napoleon and Marie Louise being the sponsors. His mother was at this time a favourite with the Emperor, dined with him almost daily, worshipped his genius, trained up her children in imitation of his character, laboured, in point of fact, to reproduce him. Her beauty was extreme; she had long fair hair reaching to her feet, and her manners were tender and graceful. Louis Napoleon, always devoted to his mother, seemed at an early age to profit by her teachings. When first confronted, suddenly, with a sweep, he was seized with fits of terror. Hortense reasoned his trepidation away:—

Being asleep one morning with his brother, the nurse left the room for a moment. During her absence, a young Savoyard, as black as Erebus, descended the chimney, and coming out into the nursery, shook himself, and filled the whole chamber with a dark cloud. Louis Napoleon, a light sleeper, awoke, and was seized with terror on beholding a sweep. But soon calling to mind what Madame de Boubers had told him about the poverty and misery of the little Savoyards, he climbed over the railings of his cot, and running across the room in his night-shirt, and mounting on a chair, took forth from a drawer his pocket money, and gave it, purse and all, to the little sweep. He then tried to climb back into his bed, but found it impracticable, upon which his brother called the nurse.

Had this happened to any common boy, it would hardly have interested any one

beyond his mother, or at most the family circle; but the court adulators, converting the incident into an historical event, had the scene painted on a porcelain vase, which they presented to Hortense on her birthday. Having more money than she knew how to spend judiciously, Josephine thought this an excellent opportunity for indulging in a little domestic extravagance, and formed the design of reproducing the sketch on the vase in a grand oil-painting. Possibly, however, the public disasters of France, which came soon after to occupy the minds of the Bonaparte family, prevented the execution of this project. At any rate, I have never seen such a picture referred to in the history of French art.

Mr. St. John brings together a great number of anecdotes, some of historical, others of purely personal interest—but most of them new to English readers—to illustrate this period of Louis Napoleon's life. We select one. The boy prince had been listening to a eulogy on Alexander, Emperor of Russia:—

The next time Alexander came, he took a little signet ring which his uncle Eugène had given him, and approaching the emperor on tiptoe, that he might attract no attention to his movements, he gently slipped the ring into the emperor's hand, and then ran hastily away. His mother called him to her, and inquired what he had been doing. "I had nothing but that ring," he replied, blushing and hanging down his head; "my uncle Eugène gave it to me, and I wished to give it to the emperor, because he is good to mamma." The emperor Alexander embraced the boy, and putting it on the ring which held the bunch of seals suspended to his watch, said, with emotion, that he would wear it for ever.

Mr. St. John adds:—

In persons who possess a commanding position in the world, there is no more certain means of success than the habit of giving. Louis Napoleon seems always to have acted upon this conviction.

The earlier years of his life are shown to have been full of strange adventure and romance. We have been chiefly interested, however, by the story of the Italian campaign. Louis Napoleon was, in 1830, a professed Republican avowing more concern for the affairs of others than for his own. He had been in the habit of paying an annual visit to Italy with his mother. Nearly all the members of his family were there, in Tuscany or the Roman States; they possessed palaces at Ancona, at Florence, and in the Eternal City. His brother inhabited one of the old Florentine palaces. The young King of Rome was at Vienna. Louis was impatient to act, and proposed a Greek crusade, but his mother begged him to accompany her to Rome, where, in November, 1830, they took up their residence:—

What the designs of the family really were at this time, it is now impossible to determine; but from many circumstances which they themselves had suffered to transpire, it seems perfectly clear that they were all, male and female, deeply engaged in fomenting the troubles of Italy.

The whole country, from the Alps to the Faro of Messina, was in a state of revolutionary excitement; but the effervescence was greatest in Romagna. Travellers were stopped in the streets by eager citizens, inquiring about the dynastic change at Paris. Unfortunately for the Italians, however, the Duke of Modena had been admitted into the secret of their designs, which he hoped to work, in favour of his own ridiculous pretensions to the crown of Italy. The younger Buonapartes, also—perhaps the elder—were among the initiated. Excluded from France by the strategy of Louis Philippe, they trusted that events might prosper their ambition in the Italian peninsula, "degraded" as Louis Napoleon wrote, "by the most brutal system of despotism." Mr. St. John says:—

I do not lay much stress on the republican professions of Louis Napoleon and his brother. If they were sincere, which is of course possible, they would in all likelihood have taken advantage of circumstances to raise themselves on the ruins of the Republic; the younger certainly would. However, the point on which I desire to insist at present is, that Louis Napoleon, in 1830 and 1831, was a conspirator, and attempted to subvert the established governments of Italy for the professed purpose of founding a Republic.

The disorders in Rome increased. Louis Napoleon appeared in the streets on horseback, and waved a tricolor; the Pope sent a troop of horse to seize and conduct him to the frontier. Speedily, however, he was in Rome again, a leader of the insurrection, and wrote thus to calm the fears of his mother:—

Your affection will enable you to understand us. We have entered into engagements and must keep them; and the name we bear compels us to aid those unhappy populations which invite us to assist them.

Louis Napoleon and his brother were raised to high distinction in the insurgent army, but they soon proved that they possessed none of the military genius of their uncle. They were accordingly deprived of their commands, which were conferred on Generals Sercognani and Armandi:—

Louis Napoleon and his brother were in the meantime beset with still greater inquietudes. Nothing succeeded according to their expectations. The greatest consternation prevailed at Rome. People exclaimed on all sides that their name was the signal for invasion, and diplomacy in fact made it the pretext of that intervention which had previously been decided upon. The letter of an ambassador, which fell into their mother's hands, spoke of her sons in the following terms:—

"These young men, who still fancy themselves imperial princes, if taken prisoners, will soon find what they really are, by the manner in which we shall treat them."

Of course, the elder members of the family professed to deplore the conduct of these rash young men; but, had they succeeded, Louis, Hortense, and the rest of that avaricious connexion would doubtless have been glad to circle once more about a throne. Soon, however, disastrous portents gathered over the Italian revolution; its leaders were disunited; on all sides the Buonapartes were suspected (an Italian naturally suspects a Buonaparte); Louis Napoleon's brother died; the reaction was making way; and Louis himself, assailed by measles during his flight, was for several days in mortal danger. Dressed in menial livery he at length escaped from Ancona; at Camoscia he slept all night in a court-yard on a heap of stones. The incidents of this journey resemble those of the most romantic episodes in the early life of Charles II.

He is next met with in England, and then in Switzerland, composing theories and rhapsodies:—

In a little piece entitled "The Exile," there is a passage which should be whispered

rightly to the author's ear by many thousand voices from the burning sands of Africa and the pestilential marshes of Cayenne :

"Oh, you whom happiness has rendered selfish, who have never suffered the tortures of exile, you think it a slight thing to banish a man from his country; you have to learn that exile is a perpetual martyrdom, that it is death,—not the glorious death of those who die for their native land, not the still sweeter death of those whose last breath is breathed forth beside the domestic hearth, but a death of wasting away, slow and hideous, which undermines you, hour by hour, until it at length lays you low in an obscure and desert grave."

But it was "an idea wholly philanthropic" that induced Louis Napoleon, Emperor, to deport the noblest citizens of France to Cayenne, to "a death slow and hideous," which lays them low in "obscure and desert graves."

The Strasburg expedition was followed by the American visit. On his way he wrote to his mother in allusion to a circumstance not noticed by previous biographers:—

"When, some months ago," he says, "I was bringing home Mathilde, we entered the park together, and beheld there a tree which had just been shattered by a storm; upon which I said within myself that our marriage would in like manner be broken off by fate. What at that time presented itself to my mind vaguely has been since realised. Have I then during this year exhausted all the little stock of happiness which has been allotted me in this world?"

Mathilde, daughter of Jerome, is twelve years younger than Louis Napoleon.

A brief stay in America sufficed to weary him. He returned within a short time to Arenenberg, and watched the course of political events in France. Meanwhile his friends watched him. Says Mr. St. John:—

I am amazed that authors not otherwise destitute of abilities, should yet, in writing the life of Louis Napoleon, be so weak as to descend like astrologers of the middle ages about stars, destiny, secret voices, and the religion of a man's blood. While reading their productions one appears to be listening to a number of ancient crones crowding around a country fire, and gossiping about fate and witchcraft.

His enemies watched him also, Louis Philippe especially, who was weak enough to demand his extradition from Switzerland. Louis Napoleon of course allowed matters to proceed until the folly of the French government had exalted him into a person of European importance, and then, with theatrical magnanimity, costing him nothing, betook himself to London. With his conduct here Mr. St. John refuses to occupy his pen; he does not become the biographer of Louis Napoleon when, divesting himself for a time of all public pretensions, he became the man-about-town, well known where men of that sort most do congregate.

We pass on to the Presidency, the *Coup d'Etat*, and the Empire. Mr. St. John says of the Republic:—

The history of what the French did in 1848 is calculated to cast a damp over the spirits of every friend of liberty. Among the individuals who sought to establish the Republic, there was scarcely a single statesman. Poets, orators, journalists, filled with the traditions of 1793, profoundly versed in the affairs of Utopia, brimful of philanthropy, violent in the hatred of their aristocracy, equally violent in their worship of the people, they were eager to establish a degree of liberty more perfect than the world had ever witnessed. Every man, like the Abbé Siéyes, went about with twenty new constitutions in his pocket.

He was in Paris in 1848, and conversed with the political leaders:—

There was agitation, effervescence, declamation, wild hopes, fierce antipathies, but nothing like settled political convictions. Almost everybody reverted to the events of the Great Revolution, and seemed desirous of re-enacting the scenes of 1793.

He discusses, successively, the political character of Lamartine, Victor Hugo, the Abbé Lamennais, Louis Blanc, Armand Marrast, Proudhon, and others. The following relates to Lamennais:—

Born in the bosom of the Catholic Church, he had emancipated himself from all its prejudices, and become, in the truest sense of the word, a Protestant. He was at the same time a socialist in politics, a hater of monarchy, an enemy to the privileged classes, a Jacobin, a leveller, a French Jack Cade. With the enthusiasm of a martyr, and the manners of a saint, he exposed himself to all kinds of persecution for the sake of a people who therefore loved him with extraordinary affection. He was the apostle and oracle of the Faubourg St. Antoine; during and after the insurrection of June, those fierce combatants for liberty repaired to his lodgings, as to a Delphian cavern, for inspiration, so that you could hardly ascend or descend his stairs in the Rue Châteaubriand without meeting some workman, or some workman's wife, who had consulted, or was coming to consult, the friend and prophet of their class.

We have been surprised by the tone of reticence adopted by Mr. St. John with respect to the *coup d'etat*. He condemns it; but his condemnation reads like that of a judge summing up, not that of one who has summed up and is passing sentence. His characterization of the act itself, and of its authors, is neither acrimonious in meaning, nor violently expressed:—

Masses of soldiers, infuriated with brandy, extended in long lines through the great thoroughfares, to intimidate or slaughter the population.

Suddenly, on the Boulevards, when the thronging and excited passengers least expected it, a pistol was fired, by whom is not known. The soldiers immediately presented arms, a line of flame passed along the streets followed by the report of musketry, and the shrieks of men, women, and children rolling upon the earth in mortal agony. The soldiers again loaded their pieces, and raked the windows and balconies of the opposite houses, killing indiscriminately all who presented themselves. The streets were encumbered with the dead; the kennels ran red with blood; here the grey hairs of age were dabbled in the gory puddle, and there infants crawled over the dead bodies of their mothers. The drunken soldiers proceeded with their butchery until nothing that had life was seen in the streets.

No exact record has perhaps been kept of the massacres by which Louis Napoleon celebrated his inauguration as President for ten years.

We now hand over this biography to those who are desirous of following closely, in the light of anecdote and analysis, the fortunes of Louis Napoleon from his birth to his imperial reign.

#### CHRISTIANITY AND INFIDELITY.

Prize Essay.—*Christianity and Infidelity: an Exposition of the Arguments on Both Sides.* Arranged according to a plan proposed by George Baillie, Esq. By S. S. Hennell.

Arthur Hall and Co.

Mr. GEORGE BAILLIE, to judge from the two advertisements prefixed to this book, is a remarkably silly person, but he offered a prize for the best essay on Christianity and Infidelity, and the unexpected result has been a really

noticeable book, distinguished among controversial works alike by its candour and its moral tone. According to the terms of the programme, Miss Hennell first states the objections to Christianity which have been urged by various writers, each objection being met by a counterstatement from Christian writers; and next she expounds the objections to Infidelity, which have been urged by Christian writers, each objection being met by a counterstatement from infidel writers. In this way Butler, Paley, Isaac Taylor, James Martineau, Whately, Henry Rogers, Channing, Miall, and others, are placed in opposition to Newman, Parker, Froude, Feuerbach, Charles Hennell, Charles Bray, Auguste Comte, and others. The *ipsissima verba* are in most cases given, or else a condensation of their language, without any substitution of the compiler's own. The scrupulous candour and fairness with which the difficult task has been executed will be appreciated by every reader of this volume. Although Miss Hennell bears a name which holds a distinguished place among the earnest advocates of free thought—indeed, the name of Charles Hennell is quite the most eminent among modern English writers on the side of free biblical criticism—yet would it be difficult, if not impossible, for any one ignorant of the fact, to determine on which side of the question she herself would be found; and no one acquainted with controversy needs to be told how singular a merit this implies.

The defect of the work is one inseparable from the programme, which the aforesaid silly person who offered the prize laid down; there was often no possibility of making the passages truly represent answers to the specific objections. The utmost that could be done was to show how each side considered each topic. Into any of the *vervata questiones* argued here we cannot enter. Instead of discussion let us quote the noble passage in which Miss Hennell expounds the answer to the objection that without revelation there can be no ground for the belief in the moral government of the world:—

The result of the scientific observation of nature is more and more to discover that mind is as obedient to law as matter; that the laws which govern mental phenomena, —or rather, the methods according to which we find that mental phenomena are developed,—are as strict and unvarying as the physical economy of the universe. The great moral law, that virtue brings good consequences and vice evil,—which is but another formulary for expressing the very definition of virtue and vice,—acts as uninterruptedly and as irresistibly as the law of gravitation; and if all the moral universe were in order, would doubtless act as perfectly for every individual as for the whole. But moral order is not accomplished; although apparently tending to it as towards "God's ideal." There are a myriad conflicting impulses at work which mix and thwart one another at present. If adverse circumstances divert the course of retribution, and interfere with its legitimate sequences, a distortion of moral phenomena takes place. The law is not changed, cannot be changed; but the reward or punishment falls on the wrong head. Events move on: the plane of individual action, which lay eccentric and unconformable, adjusts itself to parallelism with the general movement; falls by degrees into its right place;—by the friction of the mighty whirl of life obstructions are worn down, and the amorphous conglomerations of mental atoms sphere themselves into harmonious combination.

True, in this whirl individual interests seem uncared for.—But how shall we say so, when out of it there is evolving itself in our breasts this nice sense of Justice, which tells us what is due to ourselves, and by a farther, nobler stage, what is therefore due to every fellow-being? Here is God showing His will to do Justice to each one; by this means where first he can,—if we must speak of Him in human language.—In the heart of man He has made expression for this generous sentiment, which now first has means of uttering itself amidst this brute world. Man alone in the world is capable of the feeling of Justice; and it is for Man to realize it. Let him see to it: it is his mission, his prerogative, to bring it about; and if he fail he will have to perish, and God to make a better instrument; for we see plainly that God has a will to have it done. By the indignation stirring in our breasts at the wrongs endured by our poor trampled brethren, he urges us to procure for them redress.—Revenge, perhaps, by the same rule?—No: for we have a better teaching, from our Godlike reason, that revenge will fail to effect its purpose.

This, we think, is the true lesson of Nature; and we may call it true piety. In this way, we recognize a genuine command of God. But in the anthropomorphic idea of God and Providence, taught by Christianity, we find a great hindrance to the real duty of man. By leading him to look for the personal care of God, as of a Being who out of his human emotion would do all for man Himself, human effort to right the wronged is cramped and stunted; since the best that man can do is thought to be to leave all to God. Here is a mighty obstruction at the heart of the matter that has to be cleared away: a false piety which, through necessary disappointment, is the fruitful source of blasphemy and impiety.

And the poor injured individual, who has no help from God, and as yet no help from his fellow-men,—what shall we say to him?—If he has the blessing of a great soul within him, that can solace itself in noble sympathy with the good of the whole,—if too he can feel the benefit he himself shares in being subject to so grand a principle, an instrument in working it out,—it is well with him. If not, the more our compassion for our poor brother! Let us not beat about to satisfy our own minds with some comfortable imaginary alleviation, some conceited device of vindication for the ways of God; but confess with the sincerity due to our best feelings, and the sympathy due to the sufferers, that it is hard. In God's name let us strive that these things be so no more.

This admirable extract leads us to remark on the general vigour with which Miss Hennell's expositions are written; indeed, except when she is quoting some splendid passage from Isaac Taylor, or some clear direct passage from Archbishop Whately, we greatly prefer her own exposition to the patchwork of extracts, which her desire for perfect fairness has made necessary.

#### HIEROGLYPHIC SCIENCE.

*The Egyptians in the Time of the Pharaohs.* Being a Companion to the Crystal Palace Egyptian Collection. By Sir J. Gardner Wilkinson. With an Introduction to the Study of the Egyptian Hieroglyphs. By Samuel Birch.

Bradbury and Evans.

WHAT if a new epoch of learning should disturb the satisfied faith of the Egyptologists? Mr. Birch predicts that ere long it will be as easy to read an inscription of hieroglyphs as a page of Greek or Latin; but is it certain that a single inscription has been deciphered? Tracing closely the lines by which this pretentious science has been advanced, from the writings of Horus Apollo—for the earlier works extant deal only in conjecture and allusion—to those of Lepsius and Bunsen, we do not find the absolute evi-



dences upon which so unreserved a judgment should be founded. For what, in point of fact, are the discoveries in connexion with the hieroglyphs apart from theories and assumptions. Until the exhumation of the Rosetta stone, in 1799, from centuries of obscurity, the ideas of Europe with reference to the ancient characters of Egypt were vague, fanciful, and contradictory. The most arbitrary methods of classification and interpretation were adopted. Some read the Hermetic books on the monuments of the Nile; some the hymns of Isis; some a body of laws Kircher invented, while he affected to translate; one Frenchman, even with the Rosetta marble before him, saw the Hundredth Psalm on the pictured portico of Dendera, and another identified the hieroglyphs as transcripts from several parts of the Bible. The Rosetta marble, however, is supposed to have furnished a key to the mysterious lore of the Nile Valley. It contained, as is well known, a trigrammatical inscription—Greek, demotic, hieroglyphic. In the Greek it was represented to be a solemn decree of the united priesthood in synod at Memphis, in honour of the fifth Ptolemy, who had conferred upon them certain benefits, in gratitude for which they had ordered it to be erected in every temple of the first, second, and third rank throughout the country, in three forms of writing. Here was, indeed, a clue, but one as likely to mislead as to explain. Half the hieroglyphic characters had been destroyed. It was a matter open to dispute whether they represented ideas, syllables, or sounds. Comparing the Greek with the demotic, it was ascertained that, while in the one a certain word was repeated thirty times, in the other it was repeated, supposing the identity established, thirty-seven times, and that the enchorial "Ptolemy" fourteen times repeated, represented the Greek "Ptolemy," repeated only eleven times. Meanwhile, the Egyptologists were not content with the *Open, sesame!* of Rosetta. Palm asserted that it was only necessary to translate the Psalms of David into Chinese, and to write them in the ancient characters of that language, in order to reproduce the Egyptian papyri; Lenoir treated them as Hebrew documents; an Arabian quack elucidated the whole mystery with complacent ease; one Italian impostor translated, dated, and annotated the hieroglyph of the Pamphilian obelisk as though he had been paraphrasing Anosto. The more serious masters of the Egyptian school, however, continued to spell the Rosetta inscription, convinced that it pointed the way to a world of philology. Seckler fastened upon a somewhat rational hypothesis, but made the worst possible use of it. Vater had previously suggested to Young that the unknown language on the stone might be resolved into an alphabet of thirty letters, and Young, applying the phonetic principle in a peculiarly clumsy manner, elicited in a way very creditable to his energy an interpretation of the mystic oracle. He worked his way through the euchorial to the hieroglyphic groups, and satisfied himself that the hieroglyph was not a translation, but a paraphrase of the enchorial. Here, then, was a new element of confusion; the horizon retired as the explorers advanced, and the Rosetta stone, as deciphered by Young, was set aside in the limbo of rejected theories.

Then came Champollion, a proficient Coptic scholar, who conjectured the hieroglyphs in the cartouches to be used alphabetically, and not syllabically. He supposed that in the texts each hieroglyph had the value of the initial syllable of the object it represented, a pictured knee being identical with the initial K, of Kleopatra, and the pictured Lion with the initial L, in the Coptic Laboi, or Lion. "Supposed," and "probable value," are the terms which even a theorist so daring as Mr. Birch applies to the process by which Champollion groped through Egyptian darkness in search of a glimmer of history. But, although that eminently learned man had undoubtedly exhibited as much genius as erudition in his attempt to solve the mystery of the mute language of a dead race, other Egyptologists appeared who questioned his success. Spohn considered the hieroglyphs to have been a sacred dialect, composed, not of letters, but of their symbols, and Seyffarth followed him. Mr. Birch says: "Aided by the light of philology, the present age penetrates the gloom of thirty centuries, and unsealed the closed lips of the dead." But it has been written, by one at least his equal in authority, "We cannot assert that any inscription, or part of an inscription, has been deciphered with any certainty." The proof is contained in the single fact that Seyffarth continues to argue with force and consistency against the system bequeathed by Champollion, and that the learned Uhllmann and Parratt adopt and defend his views. It is easy to say of them, as of Klaproth, that they are wrong in principle; the point has not been demonstrated; on the contrary, no one can study the writings of the Egyptologists without remarking upon the confusion and discrepancy mixed up with conjectures, assumptions, and critical "restorations" of mutilated texts. Champollion reckons the number of hieroglyphics in use among the Egyptians at 864; Bruce at 514; Goega at 958; Bunsen gives 969; Mr. Birch says 1000 in round numbers. Lepsius, indeed, has added to the enormous alphabet; but we are well aware of his method. No one can make the Nile voyage without seeing the name of the German doctor gigantically daubed and profanely blackening the monuments. He may be a successful discoverer, but he is certainly a very authoritative theorist.

We do not wish to disparage the useful and interesting manual prepared by Mr. Birch. It is neat, clear, and pleasantly written. But it has all the faults of Champollionism; it is didactic and daring, and inconclusive. Hieroglyphic science does not rest on the impregnable basis claimed for it by Mr. Birch. Sir Gardner Wilkinson's sketch of Egyptian manners in the time of the Pharaohs, though alloyed with conjecture, is an example of the success with which a writer, full of his subject, can illustrate it with a popular design.

#### GERMAN PROTESTANTISM.

*A Manual of Religion and of the History of the Christian Church, for the use of Upper Classes in Public Schools in Germany, and for all Educated Men in General.* By Karl Gottlieb Bretschneider. Translated from the German. Longman and Co. This is a handbook of German Protestantism, translated and published with a view to supply a defect in our own upper schools, and to create a greater rapprochement of the Protestants of both countries. How far such a work, emanating from a German source, tinged and laden with German

logic, will be acceptable, we are not disposed to conjecture. In Germany there is a greater degree of liberality on such questions. The student is allowed to dip into philosophic speculations which would create a complete horror amongst our theological professors, either of Oxford or Cambridge. That we are still behind Germany in liberty of conscience is evident from the fact that a Maurice can be expelled from our orthodox metropolitan college, and a Macnaught from a club of his clerical brethren. We have many steps to take before we can come up with the Germanic States in our rights of viewing theological questions in our own way. It is true the fire and the fagot no longer follow the heretic in England. But this is owing rather to our political and civil than to our ecclesiastical and religious institutions. Wherever ecclesiastics are armed with a however little or brief authority, they play such tricks as make the angels weep. Liberal England has only recently thrown open the doors of office to Catholics, and illiberal Spooner annually seeks to perpetuate the distinction between the Papists and Protestants of Ireland, while Jews are still excluded from participating in the honours of legislation.

The work opens with an introduction to the student. A few prefatory remarks on philosophical theology brings us to the subject itself. A history of the Christian Church concludes the manual. Each section of the book is divided into numbered paragraphs. Wherever a point or an assertion seems to require it, an amplified explanation is given, as well as illustrations introduced. Of course in a book of this kind the Immortality of the Soul occupies a fundamental position. Herr Bretschneider remarks therefore on this question that without the belief in this undyingness of the soul we could not believe in the reality of a Divine Being. He asserts that our faculties are capable of accomplishing more than they can accomplish within a limited sphere of time. He argues that it would not be consistent with our notions of the goodness of a Divine Being to create in us longings after an immortality which He did not intend to gratify. The intellectual, moral, and æsthetical education for the soul is on account of the nature of the present existence not accomplished; and does not therefore fulfil its destination, namely, Rationality, which is the condition of moral progress. One philosopher based his argument on this, that Reason in requiring us to aim at the highest good would demand something impossible and contradictory if Immortality did not exist. A similar train of reasoning is pursued by Herr Bretschneider. "The moral law," he says, "reveals itself to our Consciousness as claiming implicit obedience, that is to say as a law rising above sensual life, and demanding that we should sacrifice all pleasurable feelings, and even the sensual life itself, to duty. This demand would be absurd and contradictory if the sensual life constituted the whole existence of man, because in this case the preservation of life would be the highest good and law. But from the existence of the demand follows the possibility of meeting it; and as this cannot be accomplished without the soul being immortal, Immortality must be admitted." Herr Bretschneider uses in this work an amount of reasoning and logical deduction not usually found in works of a similar character in this country.

#### A MEDLEY OF NOVELS.

*Richard Embleton: a Novel.* 3 vols. (Newby).—The author of *Richard Embleton* has wandered far and wide in search of impossibilities, and has discovered them in abundance. But, instead of disposing them in dramatic order, he has piled them up in formless confusion, casting over British chalk his red touches of Italian light, and mingling his black, white, and grey, in a most melancholy chaos. Richard, an articulate mummy, is primarily introduced at the village of Rockham, near the glad, blue sea. He enters a church, dwelling in ecstasy on the thought of the happy moment, swiftly coming, when he is once more to meet his Katherine Harburn. But, hark! that heavy sound!—the officiating clergyman pronouncing banns of marriages, names Katherine Harburn and James Bexley. Off to the beach goes Richard, to a lone tower, and marvellous to say, Katherine goes thither also. He sees her face; he might touch her curls; but refrains, and on the appointed morning, watches her approach the altar, Bexley's bride. Then, a volume of retrospect. Among the episodes is that of a hollow-eyed old man on his death-bed, trying to stab his daughter, that he may save one more Virginia from the pollution of the world. Richard interferes, however. After three hundred pages in wandering mazes lost, the second volume discloses that Katherine Harburn was not married, for, in the middle of the service, she broke away, and fainted. Frances, however, is a troublesome item, her light gipsy figure being wrapped in a robe of rose-coloured Lyons silk, "cinctured by a cord of gold," and her face being romantically angelic. In that rose robe and girdle of gold she dies, and is buried, and Richard weds Katherine. We wonder where the writer found his rusty daggers, his tragic masks, his pantomime properties, and magic-lantern effects. We wonder, still more, that novels so furnished from the old repertoires of fustian and frippery should be acceptable to any class of readers.

*Ernest Milman: a Tale of Manchester Life.* By Powys Oswyn, Author of "Raffe Deane." (Hope).—Mr. Powys Oswyn has probably been laughed at in Manchester, and has written this book in revenge. But, in attempting assassination, he has committed suicide. His profane incoherencies must disgust any adventurous reader who happens to glance at the crazy book called *Ernest Milman*. What the writer intends is, apparently, to lash the merchant princes and cotton lords of the north. And how does he do it? In that style of mephitic rhapsody which properly belongs to intoxication or to insanity. This, observe, is a philanthropic ejaculation, or lament over the woes of poor women:—

They may sell their virtue for money to procure more—more—more of that scorching, blasting, burning liquid that sends so many immortal souls to an eternal hell. They may curse, and swear, and blaspheme, and yell out oaths, the very sound of which would almost make a devil shudder. They may unsex themselves. They may lose the woman in the fiend. They may slide downwards—downwards—downwards—shrieking, yelling, howling, screaming, crying, until they reach that blazing, flaming hell, into which, with one last, long, appalling shriek, that seems to rend the very skies, they disappear, there to spend an eternity of woe—a never-ending

existence of unutterable misery, amid sin-stained, perchance crime-dyed, devils like themselves.

Somebody cries "hah! hah!"—

Man, the devils will echo that hah-hah-hah! when, in a few short years—perchance days—perchance hours—they seize upon you, and, hurling you into the innermost recess of hell—where the blaze is most fierce—where the flames rise highest—and where the heat is most intense—dance with fiendish joy around you, as they watch you writhe, and twist, and turn in agony unutterable, unendurable, yet still eternal, never ending, lasting for ever—for ever!

A light, cooling diet, regular habits, wholesome exercise, and a careful abstention from writing, is the regimen we should prescribe for Mr. Powys Oswyn; some years of that practice may release him from the "unutterable, unendurable" hallucination that possesses him when he mistakes this hydrophobic foam for Christian rhetoric.

*Firmin: a Novel.* By Octavia Oliphant. 2 vols. (Hope and Co.)—*Firmin* is a pedler, who carries a pack full of mysteries. He is strangely connected with Lady Lackland, a pale copy of Lady Deadlock, who is hectic, beautiful, fond of spaniels, and addicted to curling her lip. The stage is crowded with characters, men and women, high and low, all of whom deliver themselves of their conversational oratory in the stiff, measured language peculiar to one sort of drama. Some ingenuities of invention are developed in the plot; the sketches of life are often animated; and there is nothing in the style to repel or to excite ridicule.

*Julia; or, the Metropolitan Marriage, and other Tales.* By Margaret Tulloh. (Hope.)—Of the "other tales," that called "The Bronze Horse" is the best. "The Twins" is a hackneyed absurdity, concerning a young Italian girl, who, during a cholera season, personates her medical brother, is theatrically sent for to attend her high-born lover, and dies by his bedside, he dying also. There is no plan or purpose in the story. "Julia" contains a picture of an Italian domestic interior, which is interesting, because it has obviously been drawn from familiar personal experience, but the scheme of the narration is poor and the moral silly. Julia Bellfield, a young lady who left school too soon, elopes with a Neapolitan marquis, and lives in palatial poverty—with a profligate husband, no men-servants, and Roman Catholics seeking how they may ensnare her into the power of the Church. Of course, Julia bitterly regrets her marriage; but does penance by fighting for her orthodoxy. Let us hope that Miss Tulloh will obtain the one object she had in view when publishing—that of dissuading young girls from running away with worthless Neapolitan marquises.

Not a novel, but better than most novels, is a volume published in Bohn's Illustrated Library—*Tales of the Genii; or, the Delightful Lessons of Horum, the Son of Asmar*, translated from the Persian by Sir Charles Morell. "Sir Charles Morell" was simply the Rev. James Ridley, who died soon after the publication of his fascinating stories, not "translated from the Persian," but written by himself. There have been more than twenty editions of the book, which is intensely Oriental in tone and colour. Most persons will remember John Martin's magnificent picture, *Sadak in Search of the Waters of Oblivion*, which illustrates one of the best of the Tales.

*The Heroes of Asgard and the Giants of Jötunheim.* By the Author of "Sidney Grey." (Bogue.)—A pleasant and instructive volume for the young, detailing the adventures of the Northern gods and heroes, and illustrating, in a familiar way, the Scandinavian mythology.

#### RIP VAN WINKLE AWAKE.

*England and Russia Natural Allies; or, Distinct Views of Political Economy.* By Bernard Moncriff.

RIP VAN WINKLE awoke after centuries of sleep, and found the world changed. Mr. Moncriff, waking also from some dim cloister dream, discovers that England is not where she was five hundred years ago. But, unlike the phlegmatic philosopher, he proposes to restore the ancient ways. Such a writer can give no offence. He has a notion, and he prints it. Well, it is printed, and there is an end of it. So might a speculator with peculiar

views propose that in future the moon should rule by day and the sun by night, prohibit steam, insist on oil-lamps, revive the Star Chamber, enlarge the limits of the wasting Caspian. Plainly, Mr. Moncriff suggests something as impossible. He wants a tax levied on all publications so as to make them 'dear,' in order that the press may represent "the enlightened and wealthy classes" alone. "Dearness is the best means to make prints good, for it must be a very good book indeed ere a man will pay a good price for it." We recommend Mr. Bernard Moncriff to lose no time in studying the alphabet of political economy. He shall have an illustration. What are the vilest publications sold in England and in France? The most expensive. They who will not give a penny for a newspaper will give a guinea for an abominable engraving. But we intended only to smile at this Northern economist, and here we are reasoning with him! Hesings of the dancing stars; he sings of the doedal earth; he sings of the giant wars, and other things that were; but his eccentricities have not the slightest practical bearing on the men or things of our own day. Of course, they profess to be distinct views on contemporary questions; and here is a specimen of their distinctness:—

All the Paris journals, with the exception of the *Moniteur*, might be suspended *ad infinitum*, without producing any other material derangement than a blank in the list of amusements.

Here, also, is a case supposed:—

In order that all possible conditions favourable to "no servitude" may be present, let us suppose all human beings now existing to disappear from the face of the earth, with the exception of a limited number, say, ten young men married to ten young ladies.

Any one curious to learn how Mr. Moncriff marshals the "ten young men married to ten young ladies" as the mothers and fathers of a future world, will consult his sybil book, which the (public being tired of Russia) has the advantage of being almost totally disconnected from the subject announced on the title-page.

### The Arts.

#### THEATRICAL NOTES.

MRS. BARNEY WILLIAMS has appeared at the ADELPHI in a farce entitled *In and Out of Place*, in which she performs the part of a discharged servant girl, who presents herself again and again to her former master disguised as natives of various countries, including Ireland, Germany, and France. Finally, she comes forth as "a genuine Yankee gal," with a new song, called "Independence Day." All who have seen Mrs. WILLIAMS will appreciate beforehand the animation, sparkle, freshness, and abrupt native grace, with which she performs this character; and to all who have not seen her we say—Repair the omission on the first opportunity.

A wild and fantastical piece of farce-writing was produced at the LYCEUM on Monday evening under the title of *A Friend from Leatherhead*. The acting rests chiefly upon Mr. TOOLE, who is provided with a part such as Mr. ROBSON has recently made popular at the OLYMPIC. Mr. TOOLE has more than once exhibited a tendency to the same kind of grotesque extravagance of humour hovering on the borders of the horrible, and has shown, we think, a faculty that way, though lacking the positive genius of his prototype. In this new farce, he plays the part of a *Mr. Loophole*, who has fallen in love with an unknown lady, and followed her about in the Regent's Park, to her great annoyance. He afterwards goes to the house of his old friend, *Captain Squiffem*, and finds that the fair one is the Captain's wife. *Squiffem* threatens to call out the fellow who has annoyed his spouse; and poor *Loophole* is in an agony of apprehension that *Mrs. Squiffem* will denounce him the moment she sees him. His adventures in endeavouring to evade this terrible consummation—his feverish fright, his vain disguises, and his leaping out of the window of the drawing-room into a greenhouse below—are all conceived in the most outrageous spirit of farcicality, but receive a kind of wild truth from the acting. The lady is performed by Mrs. BUCKINGHAM WHITE, and there is a lady's-maid part for Miss WILTON. The piece is written by Mr. EDMUND H. YATES and Mr. W. HARRINGTON.

#### FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 24.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—ROBERT ASHWORTH, Vale-mill, Newchurch, Rossendale, Lancashire, cotton spinner and manufacturer.

**BANKRUPT.**—EDWIN SHEPHERD and WALTER SHEPHERD, 12, Crane-court, Fleet-street, City, lozenge manufacturer—WILLIAM SADDGROVE, the younger, and RICHARD RAGE, Eldon-street, Finsbury, and Dummings-alley, Bishopsgate-street, City, cabinet-makers and upholsterers—FREDERICK FRANCIS SIAW, 253, Blackfriars-road, Surrey, iron-monger—SLEATER GEOFFREY, 7, Palsgrave-place, Strand, Middlesex, printer, engraver, and stationer—ROBERT GRAVES, Windmill-street, Gravesend, corn and flour merchant—JOSHUA DOWNING STANBURY, Richmond, Surrey, draper—THOMAS WHITE, the younger, Portsmouth and Gosport, ship builder and engineer—FREDERICK MORSE, 2, Dunster-court, Mincing-lane, City, rice and spice merchant—SAMUEL SMITH, Derby, iron merchant—THOMAS KING, Spalding, Lincolnshire, licensed victualler—WILLIAM SMITH, Mansfield, Notts, licensed victualler—JAMES GRIFFITHS, Bristol and Cardiff, builder—ROBERT SPENDLOVE, Sheffield, horse and cattle dealer—FRANCIS BEE, Sheffield, table-knife manufacturer—LORENZ THEODOR WANG, Sunderland, timber merchant—JAMES ARMSTRONG, Berwick-upon-Tweed, linen and woollen draper.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.**—JAMES NICOL BULKER, Aberdeen, china, glass, and stoneware merchant—WILLIAM SINCLAIR, Scotland-street, Edinburgh, commission agent—ROBERT M'GAVIN ROBERTSON, Dundee, manufacturer—ALEXANDER MERCHANT EDWARDS, Glasgow, commission merchant—ROBERT MATTILAND, Rose-street-lane, Edinburgh, postmaster and horse dealer.

Friday, February 27.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—JOHN M'MILLAN, Liverpool, shipowner.

**BANKRUPTS.**—WM. BROWNSWORD CHORLEY, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, slate and slab merchant—JOHN WALKER, Blackburn, commission agent—EDWARD WILLIAMS, Chester, glazier—CAROLINE LIDDELL, Great Driffield, Yorkshire, common brewer—GEORGE WOOD, Loughborough, Leicestershire, coal merchant—JOSEPH WEST, Beckington, Somersetshire, miller—WILLIAM SKINNER, the younger, Bristol, tailor—DAVID LLOYD, Cannon-street,

merchant—ARTHUR BEARS CAISTOR, Baker-street, Portman-square, saddler—DAVID CHEETHAM, Rochdale, cotton-spinner—HENRY MARTIN MAINWARING, Toxteth-park, near Liverpool, grocer—THOMAS OWEN, Liverpool, joiner and builder—WILLIAM HADFIELD, Cockspur-street, Middlesex, merchant—LUKE WARD, Wisbeach, St. Peter, Cambridgeshire, plumber—THOMAS HORNER, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, house decorator—WILLIAM BAYLEY, jun., Buttes-lane-street, Hoxton, carver and gilder—DAVID MORRIS, Wisbeach, grocer.

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

##### BIRTHS.

CAVENDISH.—On the 25th inst., at 22, Park-street, Grosvenor-square, the Lady Elmor Cavendish: a son.

NORGATE.—On the 1st of January, at Hoosheyarpoor, the wife of Lieut. J. T. Norgate, 69th B.N.I.: a son.

##### MARRIAGES.

FORREST—WRIGHT.—On the 24th inst., at St. Nicholas' Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Thomas Forsyth Forrest, Esq., eldest son of Thomas Forsyth, Esq., to Miss Sarah Wright, granddaughter of the late John Grace, Esq., of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

TAYLER—GIDEON.—On the 1st of January, at St. James's Church, St. Helena, by the Rev. W. Helps, Garrison Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. R. Kempthorne, rural dean, Lieut. Henry Tayler, H.M.'s St. Helena Regiment, and Fort Adjutant, to Sibella Rose, and Lieut. John Baldwin Hainault Rainier, of the same regiment, to Luna Kempthorne—the third and youngest daughters of Lewis Gideon, Esq., of St. Helena, Consul for Portugal and the Algarves.

##### DEATHS.

POULETT.—On the 20th inst., at Hinton St. George, Somersetshire, the Hon. Amias Poulett, aged 22, youngest son of the Earl and Countess Poulett.

RYLAND.—On Friday evening, the 20th inst., at Camberwell, Archer Ryland, Esq., barrister-at-law, Benchler of Gray's-inn, and Senior Common Pleader of the Corporation of London.

TEBBS.—On the 20th inst., at her residence, Uxbridge-common, Mrs. Elizabeth Tebbs, in her 93rd year, widow of the late John Tebbs, Esq., whom she survived 50 years to a day.

### Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, February 27, 1857.

THE Funds have remained absolutely inactive since last week. There seems a slight tendency to a fall in Government securities, the second editions having spoken less hopefully of the chance of a reconciliation with Persia. The majorities in both Houses have given the political quidnuncs a rest for a while.

The Turkish Six per Cents. stock, and most foreign stocks, continue well supported. An inquiry after the old, much despised Spanish Certificates has led to some large purchases, a well-spread report having been started that M. Mirès is buying them up in order to start his loan, perhaps.

Foreign railway shares are very buoyant. East Indian and Belgian in the ascendant.

Canadian Westerns are well supported, and will go to 10 premium before the autumn, the railway is doing so well. Canada Trunk railway shares are flat, their liabilities and difficulties seem overpowering. The heavy railway market has been very buoyant all the week. Lancashire and Yorkshire are now beyond par, and Midlands bid fair to rival them before long. The continuations were light, which proves stock to be scarce. Caledonians have sprung 20s. and 30s. per share, and seem likely to go higher with an easier money market.

The rate paid for short loans in the Stock Exchange has been as high as 7 per cent. How long speculators will find it desirable to carry on their adventures under such disadvantages, is a mystery, yet with any ease in discounts we should see high water and flood-tide with the Bulls; nothing but dear money keeps them from operating at this present moment.

Joint-Stock Banks keep well up in price. Ottoman Bank shares are nearly at 1 premium, and Egypt at par.

General Omnibus Company shares are well maintained in price.

The Russian railway scheme will never obtain any countenance here under the present conditions.

The markets close at four o'clock very heavily. Consols for account, 93½; Turkish Six per Cents., 90½; ditto, Four per Cents., 101½.



Blackburn, 84, 9; Caledonian, 68½, 69½; Chester and Holyhead, 37, 38; Eastern Counties, 104, 105; Great Northern, 94½, 95½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 111, 113; Great Western, 67½, 68 x. d.; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 101, 101½; London and Blackwall, 62½, 63 x. d.; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 108½, 109½; London and North-Western, 106, 106½ x. d.; London and South-Western, 105½, 106; Midland, 82½, 83 x. d.; North-Eastern (Berwick), 87, 88; South-Eastern (Dover), 76, 77; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 61½, 62½; Dutch Rhenish, 1½, 2 pm.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 32½, 33½; Great Central of France, 4½, 4½ pm.; Great Luxembourg, 6½, 6½; Northern of France, 38½, 38½; Paris and Lyons, 57½, 57½; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 1, 1½; Sambre and Meuse, 8½, 9.

## CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, February 27, 1857.

This week the London market has been moderately supplied with all articles. Off the Coast, a fair number of arrivals has also taken place. Prices remain unaltered, and the trade continues quiet. The chief demand for cargoes has been for Maize for the Continent, but some other cargoes have also found purchasers. The principal sales are as follows:—Tanganrog Ghirka 57s. 6d., Marianopoli 60s. 6d., Odessa Oats 21s. 3d., Saidi Wheat 43s. 6d., Ibrail Maize 37s. 6d., Galatz Maize, 38s. 6d. to the United Kingdom, and Galatz Maize 43s. to 43s. 6d., and Ibrail 40s. 6d. to 41s., and Smyrna Barley 30s. 3d., cost, freight and insurance to the Continent.

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

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

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds.....	93½	Portuguese 4 per Cents.....	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents.....	.....	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents.....	.....
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	.....	.....	.....
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents.....	98½
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	65	Spanish.....	40½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.....	98½	Spanish Committee Cer.....	6½
Equador Bonds.....	.....	of Coup. not fun.....	.....
Mexican 4½ per Cents.....	21½	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	95½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.....	80½	Turkish New, 4 ditto.....	101½
Portuguese 3 per Cents.....	43	Venezuela 4½ per Cents.....	.....

## ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.  
Monday, and during the week, will be performed the new Drama, by Tom Taylor, Esq., called A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING. Characters by Messrs. Addison, G. Vining, G. Cooke, H. Leslie, H. Cooper, Mrs. Stirling and Miss Maskell. After which, A CONJUGAL LESSON. Mr. F. Robson and Miss Swanborough. To conclude with A SPLENDID INVESTMENT. Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, White, and Cooper; Misses Marston, Castleton, and Stephens.—Commence at Half-past Seven.

## EXHIBITION, 114, NEW BOND-STREET.

MESSRS. DICKINSON beg to announce their intention, on the 9th March, to throw open their large galleries of Portraits, and other Works of Art, executed at their Establishment, for Public Exhibition, having been favoured by the Proprietors with the loan of their Portraits for that purpose. The exhibition will contain all their choicest photographic pictures, ranging in size from the smallest miniature, to the life-size oil picture; likewise, their new discovery of the perfect adaptation of real ivory to photographic purposes, guaranteed not to change or fade.

## THE ORIGINAL GENERAL TOM

THUMB, who appeared Three Times before her Majesty in 1844, PERFORMS THREE TIMES DAILY at Prince of Wales Bazaar, 209, Regent-street, from 12½ to 2, 3½ to 5, and 7½ to 9 o'clock. New Songs, Dances, Costumes, Imitations, &c.—Admission, 1s., regardless of age; stalls, 2s.; children, 1s.

## DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM,

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

## FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH.—The

manifold advantages to the heads of families from the possession of a medicine of known efficacy, that may be resorted to with confidence, and used with success in cases of temporary sickness, occurring in families more or less every day, are so obvious to all, that no question can be raised of its importance to every housekeeper in the kingdom.

For females, these Pills are truly excellent, removing all obstructions, the distressing headache so very prevalent with the sex, depression of spirits, dulness of sight, nervous affections, blotches, pimples and sallowness of the skin, and produce a healthy complexion.

Sold by PROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.  
Price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

## BLAIR'S GOUT and RHEUMATIC PILLS.

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

Sold by PROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.  
Price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

## GENUINE GARDEN SEEDS.—TIMOTHY

BRIGDEN, SEEDSMAN and FLORIST, 10, RAILWAY ARCADE, LONDON BRIDGE, begs most respectfully to inform his friends and patrons, that his unrivalled collection of Agricultural, Vegetable, and Flower Seeds is now arranged, and Catalogues will be forwarded, post free, upon application. T. B. further begs to state that he still continues to make assortments of choice Vegetable Seeds, in collections suitable for Gardens of every size, from Ten Shillings and upwards.

Ladies and Gentlemen not being able to call at the above Establishment, may rely upon their orders being executed with only First-class Seeds.

All orders from unknown correspondents must be accompanied with reference or Post-office Order. Borough Branch.

## ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE IN IMPERIAL PINTS.

HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., are now delivering the October brewings of the above celebrated Ale. Its surpassing excellence is vouched for by the highest medical and chemical authorities of the day. Supplied in bottles, also in casks of 18 gallons and upwards, by HARRINGTON PARKER and CO., 5½, Pall Mall.  
February, 1857.

THE CONTINENTAL WINE COMPANY,  
BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL.

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

Alto Douro Ports, at 42s. per dozen.  
Genuine ditto, 34s. per dozen.  
Superior Pale or Gold Sherries, 30s. to 36s. per dozen.  
Champagne, from 42s. to 72s.  
Claret, from 30s. to 84s.  
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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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Terms Cash.

A Sample Bottle for 24 stamps.

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## LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

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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.

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By whom the Oil is daily forwarded to all parts of the Metropolis.

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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 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 13, 1855.

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

(Signed) "A. S. TAYLOR.

"Messrs. Adnam and Co."

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

## THE VERY BEST SPECTACLES to be had

of Mr. LADD, OPTICIAN, 31, CHANCERY-LANE. Blue Steel Spectacles, with Glasses, 13s.; with Pebbles, 20s. Best Gold, ditto, 35s.; with Pebbles, 42s. Second quality at much lower prices.

Eye Glasses, Opera Glasses, Telescopes, &c.

Compound Achromatic Microscopes, from 4 to 40 guineas.

## BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

THE CONCERTINA, manufactured solely by the Inventors and Patentees, Messrs. WHEATSTONE and Co. The Patent Concertina, 17. 16s., of superior make, six sided, with double action, to play in five keys. The Concertina having the full compass of notes, price from 4 to 12 guineas.

The PATENT CONCERT CONCERTINA, unrivalled in tone and of extra power, as manufactured for Signor Rigondi, and the most eminent performers. These instruments price 12 guineas. Rosewood Concertinas, with 48 ivory keys, double action, may now be had from 4 guineas each.

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plete Sets, without Springs, on the principle of capillary attraction, avoiding the necessity of extracting stumps or causing any pain.

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Price of single truss, 16s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.—Postage, 1s. Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d.—Postage, 1s. 8d. Umbilical Truss, 42s. and 52s. 6d.—Postage 1s. 10d.

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for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. 18s. Postage, 6d.

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applied, being the best in the world. Sold from 3s. 6d.; sent free for 54 stamps. ALEX. ROSS'S HAIR DESTROYER, or DEPILOY, for removing superfluous hair from the face, neck, arms and hands. 3s. 6d. per bottle; sent for stamps, free by post, 8d. extra. ALEX. ROSS'S CANTHARIDES OIL, a sure restorer of the hair, 3s. 6d.; sent for 54 stamps. ALEX. ROSS'S FACE POWDER, or POMADORE, 1s.; sent free for 14 stamps. LIQUID ROUGE, 2s. 6d. per bottle; sent free for 36 stamps, by ALEX. ROSS, 1, Little Queen-street, High Holborn; Wholesale Agent, BARCLAY, Farringdon-street.

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COMPLAINT.—Edward Smith, of Newport, Monmouth, was afflicted for fifteen years with indigestion and liver complaint. His symptoms were of the severest kind—pain in the stomach after eating, eructations of wind, pain in the back and right shoulder, weakness, languor, and extreme yellowness of the skin and eyes. Physicians only affording temporary relief, he was induced to obtain this wonderful remedy, and in a short time all painful symptoms disappeared, and he was restored to perfect health.

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**FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE IRONS.**

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS. They contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE IRONS, and GENERAL IRON-MONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 4. 14s. to 13. 13s.; ditto, with ornate ornaments and two sets of bars, 5. 5s. to 22. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders, with standards, 7s. to 6. 12s.; Steel Fenders, 2. 15s. to 11. 11s.; ditto, with rich ornate ornaments, 2. 15s. to 18. 1s.; Fire irons, from 1s. 9d. the set to 4. 4s.

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

**CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.**

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In every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherche patterns. Tin dish covers 6s. 6d. the set of six; block tin, 12s. 3d. to 23s. 9d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 34s. to 58s. 6d. the set; Britannia metal, with or without silver-plated handles, 76s. 6d. to 110s. 6d. the set; Sheffield plated, 10. 10s. the set; block tin hot water dishes, with wells for gravy, 12s. to 30s.; Britannia metal, 22s. to 77s.; electro-plated on nickel, full-sized, 11. 11s.

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

Illustrated Catalogues sent (per post) free.  
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Established, 1820.

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**GOLD WATCHES,** Horizontal Movements, Jewelled, &c., accurate time-keepers, 3. 15s., 4. 15s., 5. 15s., to 15. 15s. each. Gold Lever Watches, jewelled, and highly-finished movements, 6. 0s., 8. 0s., 10. 10s., 12. 12s., 14. 14s., 16. 16s., to 40 guineas.

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

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The Hon. Mr. JUSTICE COLERIDGE.  
The Hon. Mr. JUSTICE ERLE.  
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CHARLES PURTON COOPER, Esq., Q.C., LL.D., F.R.S.  
GEORGE CAPRON, Esq.

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Annual Premium	£25 7 6	£35 16 8	£49 8 4
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Bonus added	157 10 0	184 0 0	211 10 0

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The Rev. Thos. Cator, Bryanston-square, and Skelbrook-park, Doncaster.  
Charles Hulce, Esq., Hall-grove, Bagshot.  
F. D. Bullock Webster, Esq., Norfolk-terrace, Hyde-park.  
Arthur P. Onslow, Esq., Lawbrook-house, Shere, Guildford.  
Thomas Pocock, Esq., Southwark-bridge-road.  
Peter Paterson, Esq., jun., Park-road, Holloway.  
James Laughton, Esq., Holm Villa, Lewisham-road.  
This Company enables persons, without speculation, to invest large or small sums, at a higher rate of interest than can be obtained from the public funds, and on as secure a basis.  
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A new and most important feature, entirely originating with this Company, viz., Marriage Dowries, Life Assurance, and Deferred Annuities included in one policy.  
Rates of premium moderate.  
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Forms of proposal and every information may be obtained on application.  
By order,  
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