

Head Office and Printing, 352 Fleet Street.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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VOL. VIII. No. 363.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1857.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED... FIVE PENCE.
Stampd..... Sixpence

Review of the Week.

THE House of Commons is to be "swept away,"—and we are on the eve of a General Election,—that is the position into which Lord PALMERSTON has been driven by the result of the debate on Mr. COBDEN's motion. The discussion continued to exhibit its cross motives until the very last. Mr. COBDEN condemns the proceedings of Sir JOHN BOWRING in China, because he objects to the expenditure and cruelties of war, and would leave trade to shift for itself; Mr. GLADSTONE is enraged with Ministers, because they have disturbed the arrangement which he made when he was in office, and he feels like an author whose work has been 'edited' by an inferior hand that cuts out all his good bits. Mr. DISRAELI rejoiced at the Ministerial difficulty, and exulted in the opportunity for displaying his parliamentary arts in their highest condition. Ministers made the opportunity as wide as they could for him. The question of the lorch and of the BOWRING policy became quite subservient to the question of the position of Ministers. The Premier, who was suffering severely in health, appeared to give way in temper; and the speech which he brought out nearly at the close of the debate, was stinging and personal, but not novel in its arguments. He attacked Mr. COBDEN with singular bitterness, and in fact assumed the attitude of a man who, expecting no quarter, is prepared to grant none. To a certain extent this responded to the feeling out of doors; for the mercantile community generally regard Sir JOHN BOWRING as having championed their interests, and they are disgusted with men who for party purposes can assail Lord PALMERSTON.

The coalition between Mr. GLADSTONE was almost avowed by Lord DERBY at the Opposition meeting on Friday, last week, but the public at large has supposed the Coalition to include all those who voted against Ministers on Tuesday night. This is a serious mistake. There is no suspicion that Lord JOHN RUSSELL, who incurs much of the odium, had any part whatever in the coalition, any sympathy with it, or any expectations from its success. Some of the Peelite members, especially Sir JAMES GRAHAM and Mr. CARDWELL, are understood to go with Lord JOHN far more than with Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. DISRAELI; in fact, they have equally concurred with Lord JOHN in the China debate, in the budget, and in the county franchise debate. Nevertheless, the fact that they assisted Mr. DIS-

RAELI to enjoy a vote against Ministers of 263 to 247, is regarded out of doors as a proof of complicity between the Liberals and the Tories; a proof that Mr. GLADSTONE is not alone in his desertion of the Liberal ranks.

Lord PALMERSTON has resolved to 'die game,' or rather not to die at all. On the Monday he rallied his supporters, as Lord DERBY rallied his, by calling them to a meeting, at which he announced his intention of not yielding on the COBDEN motion, but of dissolving. The number that attended Lord PALMERSTON's meeting was not more than 180; it was nearly unanimous in his support, though not perfectly so; but there was a general feeling that on a purely Ministerial question, the members present would be unanimous in preferring Lord PALMERSTON to any Minister now in prospect,—that is, to a DERBY administration. The meeting, therefore, was sufficient to disabuse the public mind of the idea that the Coalition includes the genuine Whigs and Radicals; but it did not promise to Lord PALMERSTON a majority.

After the division of Tuesday night it became necessary for him to consider his position. On Wednesday he went down to Windsor, and obtained the consent of the QUEEN to the dissolution of Parliament; the result was generally known before the announcement which he made on Thursday evening, that HER MAJESTY had authorized him to dissolve the Parliament, reserving an interval only to provide for carrying on the public service during the general election. It is expected that Parliament will be dissolved about the 25th instant, though the precise day is not yet named, and the Ministers will make such arrangements as will secure the carrying on of the public service for the next three months: they take the altered Income-tax for one year—if they can.

All parties are in that condition, which is popularly called "a quandary." Mr. DISRAELI twitted Lord PALMERSTON with going to the country on the programme of no reform, new taxes, a Persian invasion, and Canton blazing; but Lord PALMERSTON is not quite so green as to go to "blazes" in that way; and his address to the electors of Tiverton will show that he can strike out something at least a little fitter for a newspaper advertisement.

Upon what will the Tories go to the country? Mr. DISRAELI's adjustment of income and expenditure? Sir JOHN PAKINGTON's education? Mr. HENLEY's non-education? Lord DERBY's no reform? Mr. DISRAELI's Russian alliance? Perhaps, if the Coalition be carried out, the Tories may

go to the country on the strength of the budget of 1853; but who cares for the budget of 1853? There may be one man who does so—Mr. GLADSTONE, with whom it is a monomania. And there is one man who affects to care for it—Mr. DISRAELI, with whom it is an adopted child, as a beggar adopts one to excite feeling. But what 'cry' could be raised in any borough or county for the budget of 1853? In Manchester itself the notion would be laughed at, unless, indeed, going somewhat further, Messrs. GLADSTONE and DISRAELI struck up a larger Coalition, and go for the more ancient budget of 1837.

On what programme will the Whigs go to the country? This is a question of some interest, and Lord JOHN RUSSELL's address to the electors of London is looked for as anxiously as the next new novel.

The Manchester men will be put to it for a programme: peace and retrenchment will probably be their watchword; but election hustings cannot be erected in the Free-trade Hall, nor can the admission be limited by ticket.

The announcement of the plan, however, was not received with contented quietude; for the reason that it was not uttered simply as a matter of business. On the contrary, Lord PALMERSTON accompanied it by insinuations of a "combination." He represented himself as the object of a conspiracy, though he did not use the word; and he managed his insinuations in such a way as to include the real Liberals, as well as the Peelites or others that had acted with the Tories. This, of course, called forth the most indignant disclaimers from Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Mr. ROEBUCK, and other Liberal Members; who stated, and stated truly, that they had voted upon conviction, without any reference whatever to a combination with the constituted Opposition.

Another point upon which explanations were demanded, was the mode of treating our actual relations with China. What did Ministers intend to do? The immediate reply was, that they were sending out a force sufficient to support the British. But what about BOWRING? Upon this no answer was given. Nor, in fact, was any strictly demanded, since Ministers are appealing to the country on the very point.

As to ordinary Parliamentary business, of course it sinks out of view in the overwhelming interest of the political contest. The LORD CHANCELLOR's Matrimonial Causes and Divorce Bill has passed a second reading; so has Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOLE's

Industrial Schools Bill, providing schools for young vagrants and other children who have made themselves amenable to the law. A good measure, but this, in common with all private bills, will stand suspended, if not thrown back, by the general election.

Government has placed itself in a contemptible position towards Sir JOHN McNEILL and Colonel TULLOCH. At last it has been thought fit that Lord PANMURE should acknowledge the services of those gentlemen on the Crimean inquiry, which he has done, with an ample apology for not having made the acknowledgment sooner than eighteen months after date. But even this tardy recognition is quite spoiled: Lord PANMURE adds to acknowledgment and thanks, 1000*l.* for each of the Commissioners, as remuneration and token of the value of the services rendered. If so, replies Sir JOHN McNEILL, 1000*l.* must be considered token of the value and pecuniary equivalent; so that rating the token of value at 1000*l.*, the equivalent of the service rendered is 0. Sir JOHN has returned the 1000*l.*, being better pleased to be repaid with the public thanks, pure and simple. Colonel TULLOCH is understood to have done the same.

It is advantageous for Ministers that, just on the point of the dissolution, intelligence has been received that the Persian difficulty is settled. A treaty has been signed by FEROUK KHAN, subject, however, to the reconsideration of the Shah.

Austria has made a direct attack upon Sardinia, on the pretext that the Piedmontese press attacks the Emperor and the institutions of Austria, misrepresenting the true royalty of the Lombardo-Venetians, and preaching regicide. Count CAVOUR replies, that if the Lombardo-Venetian royalty is practically influenced by a press which the Austrian Government excludes from its territories, what influence can that press exercise? He represents that the press is free; but that any party which is libelled, including any foreign Government, can appeal for justice in the Piedmontese courts. Piedmont, in fact, declines to surrender her free press, because it is inconvenient to her despotic neighbour. But the press is only a pretext: Austria means mischief.

At home a new turn has been given to the emigration movement by a letter in the *Times* from Mr. G. J. HOLYOAKE. There is no man more intimately acquainted with the working classes than he is, no one who brings a more completely philosophic view to the consideration of their movements. He suggests, in lieu of the emigration over the sea, the perils of which we have pointed out, home colonization on the plan proposed by ROWLAND HILL years ago. What is the plan? Mr. HOLYOAKE should republish it.

Once more, by the proceedings in the courts of justice and other public movements, the rampant fraud of Paris, London, and New York, is brought to light. We have it in many aspects. The repudiation by an American railway company of SCHUYLER's shares; the Bank frauds of SAWARD and his associates; REDPATR's frauds newly commented; and the Royal British Bank, which is in a peculiar hobble. The depositors have, with the exception of a small minority, agreed to take 15*s.* in the pound. Frightened at unlimited liability, the shareholders have dispersed. Some of them who possess the power would make up the fund for a compromise, if it were accepted; but at the meeting of depositors, thirteen depositors dissented, and it will require an Act of Parliament to make the agreement of the majority binding on the minority. So that the depositors of the Royal British Bank who wish their 15*s.* in the pound, may go hunt for it at the general election.

The Great Northern Directors publish their version of REDPATR's frauds. It seems that he was appointed, in pursuance of 'savings,' over the head of an honest gentleman, on the strength of his 'apparent' propriety. The Directors got a 'cheap' registrar; and the result is, not only that they lose 220,000*l.*—the amount of the false shares which he manufactured—but that the addition to the capital is counter to law, inasmuch that they have no power to pay dividends on any part of their capital without an Act of Parliament.—And so they tell the poor shareholders on the eve of a general election!

It is in Paris, however, that we have the grandest aspect of fraud. The exposure of the fraudulent Docks Napoléon Company has led to the questioning of a son of M. BERRYER, a Government officer, as having connived at the frauds; and his defence is that his superiors, the Ministers of the Emperor, sanctioned his connivance.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, March 2nd.

THE CHINESE WAR.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, in answer to Earl GREY, Earl GRANVILLE said he was able to state from the intelligence received from China, that no further operations had taken place, except those rendered necessary for self-defence and the security of their ships. The Chinese servants had been recalled from Hong-Kong, and the Chinese had offered rewards for the perpetration of acts of incendiarism and assassination in that colony. It was impossible to say, therefore, that there was a termination of the war, but at the same time there was no interruption of their commercial relations with the other four ports. Under these circumstances, it was impossible there could be any change in the condition of Canton, because he believed it was absolutely necessary for the security of the lives and property, not only of British subjects, but of foreigners of other nations, that they should not appear to recede, as dangerous results might follow, not only there, but in the other four ports, where our relations are maintained on a satisfactory basis. Reinforcements had been sent to Sir John Bowring: one regiment went three weeks previously.

THE EARL OF DERBY AND THE "PRESS" NEWSPAPER.

The Earl of DERBY, in reference to a report in the *Press* of last Saturday, said:—"I do not know, my Lords, that I ought to trouble you on a matter which is personal to myself, because it is one of the rules I have laid down for myself never to notice any misstatements or misrepresentations in the public press of any part of my public conduct; and if I depart from that rule on the present occasion, it is only from a sense of justice, not so much to myself as to others, that I feel it necessary to do so. I refer to a report in a public newspaper, which was wholly unauthorized, and which could only have been surreptitiously obtained, of a meeting said to have taken place at my house, which certainly did take place, but not at my house, and which, although it bears on the face of it marks of having been furnished by some person who was present, or by some one who heard what passed on that occasion, is grossly inaccurate, for it states not only what I did not say, but the reverse of what I said."

After some formal business, their Lordships adjourned.

NEW INDIAN LOAN.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in answer to Mr. OTWAY, Mr. VERNON SMITH said that by the mail delivered that morning he had heard of the New Five per Cent. loan. It was for 3,000,000*l.*, limited to fifteen years, and was applicable to general purposes. No instructions had been sent from the Home Government on the subject, and there had been no departure from the usual practice.

GUANO.

Mr. EVELYN DENISON wished to put a question to the Colonial Secretary respecting the guano islands on the coast of Africa. He wished to know whether any arrangement had been made with the Liverpool merchants, which, while securing to them full and fair powers for collecting, would give to English agriculturists the benefit of the supply of that useful article.—Mr. LABOUCHERE said that, since he last addressed the House on the subject, the merchants having the exclusive license had been to him and stated their readiness to allow anybody to take guano upon payment of a royalty of 1*l.* per ton.

CHINA.—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Cobden's motion was resumed by Mr. ROBERT PHILLIMORE, who disputed the validity of the Arrow's register, and denied that she carried an English flag at the time of her being boarded. She was not English in the sense of the treaty, and, moreover, the rules of that treaty were not laid down in accordance with international law. But, assuming that the English authorities were right in regard to the vessel, the legal course of proceedings was by reprisals, by seizing property in pledge, and not by so murderous an attack upon a commercial community. Commissioner Yeh had repeatedly disavowed any intention to affront the English flag; consequently, there was no excuse for such extreme measures.

Sir GEORGE GREY defended the Bishops in the exercise of an independent judgment; accused Mr. Cobden of suppressing an important part of Mr. Cook's letter, which he had quoted in the course of his speech; and pointed out that Dr. Bowring, who had been appointed by the Aberdeen Ministry, of which Lord John Russell and Sir James Graham were members, had been denounced by his quondam colleagues, whilst it served their purpose to extol Admiral Seymour—the truth being that Admiral Seymour was an approving party to everything that had occurred. Members ought to decide the question irrespective of visions of a new Government, and entirely upon its merits.—Mr. PATRICK ROBERTSON, from personal experience, spoke of the Chinese as being a race of barbarians, and disputed the flattering character given of them by Mr. Cobden.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON regretted that the Government had not disavowed the acts of its agents in China; the doctrine that they ought invariably to be supported at all hazards being false and bad. Even assuming the

lorcha to be English, the revenge taken for the Chinese insult was excessive. Sir John Bowring, also, was compromised in another way. He had been charged by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce with having deliberately misrepresented the instructions he had received from the Foreign Office, thereby obtaining the consent of the merchants there to an arrangement to which they would not otherwise have agreed. With regard to Admiral Seymour, he thought he would have acted better had he held a restraining hand, and not have shown himself so ready and willing an agent of Sir John Bowring. The latter evidently desired to get into Canton; but it should be recollected that successive Governments had distinctly forbidden the enforcement of our claim by arms without the consent of the home authorities.—Mr. COLLIER opposed the motion, believing that the law was on the side of the Government. If the House affirmed the resolution, it would amount to an admission that we had been in the wrong from the beginning; the Chinese Government would be entitled to reparation, and would demand an abject apology. By negating the resolution, the House would only affirm that, when a treaty is violated and the English flag insulted, we are bound to exact redress and reparation.

Sir FREDERICK THESIGER replied to the argument of the Attorney-General, who had contended that the question of the nationality of the lorcha depended, not upon the ordinance, but upon the supplemental treaty of 1843. He (Sir Frederick), on the contrary, maintained, from the very terms of the treaty, that it had nothing whatever to do with the question; that the proposition of the Attorney-General ought to be reversed; and that reliance must be placed upon the ordinance, and not upon the treaty. A register granted under the colonial ordinance, itself of doubtful legality, could give no right as against Chinese authority. Over and above the legal question, there was the question of humanity. A few reprisals should have been sufficient to satisfy our honour. As it was, the papers before the House would remain a lasting monument of the bad faith of England.—Sir WILLIAM WILLIAMS (of Kars) thought that the insult offered to our flag was intentional, and observed that the fertile source of the breach of treaties by Eastern nations was the fact of their disjoining themselves from the great family of mankind. For this they rightly suffered.

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT accepted the challenge to discuss the matter upon broad and general grounds. He would state shortly his opinion upon the question at issue. He agreed with Sir John Bowring that the lorcha was not an English vessel; he agreed with Mr. Kennedy that he was only the nominal master of the lorcha, and that she was owned by a Chinese; he agreed with Mr. Brook, of the Board of Trade, that the ordinance was an illegal one; he agreed with Mr. Bridges, the Attorney-General at Hong-Kong, that the alleged English subjects were not English subjects at all; he agreed with Mr. Parkes, that the retribution was more than the occasion required; and he agreed with her Majesty's Attorney-General in the opinion that the law arguments upon the subject of the ordinance brought forward by the Lord Advocate, the Home Secretary, and the Lord Chancellor, were perfectly immaterial. (*Laughter.*) Sir John Bowring, having got together a fleet, thought "circumstances were auspicious" for requiring the fulfilment of the article of the treaty stipulating for access to Canton, and, in spite of repeated prohibitions from home, demanded the immediate concession of a claim which had been suspended so many years. It had been said that all these transactions had had the general concurrence of Sir Michael Seymour. But how was it obtained? By false pretences employed by Sir John Bowring, who had made a disingenuous use of despatches from home, and suppressed a portion of one which intimated that the Government was not disposed to go to war with the Chinese.

Mr. Serjeant STEE contended that, if the doctrine laid down by the Earl of Derby and Lord Lyndhurst was to prevail, the treaty of 1842, on which the colony of Hong-Kong was founded, and the arrangements completed with China, would become a dead letter. Without going at any length into the merits of the question, he referred to the Act of Parliament to show that amongst the persons considered to be English subjects are the inhabitants of any territory ceded to her Majesty. Therefore, to all intents and purposes, the persons resident at Hong-Kong were to be considered English subjects, and consequently the lorcha must be considered an English vessel. (*Cries of "Divide!"*)

On the motion of Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER, the debate was adjourned, on the understanding that it should be concluded on the following night.

THE SALE OF OPIUM.

Mr. MURROUGH moved for returns connected with the opium trade in the Presidency of Bengal, and the traffic with China during the years 1855 and 1856. He alluded to the horrors of the opium trade, and attributed to it the present dispute with Canton.—The motion was agreed to.

The LIGHTING OF TOWNS (IRELAND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL was read a third time, and passed, and the House shortly afterwards adjourned.

Tuesday, March 3rd.

MATRIMONIAL AND DIVORCE CAUSES BILL.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of this bill.—Lord LYND-

HURST said the law, as at present existing, is confined to the wealthy; the poor man is debarred, owing to the expense of procedure, from obtaining redress. What then, it was asked, is to be done with the poorer class? The answer he made to that was, that it did not follow that the expenditure of the procedure should be great. There were four cases of adultery provided for by the bill; he would add a fifth. When a man, after a certain number of years, abandoned his wife, broke his marriage vow, and went to a distant country, the wife should be released by law from her obligation to him. The marriage ceremony of our Church is beautifully impressive, both parties making the solemn declaration to continue faithful, in health and sickness, prosperity and adversity, till death part them. Surely, when the man broke that solemn contract, the woman was entitled to be absolved from her part of it; instead of which, the law condemns her to a long, dreary life of unhappiness. He therefore introduced the addition which he had mentioned, and which he commended to their Lordships' most serious attention.—The Bishop of Exeter, in moving that the bill be read a second time three months hence, so that the Lord Chancellor might have an opportunity to consider Lord Lyndhurst's suggestion, on the Scriptural sentence, "Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."—Lord Sr. LEONARDS, while on the one hand advocating an equal measure of relief for the poor and the rich, would not sanction a proceeding which would lead women to rush upon slight grounds to a court to obtain relief. The bill, he considered, required some amendment. He must agree with the Lord Chancellor in this respect, that a man should be at liberty to marry the woman whom he had corrupted; and there was nothing more disgraceful than actions for obtaining damages for a wife's dishonour. He could not conceive how a man could receive the money so obtained. What he proposed was this: make the offence a misdemeanour, vest the husband with the power of prosecuting for it, and make the punishment a fine, payable to the Crown. Upon the whole, he thought the bill deserved the sanction of their Lordships.—The Bishop of Oxford opposed the bill. All legislation on such a subject should seek to maintain the sanctity of marriage; but the animus of the present measure seemed to be to invent the largest possible means of escape from the inconvenience of violated marriage. He could not perceive the propriety of admitting the poorer classes within the range of the court; it would only lead to collusion and misrepresentation.—Lord WENSLEYDALE supported the second reading of the bill, observing that the clauses might be considered in committee.—The Earl of DERBY warmly commented upon the fact that only two members of the right reverend bench (Oxford and Exeter) thought the subject worth their attendance. After adverting to the "disgraceful and odious actions for *crimen*," the noble Earl supported the second reading of the bill.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said that the bill, if passed, ought to be immediately followed by another, having for its object the abolition of that great national stigma—actions for criminal conversation. (*Hear, hear.*)—Earl GREY felt himself bound to oppose the bill, and support the amendment; but, while he did so, he wished to observe that he by no means supported the existing state of things. (*Hear, hear.*) He believed the bill to be most imperfect, and incapable of safe working. (*Hear.*)—After a few observations from Lord REDESDALE in opposition to the bill, the LORD CHANCELLOR replied, and their Lordships divided, when the second reading was affirmed by 25 against 10.

The House then went into committee on the HIGH CONSTABLES BILL, which ultimately passed that stage.

THE WARRANT OF THE 6TH OF OCTOBER, 1854.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Colonel LINDSAY moved that an address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to take into consideration the injury inflicted on those lieutenant-colonels of the army who attained that rank before the 20th of June, 1854, and who have been suspended by the retrospective action of the warrant of the 6th of October, 1854.—Agreed to.

PERSIA.

Mr. VERNON SMITH, replying to some questions put by Mr. GLADSTONE, said that "the financial year," in his letter of the 9th December, had precisely the same meaning as the "ensuing financial year," in Sir Charles Trevelyan's letter of the 2nd December. An estimate for the Persian war for the ensuing year had been presented by the East India Company to the Board of Control, and had been transmitted by the Board of Control to the Treasury; but as it was based on what he hoped would be found an erroneous supposition, viz., that the war with Persia would continue to December, 1857; and, as it contained matter which in the event of the continuance of the war it would be inexpedient to publish to the enemy, it would not be presented to Parliament. With regard to the third question, he had to state that no supplies or munitions of war, the property of her Majesty, had been despatched in aid of the Persian expedition. The whole expense would be defrayed by the East India Company, and would afterwards form the subject of an account between the East India Company and the Government.

LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.

On the motion for the postponement of the notices of motion and orders of the day until after the adjourned debate on the China question, Mr. DUNCOMBE availed himself of the opportunity again to bring forward the grievances of the Land Transport Corps. He stated that 8000 men did not know that they were to be disbanded till their return from the Crimea, and thought themselves unfairly treated. He asked for the production of the Order in Council under which the disbandment took place.—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL explained that the disbandment of the Land Transport Corps did not take place under an Order in Council.

THE CHINESE AFFAIR—CONCLUDING DEBATE.

Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER resumed the adjourned debate, and contended that the lorcha was not British, and that the license had expired. Our operations were therefore quite unjustifiable, and he must support the motion.—Colonel HERBERT followed on the same side.—Mr. KENDALL opposed the resolutions.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON, in speaking against the Government, observed that, as regarded the allegation that the conduct of the authorities in China had received the approval of the merchants of this country, the only intimation he had received from that seat of commerce and manufactures, Manchester, had been a memorial to the Queen condemnatory of the war, and urging the recall of Sir John Bowring, Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, and Mr. Consul Parkes. That memorial had been agreed to at a public meeting, held in the city of Manchester, and it proved that the mercantile interests in this country are opposed to the war. Hon. members were threatened with a dissolution; but what was to be the motto for the hustings? Was Lord Palmerston's name to be the tower of strength? Was the old motto, "Peace, economy, and reform," to give place to that of "The bombardment of Canton, and no reform?" Reverting to the question of the Arrow, he contended that, if a complaint had been made to the Emperor of China, it was not improbable that that monarch might have reprimanded and removed Commissioner Yeh; but the Government, having commenced hostilities, had rendered it impossible for the Emperor to do justice to this country, if it had any legitimate cause of complaint against that monarch. As to the legal part of the question, he read the opinion of Dr. Lushington, which was in favour of the resolutions.

Mr. BERNAL OSBORNE complained that the House had been worried by the legal part of the case, and he therefore invited members to discuss the matter on simple, plain, and broad principles. For the edification of Mr. Cobden, he would read a literal translation of a Chinese document, in which was offered to any one who would capture a barbarian's ship a reward of 18,000 dollars. (*"Hear, hear!" from Mr. Milner Gibson.*) To any one who would murder a barbarian English officer, 5000 dollars. His hon. friend the member for Manchester did not cheer that. To any one who would murder an English seaman, 1000 dollars; and for the murder of an official, 200 dollars. With all these facts, how could Mr. Cobden get up and tell them that they were making war upon a refined and harmless people? If the House agreed to a vote of censure, and Sir John Bowring were recalled, what would be the consequence? Why, from letters he had received from China, he was assured that no person's life in Canton would be safe. Mr. Osborne proceeded to ridicule the designs of the opponents of Government, whom he accused of being a motley crew of Conservatives, Peelites, and Liberals. It was by them that the lorcha of the Government they hoped to establish was to be manned. For Lord John Russell he entertained the profoundest respect; but he thought that on this occasion he had been used as a catspaw. He was sure his motives were pure; but his present supporters were his hereditary opponents. He did not believe that a coalition would be successful or popular in that House, nor did he think that the people out of doors would ever give their consent to a conspiracy whose object was to displace the noble lord at the head of the Government. (*Loud cheers.*)

Mr. HENLEY supported, and Mr. EGERTON opposed, the resolutions.—Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE condemned as unworthy of such a solemn inquiry the speech of Mr. Bernal Osborne, which was composed of a species of wit almost approaching to buffoonery, and was deficient of all reasoning qualification. The English flag, it was said, had been insulted. Yes; but it was by those who had bombarded the defenceless, and shed the blood of the innocent.—Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE spoke to the same effect.—Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS opposed the motion, and said that, if the allegations against Sir John Bowring contained in Mr. Cobden's speech were true, the terms of the resolutions were absurdly inadequate and feeble. But our authorities at Canton had acted as every man placed under the same circumstances must have acted.—Mr. ROEBUCK asked whether these proceedings would have been thought just if enacted in the river Mersey. If not, they could not be just in the Canton waters, though he was aware that some people held one set of morals for the East and another for the West. (*Hear, hear.*) It was said that the Chinese were barbarous; but they had a civilisation of a peculiar sort, and, in the correspondence in the Blue-book, they surpassed their antagonists in language, in feeling, and in humanity. Much had been said about the English

flag having been tarnished. It had been tarnished, not by the Chinese, but by having floated over the heads of men who carried devastation to a defenceless and unoffending population; it had been tarnished, not by Commissioner Yeh, but by the English representative in China.

Mr. GLADSTONE rose to answer the appeal made upon him with regard to the appointment of Sir John Bowring. Lord John Russell had only considered that gentleman, from his commercial habits, a fit person to fill the subordinate office of consul at Canton; but, with regard to the appointment to the higher office of British Minister and Plenipotentiary, neither Sir James Graham nor himself (Mr. Gladstone) was responsible: the appointment had been made by the Earl of Clarendon, and accepted by the Earl of Aberdeen. Referring to the alleged insults by the Chinese to the English, Mr. Gladstone asserted that, during the whole period of seven years embraced in the correspondence before the House, there had only been six cases of insults by Chinese on British or by British on Chinese. So far from habitual insults, they were very rare, and this state of things was corroborated by the evidence of Mr. Jardine, a gentleman who had passed many years of his life in China, and who was well acquainted with its people. Mr. Jardine was well known to the Chinese, who gave him a sort of nickname, which, translated into English, means "the iron-headed rat." (*Laughter.*) Mr. Jardine, in his evidence before a committee of that House, had declared, while he admitted the anti-social character of the Chinese, that they possess and exhibit feelings of kindness and courtesy towards foreigners. Therefore, the habitual tendency to insult was an unfounded charge. But generalities and technicalities had been resorted to as the only means of defending a cause which was really indefensible. (*Hear, hear.*) The Chinese residents in Hong-Kong were not (as the Government partisans alleged) handed over by the Emperor of China, at the time of the treaty, to the authority of this country. Moreover, we had violated our agreement by not endeavouring to put down the opium trade. It was the duty of England, on the present occasion, to send forth a message of mercy and peace to the Chinese.—Mr. BENTINCK having in vain endeavoured to speak,

Lord PALMERSTON rose amid loud cheers, and commenced by vindicating the character of Sir John Bowring. He was essentially a man of the people, and raised himself solely by his public services. He was placed in his first official capacity by him (Lord Palmerston), and the appointment was made solely upon his proficiency. He held in his hand a letter which he had been authorized to read, showing that Lord Aberdeen consented to his being appointed to his present position, that noble lord observing—"It is not possible, I think, to find a better man." What was the character of Yeh? He was as savage a barbarian belonging to as savage a race as ever disgraced a nation upon the face of the earth. Sir John Bowring was a member of the Peace Society, and, if there were any man less likely than another to enter upon hostility without ground, he was that man. (*Hear, hear.*) There had pervaded the whole of Mr. Cobden's speech an abnegation of all the duties which bind a man to his country. Everything English was wrong; anything anti-English was just and right. (*Cheers.*) The hon. member said the Ministers of England are bullies to the weak, and cowards to the strong. That was said at the commencement of the war with Russia (*cheers*)—a war carried on by all the bravery for which English troops are renowned. The hon. gentleman said, "You dare not have acted in this way towards America." (*Hear, hear.*) There was the member of the Peace Society. (*Cheers.*) If they had had in China the power of sending to a Minister of Peking, and that Minister could have communicated to the Emperor, no doubt the difficulties might have been settled; but they had not the power of communicating even with the local Government. The Chinese knew that the Arrow was an English vessel; and, with that knowledge, the boarding the lorcha was an insult to England. It mattered not, whether by some legal quibble the vessel could be proved to be not strictly ours; the Chinese believed it was ours, and therefore the insult was intentional. Yeh said, that the flag could not have been flying, because it never was allowed to be hoisted, except when the vessel was about to sail. Well, the Arrow was about to sail. (*Cheers.*) Away, then, with the falsehood—the "flagitious falsehood"—that no flag was flying. On board the lorcha was an old man, supposed to be the father of a pirate elsewhere. He was seized, upon the Chinese principle that relatives are responsible for the acts of their friends; and no doubt, if the real pirate could not be found, the head of the old man would be forfeited in his stead. (*Hear, hear.*) The affair of the lorcha was but the corollary of a long series of outrages by the Chinese on our countrymen, the former being determined not to fulfil their treaties. The right which the Chinese had now violated is important, as our commerce can only be carried on by small vessels such as lorchas. It had been said in the course of the debate that Yeh had caused 70,000 heads of Chinese to be struck off within a few months. That would show the House that Yeh is not that pattern of mildness and justice which honourable gentlemen had so studiously represented. An honourable gentleman had said that that statement was a mere joke; but he (Lord Palmerston) had had it confirmed by several

persons locally acquainted with China, and who vouched for the fact. Within the last few days, they had received an account of the slaughter of eleven persons on board the Thistle. The Government had no desire to pursue in China a system of conquest, or to make it a part of British India. Those who said that the Chinese are anxious to keep the English out for fear of conquest, were totally misrepresenting facts, and had taken no pains to ascertain the natural course of events. Mr. Cobden, instead of waiting for the development of events, had rushed to a conclusion for the purpose of injuring her Majesty's Government; but he would defy any one satisfactorily to make out from his motion whether it was intended to convey a censure upon their minister in China, or upon the Government. Lord Palmerston concluded by protesting against coalitions, to which the country is not wedded, and by expressing a hope that the decision of that night would be such as would maintain the honour, the dignity, and the interests of the country.

After some explanations from Mr. GLADSTONE, Mr. DISRAELI rose amidst cries of "Divide!" and said that in the course of this discussion the Government had shifted the ground which they had first taken up. He then proceeded to answer the speech of Lord Palmerston, and concluded by suggesting that, if there were a conspiracy against the Government, as had been alleged, Ministers should appeal to the country, with the programme of "No reform, additional taxes, and Canton blazing."

Mr. COBDEN briefly replied, vindicating himself from the charge of being anti-English, and denying that he had any design to effect a change of ministers, though he must confess the country seldom lost by such a change. The effect of a change now would be to bring in Mr. Disraeli or Mr. Gladstone as Chancellor of the Exchequer; and there would then probably be a reduction of 2,000,000*l.* of expenditure. If he disposed of the noble lord for that amount of reduction, he thought he should make a capital bargain for the country. (*Laughter.*) In all sincerity, he wished the motion to be taken merely upon the merits of the case, and apart from any question of party bias.—After a few words from Mr. KINNAIRD, who spoke against the opium traffic, but intimated his intention to vote for Ministers,

The House divided, when there appeared—
For Mr. Cobden's resolutions..... 263
Against 247
Majority against the Government..... —16

An adjournment took place shortly afterwards, at half-past two o'clock.

Wednesday, March 4th.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS BILL.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOLE having moved the second reading of this bill, Mr. ALCOCK moved to defer it for six months. He thought the bill superfluous, there being already many district and reformatory schools in existence. The compulsory nature of the bill was also objectionable, and it would raise ragged schools into undue importance.—Mr. HADFIELD seconded the amendment; and Mr. BAINES, on the part of the Government, supported the measure, which he thought was rendered necessary by the large number of destitute children wandering about in great towns.—Lord STANLEY also spoke in favour of the measure, because it gives to children who are liable to fall into crime the same advantages as are now enjoyed by children who are actually delinquent.—Mr. BAXTER, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. BLACK, who likewise approved of the bill, spoke from their personal experience of the advantages which had resulted in Scotland from the establishment of Industrial Schools.—Mr. NEWDEGATE and Mr. BOWYER supported the amendment; the latter observing that the practical effect of the bill would be to send Irish Roman Catholics to schools where they would be unfairly proselytized.—The bill was also opposed by Mr. PALK, Sir GEORGE STRICKLAND (whose objection was confined to the principle of a rate), and Mr. BARROW. In further support of it, the House was addressed by Mr. ADDERLEY (who, replying to Mr. Bowyer's objection, said the greatest possible care had been taken to prevent unfair proselytizing of Roman Catholics), Mr. SPOONER (who, however, thought some alterations were required), Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, Mr. EDWARD BALL, Mr. HENLEY, Mr. DUNLOP, Mr. LIDDELL, Mr. FORTESQUE, Mr. Serjeant SHEE, and Mr. WARNER.—Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOLE, replied; Mr. ALCOCK withdrew his amendment; and the bill was read a second time.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON announced that, having conferred with Lord Stanley and Mr. Cobden on the subject of his Education Bill, he had resolved to postpone the second reading till next Wednesday.

COURT OF CHANCERY (IRELAND) (TITLES OF PURCHASERS) BILL.

Mr. WHITESIDE moved the second reading of this bill, the object of which he stated to be, to secure the titles to estates obtained through the Court of Chancery.—Mr. GEORGE BUTT seconded the motion.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND objected to the bill, on the ground that it only dealt with a fragment of a great subject, and in such a way that it undermined one of the most beneficial reforms ever conferred on Ireland—the Encumbered Estates Court.—Mr. MACARTNEY supported the bill, and Sir ER-

KINE PERRY moved that it be read a second time that day six months.—Mr. WHITESIDE replied.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND suggested that Sir Erskine Perry should withdraw his amendment, and pledged himself to give the hon. member an opportunity, at a future stage of the bill, of recording his vote against it.—Mr. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD gave his support to the bill.—The amendment was then withdrawn, and the bill was read a second time.

Mr. WHITESIDE had a second bill on the paper for a second reading, with reference to the Irish Court of Chancery, but he postponed it until next Monday.

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

Thursday, March 5th.

HOSTILITIES AT CANTON.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Earl of HARDWICKE called attention to a statement in the papers to the effect that the English troops had been obliged to retreat from Whampoa; that the Admiral had been compelled to abandon his position; and that before doing so he had burned down the suburbs of Canton. He then begged to ask if the Government had received any despatches on the subject, and, if received, why they had not been published. He presumed that Ministers had taken measures for the protection of the lives of British subjects in China.—The Earl of CLARENDON said that a despatch had been received from Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, stating reasons why he deemed it necessary to withdraw from the Dutch Folly Fort, which he had occupied, and why he thought it compulsory to destroy a portion of the suburbs, which enabled the people of Canton to act against the fleet. It had likewise been necessary to send troops for the better protection of Hong-Kong, in consequence of the disturbed state of the people, and the large rewards offered for acts of incendiarism and for assassinations.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH remarked on the importance of their knowing the precise time when the suburbs of Canton were destroyed. If the ships had remained in their old position, the Admiral would be justified in destroying the suburbs that gave a cover to the enemy; but, if he had retired from that position, there was no military or moral justification for the destruction of those suburbs.—Lord PANMURE, with much warmth, censured the disposition evinced by some noble Lords to cast blame on the English officials in China before the circumstances under which they had acted became known. Admiral Seymour (whose character as an officer and a gentleman stood as high as that of any man in the country) had withdrawn from the Dutch Folly Fort because he found that junks could come out and sink impediments which would obstruct the return of his ships.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH explained that he had said distinctly that his condemnation of the destruction of the suburbs was entirely dependent on the time when the act was committed. He repeated that, if the Admiral had resolved to retire when he destroyed the suburbs, it was an unjustifiable military operation.—Lord PANMURE (warmly): "I deny it."

PEACE WITH PERSIA.

The Earl of MALMESBURY asked if a treaty of peace had been concluded with Persia, and if the Persian ambassador in Paris possessed full powers to conclude that treaty.—The Earl of CLARENDON said the treaty of peace with Persia was signed, and the negotiations had not been undertaken until her Majesty's Government were perfectly satisfied that the Persian ambassador in Paris had ample powers to conclude it.

SUPERANNUATION OF BISHOPS.

In reply to Viscount DUNGANNON, the Earl of HARROWBY announced that it is the intention of Government to bring forward a measure with reference to the retirement of Bishops, when unable, from age or ill health, to discharge with efficiency their episcopal functions.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Earl GRANVILLE made a statement with respect to the Ministerial defeat which had taken place in the House of Commons. His explanation was to the same effect as that of Lord Palmerston, an abstract of which will be found below.—Earl GREY, considering the circumstances of the case, thought that Sir John Bowring ought to be recalled, and another minister be sent out, empowered to conclude, if possible, a peace with China.—Earl GRANVILLE, while thinking that that question was fitter for the consideration of the other House than of their Lordships, said he could assure them that, even before the close of the debate, the Government had taken into consideration the best means of coming to a termination of the present unsatisfactory state of relations between China and this country. (*Hear, hear.*) They did not consider that the resolution of the House of Commons was intended to indicate that they should refrain from taking every necessary step for the defence of the lives and property of British subjects in Canton. Nor did they take that resolution as an intimation of the intention of the House of Commons that they should in a rash and precipitous way patch up a peace without reference to the condition of things in Canton, or the state of our relations there. (*Hear.*) He believed their future steps would not be of a nature to incur blame, in that House or elsewhere.

POOR BENEFICES.

Viscount DUNGANNON moved for a return of the number of benefices within the diocese of London having endowments under 200*l.* a year; specifying the popu-

lation in connexion with such benefices, and the name of each benefice, and those of them which are without a residence for the incumbent. His lordship remarked that in some of the parishes to which his motion had reference the incomes are as low as 40*l.*, independently of pew-rents.—The return was ordered.

The CHIEF CONSTABLES BILL, the PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPLEMENTAL BILL, and the IONIAN SUBJECTS COMMISSION BILL, were respectively read a third time, and passed.

THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

Lord PALMERSTON, in the midst of considerable cheering, rose to inform the House of the intention of the Government consequent on the adverse vote of Tuesday night. He said that, under ordinary circumstances, there would hardly have been any alternative for Ministers but to tender their resignation to the sovereign. But the circumstances of the present case were so extraordinary and unusual, that they did not conceive it to be their duty so to act. What they had resolved on doing, therefore, was to advise the Crown to call upon the constituencies, at the earliest period at which the state of public business will permit, to exercise that action which the constitution places in their hands. It was true that the division of Tuesday would seem to imply that the Government had lost the confidence of that House; but, looking to divisions which took place very shortly before, in favour of the Ministry—looking at the majority which the Government had obtained on the Chinese question in the House of Lords—taking, moreover, into consideration the fact, as he understood it, that some of those who concurred in the adverse vote did not mean to regard it as an expression of want of confidence—he believed they were justified in coming to the conclusion that they were bound to take the step which he had just intimated. The state of parties indicated by the vote showed, he thought, that it would be very difficult, either for the present Government or for that which might succeed it (and he did not speak out of any desire to utter taunts), to carry on the business of the country during the remainder of the present session. It would not be possible, however, to dissolve at once. The Estimates had not been voted; the taxes for the ensuing year had not been passed; and the Mutiny Act, necessary for the maintenance and discipline of the army, had still to be made law. He proposed, therefore, to do what had been done on previous occasions—to bring in none but provisional and temporary measures, to continue taxes which had been voted for three years only for the ensuing year, to vote sums on account of the Estimates, and to continue the Mutiny Act for a proportion of the year, leaving other matters to the new Parliament, which will assemble in May.

Mr. DISRAELI thought the course proposed by Lord Palmerston would be most to the public advantage, and he would give every facility in his power to the progress of business. He believed that the appeal to the country would prove of great benefit to national interests, and he trusted members would be returned with more definite opinions, as an injury to the public business lately by that abandonment of party spirit of which some persons boasted.—Mr. COBDEN thought the Government had no right to continue to hold office unless they were prepared to carry out the vote of Tuesday night. The Government had stated that great danger to the English residents in China would result from the carrying of his (Mr. Cobden's) motion. In that opinion he did not acquiesce; but, assuming it to be the case, the country had a right to know what Ministers meant to do in the emergency. In his opinion, they should send out a competent person by the next steamer, armed with full power to supersede all existing English authority in China, and to act according to circumstances.—Sir CHARLES WOOD assured the House that proper measures had been taken to collect a sufficient force to protect the English residents in China.—Sir JOHN WALSH, though voting against the Ministry on Tuesday night, did not wish to tie their hands in making all necessary provision for the safety of our countrymen in China.—Mr. DEEDES wished to know what the Government proposed to do with respect to private bills.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT inquired whether the Government were going to continue the war for the same object—namely, the entry of Sir John Bowring into Canton, and whether the conduct of affairs there was to be left in the hands of a man who, in the opinion of the House, had brought about the present dangerous state of things?—Sir GEORGE GREY denied that the object of the war was to obtain an entry into Canton. He repudiated the dictation of Mr. Cobden, and trusted that the House would leave the honour and interests of the country in the hands of the Government.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL observed that the dissolution was what Mr. Fox called "a penial dissolution;" that is to say, the House was to be punished for the vote it had given. They were asked to pass certain votes as rapidly as they could, in order to assist the Government in making an appeal to the country. If they were asked to give these facilities, there was some fairness in seeking for an explanation of the policy which is to be pursued during the time which will intervene between the dissolution and the meeting of Parliament. (*Hear, hear.*) As to the charge of factious combination which had been brought by the Government against those who voted with Mr. Cobden, it was false and calumnious.

The concurrence of Liberals and Conservatives was simply on the merits of the question, and no vote would confer more honour on the dying Parliament than that of March 3rd.—Mr. ROEBUCK also warmly denied the charge of factious combination.—Mr. JAMES M'GREGOR thought it was due to the majority that Sir John Bowring's fate should be decided at once.

Mr. GLADSTONE demanded that the country should be informed what the Ministry intends to do with respect to the war in China. It was a novel position for the House to be asked to vote money for the prosecution of a war which they had condemned. "The combination" of which so much had been talked was simply to check the mad career of the Government in another quarter of the globe.—Mr. DUNCOMBE censured the character of the union which had effected the defeat of Government, and ridiculed several of those members who had voted for Mr. Cobden. The foreign policy of the previous Administration had been contemptible; but Lord Palmerston, being determined to uphold the national honour, might defy all petty and unprincipled cabals.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM defended the foreign policy of the Aberdeen Government, and thought that some explanation should be given as to the amount of income-tax for the ensuing year.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON pressed the Government to say whether or not they intend to carry out the resolution.—Mr. W. J. Fox repelled the accusation of being actuated by party spirit in giving his vote. He had been accused of belonging to the Peace Party; but his uniform support of the Russian war disproved that assertion.—Sir FRANCIS BARING declared that he had never given a vote with more personal pain; but certainly he had never supported a resolution with a clearer conscience, and it was most unjust to raise a cry of conspiracy.—Mr. BENTINCK having briefly replied to some observations personal to himself, which had been made by Mr. Gladstone,

Lord PALMERSTON said, it was not his intention to renew the debate upon this subject. With regard to the expression he had used of "combination," he had said nothing which, he thought, could give offence to any man. Whether it was a combination or an accident—a fortuitous concurrence of atoms—(laughter)—he had stated it as a fact, not as a reproach. The House, he admitted, had a right to ask what was intended to be the policy of the Government. There would be no change, and could be no change in that policy, which was to maintain in China, as elsewhere, security to the lives and property of British subjects, to enforce the rights of the country arising out of treaty obligations, and to improve our relations with China. The intention of the Government, as he had stated on Tuesday, was to endeavour, in conjunction with France and the United States, to place those relations upon a permanent footing, and it must be a subject of serious deliberation on the part of the Government who the person should be to whom was to be committed so grave and important a function.

Mr. SPOONER was of opinion that no consideration ought to be allowed to interfere with the recal of Sir John Bowring.—Mr. KER said that his duty was to look for Conservatism wherever he could find it; and, if he found it in Lord Palmerston, he would support him.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER then made a brief statement of what he meant to propose on the ensuing night with respect to the Budget.

LAND TAX.

Mr. MACKINNON moved for a select committee to consider the expediency of allowing a further redemption of land-tax, and also whether by any other means this tax could be made more beneficial to the revenue of the country and to the reduction of the national debt. In showing the inequalities of the present assessment, he stated that while the parish of St. Paul, Covent-garden, is rated to the land-tax at 3s. 2d. in the pound, the opulent parish of Marylebone pays only 4d. in the pound, while the flourishing towns of Liverpool and Brighton pay only one half-farthing in the pound. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the Secretary of the Treasury would not be able, under existing circumstances to give his attention to the subject.—The motion was then withdrawn.

Some routine business having been gone through, the House rose at eight o'clock, it being found that there were only twenty-eight members present.

THE DIVISION OF TUESDAY NIGHT.

AN analysis of the division on Mr. Cobden's motion is thus given by a daily contemporary. It will be found of considerable interest at the present crisis:

PAIRS.—FOR MR. COBDEN'S MOTION: Mr. Wyvill, Mr. Freshfield, Mr. Buck, Sir Gore Booth, Sir C. Burrell, Captain Archdall, Mr. Percy, Mr. Goddard, Sir G. Foster, Mr. Baird, Mr. Long, Colonel Forester, Mr. Lloyd Davis, Colonel Lowther, Mr. Lushington, Mr. Wilson Patten, Sir William Verner, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. George, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Egerton, Col. T. P. Williams, Mr. Francis Baring.—AGAINST MR. COBDEN'S MOTION: Mr. Vansittart, Mr. J. Duff, Mr. Rumbold, Sir J. Matheson, Mr. Heywood, Mr. Bland, Mr. Henshy, Mr. Esmonde, Mr. Deasey, Mr. Beamish, Mr. Heathcoat, Sir H. T. Davie, Mr. Atherton, Mr. Colville, Mr. Collier, Mr. Foley, Sir Thomas Acland,

Mr. Tancred, Mr. French, Serjeant O'Brien, Mr. De Vere, Earl Grosvenor, Sir B. Bulkeley, Mr. Henry Baring.

RADICALS WHO VOTED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.—Baxter, W. E. (Montrose); Biggs, J. (Leicester); Challis, Alderman (Finsbury); Crossley, Frank (Halifax); Duncombe, Thomas (Finsbury); Muntz, G. F. (Birmingham); Scholefield, W. (Birmingham); Walmsley, Sir J. (Leicester); Wilkinson, W. A. (Lambeth).

MEMBERS WHO NEITHER VOTED NOR PAIRED.—Kershaw, J. (Stockport); Hendley, C. (Ashton-under-Lyne); Cheetham, J. (South Lancashire); Ewart, W. (Dumfries); Barnes, T. (Bolton).—This list should also include the name of Sir De Lacy Evans, who was understood to have expressed his anxiety that the motion of Mr. Cobden should be carried, but who did not vote at all.

CONSERVATIVES WHO SUPPORTED THE MINISTRY.—Mr. Antrobus, Mr. W. Beckett, Mr. G. W. Bentinck, Marquis of Blandford, Mr. J. Butt, Lord W. H. Cholmondeley, Sir C. H. Coote, Mr. E. Denison, Mr. H. Drummond, Mr. E. C. Egerton, Viscount Emlyn, Mr. G. G. Harcourt, Mr. G. F. Heneage, Mr. T. B. Horsfall, Mr. Kendall, Mr. G. C. Leigh, Mr. Masterman, Sir John Owen, Mr. G. F. Robertson, Viscount Sandon, Sir W. Smyth, Colonel Smyth, Lord A. V. Tempest, Mr. Tollemache, Sir J. Tyrell.

LIBERALS WHO VOTED FOR MR. COBDEN'S MOTION.—Mr. T. Alcock, Right Hon. Sir T. Baring, Mr. Jas. Bell, Mr. T. Bellew, Mr. G. Bowyer, Mr. J. Crook, Mr. Dunlop, Mr. W. J. Fox, Viscount Goderich, Hon. A. Gordon, Mr. J. Greene, Lord R. Grosvenor, Lord Haddo, Mr. Hadfield, Hon. C. Hanbury, Mr. Heyworth, Sir J. Hogg, Mr. T. Kennedy, Hon. P. J. King, Mr. Laing, Mr. Laslett, Dr. Layard, Mr. W. S. Lindsay, Mr. J. Locke, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Meagher, Mr. Miall, Mr. Murrough, Mr. Otway, Sir J. Paxton, Mr. A. Pellatt, Sir T. E. Perry, Mr. J. G. Phillimore, Mr. Pilkington, Mr. J. Ricardo, Mr. Roebuck, Lord J. Russell, Capt. Scobell, Mr. J. B. Smith, Mr. Starkie, Mr. M. Sullivan, Mr. R. Swift, Mr. G. Thompson, Mr. Tite, Lord H. Vane, Mr. G. Vernon, Mr. Warner, Mr. W. Williams. The Government also loses the votes of the Peelites on this occasion. The ayes include the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Mr. Gladstone, Right Hon. Sir James Graham, Right Hon. S. Herbert, Mr. Roundell Palmer, Mr. R. J. Phillimore.

THE MINISTERIAL DEFEAT.

A CABINET Council was held on Wednesday at the Premier's official residence, Downing-street, to discuss the steps proper to be taken by the Government consequent on the vote of the previous night. After the conclusion of their deliberations, Lord Palmerston left town to wait upon the Queen at Windsor Castle. The result of these proceedings was communicated to the House of Commons on Thursday, and will be found in our Parliamentary intelligence.

The news of the defeat of the Government was received at Liverpool with feelings of regret. The excitement at Manchester was very great. A meeting of the Council of the Commercial Association was held on Wednesday morning, when it was determined to convene a special general meeting of the Association for Friday (yesterday), "to consider how far the interests of commerce with China and elsewhere are compromised under the existing state of affairs in that country."

STATE OF TRADE.

THE reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday, describe no material alteration. At Manchester, the market has been flat, owing to the tendency to a decline in cotton. The Birmingham iron trade is well maintained, although there is scarcely so much activity as was expected at the beginning of the year. In the general occupations of the place, steady employment prevails, and the foreign orders are, upon the whole, good. At Nottingham, there has been an extensive business, both in lace and hosiery. In the woollen districts, the transactions have been on a satisfactory scale, and stocks continue low. The Irish linen-markets are fairly supported.—Times.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been increased activity. The number of ships reported inward was 144, including 12 with cargoes of sugar, 10 of corn, in addition to 11,000 barrels of flour, and 1 of tea, comprising 21,457 packages, the greater portion of which are chests. The number of vessels cleared outward was 131, including 14 in ballast. The total number of ships on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 59, being 8 less than at the last account. Of these, 6 are for Adelaide, 3 for Geelong, 4 for Hobart Town, 2 for Launceston, 4 for Melbourne, 8 for New Zealand, 15 for Port Philip, 1 for Portland Bay, 15 for Sydney, and 1 for Swan River.—Idem.

Messrs. Swayne and Bovill, merchants and patentees of various kinds of machinery, have suspended, with liabilities which will probably exceed 100,000*l.* The amount of the assets is doubtful. Messrs. Cheape and Leslie, an old established East India firm, have also stopped, owing, it is said, to some connexion with the other firm. Here, likewise, the amounts of the liabilities and assets are not yet precisely known.

Several bricklayers in the employ of Mr. Moxon, on the Government works at Dover heights, have struck work, not on a question of wages or of time, but in order to enforce a resolution they have come to of choosing their own foreman.

THE NEW STATUTE AT OXFORD.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE event of the week in Oxford has been the "promulgation" of the new Statute on Tuesday and Wednesday. The great question involved may be said to consist of two parts:—

1. Are the requirements now in force sufficiently strict, or not, as regards the quantity of matter required?
2. Is the existing Statute sufficiently liberal, with regard to the nature of the studies required?

With regard to the first of these questions, the quantity of matter required is undoubtedly too much: the general feeling among the most liberal in principle in the University (e. g. among the Tutors of Balliol,) seemed to be that one School in the Final Examination was enough to require, in the existing Statute. With regard to the proposed Statute, but one opinion can be formed by any one who gives it a careful perusal, viz., that though it reduces the number of examinations from four to three, those three, if it is passed in its present form, will be considerably more than equal to the four now in force in point of difficulty. There is, moreover, in the University a great wish not to make a great change too suddenly, and this desire most especially exists among those most zealous in the cause of reform. They fully see the evils of the present Statute; but, seeing those evils, and considering that they have been brought on a number of young men whose prospects in life have mainly depended on the success of their Academical career, they are unwilling to inflict the repetition of similar evils on a succeeding generation. In explanation of the above statement, we would merely add, that in a University any sudden change is necessarily attended with a certain amount of evil, and that therefore, in University progress, it is better, if possible, to do what can be done to remedy existing evils, than to introduce a totally new system, and thereby a totally new experiment. Professor Jowett and the Rev. W. C. Lake, of Balliol, both seem especially to think that reforming the present system is better than introducing a new one, and the former especially advocates the reduction of the requirements in the present final examination from two Schools to one. Many other talented men, who have had experience both as tutors and examiners, have given the same opinion; but one gentleman, the Rev. J. E. T. Rogers, of Magdalene Hall, has, we believe, traced all these evils to their true origin. There can be no doubt, as this gentleman says, that the great evil of the University is the admission of the large number of idle, do-nothing, non-reading men, who yearly burden Oxford with their presence. An examination for matriculation, such as he suggests, is doubtless the great desideratum, and would do more to remove existing evils than any remedy yet proposed. Singularly enough, Dr. Pusey proposed the same measure; but, though that gentleman advocated a return to the exploded system of 1830, we were yet pleased to see that he was not averse to a proposal which, in the first instance, emanated (Royal Commission, 1850) from the Archbishop of Dublin. We cannot unreservedly disapprove of the new Statute, though we consider that its discussion will have produced great good to the present system, and therefore we rejoice that it has been brought forward, and hope for the best results from it.

IRELAND.

TOLERANCE IN TIPPERARY.—The Tipperary tenantry of Captain Robert Jocelyn Otway, R.N., entertained their landlord at dinner last Monday, on the occasion of his return from service in the Black Sea. There was a great commingling of Protestants and Roman Catholics, including clergymen of both creeds; and the Rev. Mr. Jorden, the Protestant rector of Templeberry, who filled the chair, proposed "The Catholic Clergy," coupling with it the name of Father Kenyon, who is described by a writer from Ireland as having been "a clerical firebrand of 1848." Mr. Kenyon, in reply, proposed the health of the Rev. Mr. McDonnell, and of the Protestant clergy of the whole country—"indeed, the entire country." In the course of his speech, he said that "he had been at a loss to understand why a Catholic clergyman could not rejoice in the health of a Protestant minister. (Cheers.) He did not know the reason why they should be sparring and boxing instead of living in amity and good will. (Cheers.) If it were a Jewish or a Turkish priest, he could see no cause for their going to loggerheads. (Hear.) So far as he recollected what he had read, even the heathen could afford to live on terms of friendship, and why should those who had all the benefits of Christianity be violating the principles of Christian charity, forbearance, and love? (Cheers.) Though this state of things might go on for a time, it must ultimately come to an end, for mutual toleration must prevail. Bigotry was too revolting to the feelings of the human heart to be perpetuated. (Cheers.) They lived there in a retired region, no doubt; but it was a beautiful region, and, though small, yet, being central, from that meeting would go forth, east, west, north, and south, the wholesome principles of toleration and good feeling, and others, seeing the happy effects, might go and do likewise." (Hear.)

AMERICA.

The last arrivals from the United States mention that, by a vote of 25 to 20, the Senate has postponed the Dallas-Clarendon Central American treaty until the 5th day of March, the first day of the new Administration. The South was said to be opposed to it, amendments and all, on account of the slavery clause. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Courier and Enquirer* says that the committee on foreign affairs reported the treaty with two amendments. The first strikes out the provision recognising the famous land grant; the second proposes to cede the Bay Islands settlement entirely to Honduras, so as to preclude the possibility of any further protectorate. It is understood that, if the treaty be held in abeyance in the Senate until the 4th of March, Mr. Jefferson Davis will give his support to it as it stands, notwithstanding the opposition generally attributed to the Southern statesmen.

The Atlantic Telegraph Bill has been handed over to a Committee of Ways and Means by a vote of 112 to 74, thus indicating its success.

Dr. Kane, the Arctic voyager, is said to be on the point of death at Havannah.—The French Minister at Washington has demanded of the Government indemnity for losses sustained by French residents at the bombardment of Greytown.—A treaty has been signed between Mexico and the United States, by which the latter is to lend the former 15,000,000 dollars, three millions of which are to pay American claims with. As security for the loan, the United States Government is to receive fifteen per cent. of the Customs.—The Mexican rebels are reported to be worsted and scattered.

Walker and his party, notwithstanding their desperate condition, appear to have gained some important successes over the Costa-Ricans.

In the Burdell murder case at New York, the jury have returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Mrs. Cunningham, Eckel, and a third person, named Snodgrass. They were of opinion that the daughters of Mrs. Cunningham were also implicated, and they recommended their safe keeping. Snodgrass said, in reply to the Coroner, "I am entirely innocent; I know nothing whatever of the facts relating to the murder of Dr. Burdell. If any one knows anything about the murder in the family, I think it is Miss Augusta Cunningham, with the mother. Understand me—that is, if the murder was perpetrated by any of the inmates of the house."

In the Nova Scotia Legislature, on the 18th ult., the Hon. Mr. Johnson moved a resolution declaring a want of confidence in the Government. The House divided on it, and the Government were defeated by a majority of six.

The revolution in Peru is progressing, although the Vivanco party has made little or no further progress towards gaining possession of Callao and Lima, the only two points now in the hands of Castillo.

The commercial advices from New York this week describe a tendency to heaviness in the stock market, consequent upon an increased demand for money.

The counting by the Senate and the House of Representatives, met in joint convention, of the votes for the Presidential elections, took place on the 11th ult. The final official statement is—Buchanan, 174; Fremont, 114; Fillmore, 8. The election of Mr. Breckenridge as Vice-President is also confirmed. A doubt arose as to receiving the vote of Wisconsin, on account of a heavy snowstorm preventing the members of the electoral college of that state meeting until the 4th of December, the day prescribed by the constitution being the 3rd; but, after a great deal of discussion, the convention separated without coming to any decision.

Between four and five hundred Irish men and women, employed on the Erie Railroad tunnel works, near the city of Jersey, have been fiercely fighting among themselves on some Hibernian ground of quarrel. A great many were wounded, and it was found necessary to call out the Jersey militia.

A person named Edward David, charged with being an accomplice of Carpentier, Grelet, and Balot, in the French Railway Fraud, has been arrested.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

On his way to the residence of Sir John Lawrence, Dost Mahomed met a courier from Mahomed Afzal, the Governor of Balkh, who brought news of the restless movements of the Russians, who are said to be bringing under their rule the whole kingdom of Kokan. Of the conferences of the Dost with Sir John Lawrence no certain intelligence is yet reported.

It is said that Sir Henry Lawrence is to fill Sir James Outram's place as Commissioner of Oude. The successor of Mr. Bushby, as Resident at Hyderabad, is not yet nominated.

The barbarous custom of hook-swinging has been put a stop to in the collectorates of Poonah and Candeish. Infanticide is diminishing in Cattewar.

CHINA.

Detailed accounts of the attempt by the Chinese to retake Teatotum fort, and of the massacre by them of Europeans on board the *Thistle* steamer, have been re-

ceived since we last addressed our readers. Of the former exploit, the *Friend of China* relates that several Chinese war junks were observed on Sunday, the 4th of January, approaching Canton. The English ships *Coromandel* and *Encounter* were sent to reconnoitre, and found that "the Chinese had ranged a portion of their squadron, some sixty vessels, in a line between Marines Island and Barrow's Island, about midway between the Macao Passage (Teatotum) Fort and the stations of the *Hornet* and *Comus* off the barrier—say a mile and a quarter from the fort, a mile and a half from the barrier, and were exchanging shots. The time chosen for this approach had been well considered. It was a dead low neap tide; consequently, a vessel of the *Hornet's* draft of water was unable to get up the passage, the *Encounter* being similarly disabled from getting down. But, just as the *Encounter* was under weigh, some twenty or thirty vessels were seen coming into Starling Beach, and, instead of proceeding directly, it was deemed best to send a few shots into them. The *Niger*, and the make-shift gunboat at the boom, too, took up the fire, and continued it till they retired. The *Encounter* then attempted to get down the Macao Passage, but unfortunately grounded somewhere off Bird's Nest Fort, and was unable to get to the assistance of the others engaged. The accident being observed from the *Coromandel*, Sir Michael Seymour did not deem it prudent to do more with the *Coromandel* than stand on the defensive, and accordingly dropped back with the tide, still firing from the bow-gun, and sent the boats' crews into the fort. The Chinese, of course, construed the movement to irresolution, and came on bravely to within four hundred yards of the fort, when, from the mines and marines and small arms men, till then under cover, they received repeated volleys, which must have committed frightful execution. It was about half-past two that a twenty-pound shot from the Chinese struck down Mr. Pearn, master's assistant of H.M.S. *Calcutta*, in charge of one of the cutters of his ship—a wound in the breast proving mortal." The Chinese force, however, was received with so much spirit that it presently withdrew. In addition to the death of Mr. Pearn, six men were wounded in the boats, and one boy of the first class was wounded on board the *Coromandel* from the accidental ignition of a rocket.

The tragedy on board the *Thistle* occurred while that vessel was returning from Canton to Hong-Kong, and, according to the paper from which we have quoted, was thus described by three Chinese servants of the steamer who escaped:—"The steamer had not been long under weigh when the captain left the upper deck with a Manilla-man secunny at the wheel, and proceeded towards the engine-room hatchway. Here he was in the act of stooping forward, and looking down, when an assassin from behind stabbed him with one of those short-pointed swords of which every Chinese householder in Hong-Kong has one or more pairs. The first engineer, Mr. Abraham, an American, was on the other side of the hatchway at the time, and was similarly assailed; two Manilla-men secunnies were working at a hand-pump below, and soon shared the same fate; one man got into a coal bunker, and there, afterwards, unable to get out when the vessel was set on fire, was burnt. A passenger in the cabin—a Portuguese gentleman—together with his servant, likewise a Portuguese, were also murdered, and so was a sick artilleryman, who was lying down forward, and who was the first victim. The captain on being stabbed ran aft, but fell before he reached the cabin-door. The mate (Peterson) succeeded in getting into the cabin, and fired several muskets at the wretches as they attempted to get hold of him. A stinkpot thrown into the cabin at last drove him overboard, and he must have been drowned, as he was never seen to rise. The Manilla man at the wheel was killed from behind, without seeing the hand that wielded the weapon. In all, eleven persons were thus disposed of, and search was made for the Chinese boys employed in the cabin, one of whom, by jumping overboard and hiding under the counter of the vessel, succeeded in escaping, as did the others in other ways. The Chinese firemen were then directed to remain at their work, and the vessel was steered up the creek called by the Chinese Chowmee, to the village of Lamkongtow, distant some half-dozen miles inland. There her wood work was set on fire, and, when that was destroyed, every particle of brass work that could be removed was taken away." The charred hull has since been recovered, and five headless bodies were found, together with the burnt remains of another. The assassins appear to have been agents of the Canton Government.

"Since this dreadful occurrence," says the *Times* Hong-Kong correspondent, "another river steamer has been attacked and narrowly escaped capture at the hands of a Mandarin fleet; and communication with Canton is now almost entirely suspended. There are no foreign residents there now whatever. No trace has been obtained of Mr. Cowper, who was kidnapped at Whampoa. A cold-blooded murder has been perpetrated there, the victim being a German servant of Dr. Ryder. The Whampoa anchorage has been abandoned." Active measures will probably not be taken against Canton until the arrival of troops and gunboats. The Mandarins have issued bloodthirsty edicts against the English, inciting to assassination and incendiarism by the promise of re-

wards. All Chinese have been ordered to quit the service of foreigners, and return to their homes.

An attempt to poison a considerable portion of the foreign community at Hong-Kong has been made by a Chinese baker, who mixed arsenic with his bread, and, after serving it round to his customers, left for Macao in a steamer. Several of the bread-eaters were made very ill, but none died, owing to antidotes being speedily administered. The family of Sir John Bowring suffered especially. All the Chinese bakers have since fled.

Of the progress of the insurrection we hear but little. The rebels are said to have quarrelled among themselves, and to have committed great atrocities. The chief, however, had again defeated the Imperial troops; but the southern rebels are reported to have come to an understanding with Commissioner Yeh, with the object of expelling "the barbarian English." This intelligence, however, is not absolutely reliable.

On the 6th of January, Sir John Bowring issued an ordinance declaring the necessity of taking immediate and special means for preserving the peace of Hong-Kong, and enacting that any Chinaman found at large in that colony, between the hours of eight in the evening and sunrise, and without a police pass, shall be liable to a fine, to imprisonment with hard labour, to whipping, or to the stocks. Another section of the same ordinance decrees that "Every person lawfully acting as a sentry or patrol at any time, between the hour of eight in the evening and sunrise, is hereby authorised, whilst so acting, to fire upon, with intent or effect to kill, any Chinaman whom he shall meet with or discover abroad, and whom he shall have reasonable ground to suspect of being so abroad for an improper purpose, and who, being challenged by him, shall neglect or refuse to make proper answer to his challenge." His Excellency also assumes power to deport all persons considered dangerous to the peace and good order of the colony.

The Anglo-Chinese papers report several isolated cases of murder committed by the natives on Englishmen and other Europeans. Some Chinese, it is stated, have been caught with fireballs on their persons, and have been shot. The premises of Jardine, Matheson, and Co., have been threatened; but a guard of French seamen and marines protects the house.

"We learn," says the *Press*, "by the latest news from China, under date of December 15, that the Court of Peking had published a decree prohibiting all subjects of the Celestial Empire from trading with the English. Disobedience will be punished with death."

"The English Admiral, Sir Michael Seymour," says the *Moniteur*, on the authority of a despatch from Hong-Kong, "thought it advisable on the 12th inst. to abandon the position he had taken up in the garden of the old factories. After blowing up the Dutch Folly Fort, which had hitherto been the centre of his operations against the town, he resolved to occupy only at Canton the fort known to strangers as the Bird's-nest Fort. Before leaving the intrenchments he had dug, the Admiral set fire to the outskirts which extend to the west and to the south-east of the factories. This measure, by isolating the walled town, renders it more accessible to the shells from a squadron." The war junks constantly attack our steamers. A panic prevails at the European colony of Singapore, owing to the natives being exasperated by the news from Canton. The Chinese portion of the population, which is by far the largest part, threatens the Europeans with fire and pillage. Rewards are also offered for the head of the English governor, resident, judge, or chief of police; and the natives endeavour to prevent the supply of food to the Europeans.

PERSIA.

The French and Turkish Ministers at Teheran are stated to have received instructions to support England in her present differences with Persia. It is also reported that an armistice has been agreed on between the English and Persian armies, to last through the months of March, April, and May.—A Russian General of Engineers, accompanied by other officers of the same corps, has been visiting the country about Mount Ararat and the pass of Bayazid, and taken plans, it is supposed, with a view to the erection of forts. The alleged object was simply that of ordinary travellers for pleasure.

Issah Khan, who defended Herat, has been killed. The rumour that Ferrah, a town between Herat and Candahar, had been taken, is contradicted. The Russians have exempted from taxes several tribes who were to furnish to the Shah 30,000 men, infantry and cavalry. Arrangements are being made to convey this force from Daghestan on board the Russian fleet in the Caspian Sea, as auxiliaries to Persia.

SARDINIA, AND ITALIAN NATIONALITY.

A DESPATCH from Count Buol, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Count Paar, Austrian Envoy at Turin, and a reply, addressed by Count Cavour to the Marquis Cantone, the Sardinian Envoy at Vienna, have been published. In the first of these, Count Buol, referring to the alleged enthusiastic reception of the Emperor at Milan (from which city he writes, under date February 10th), observes that the few discontented persons remain so owing to "an

unceasing, provoking action from without." This influence is attributed to a portion of the Sardinian press, which advocates insurrection in Austrian Italy, and even regicide.

"Considering these attacks, directed with unusual violence against a friendly and neighbouring Power, the Sardinian Government, by remaining perfectly passive, has, at the very least, laid itself open to the suspicion of not having wished to discountenance them. This is not all. Appeals addressed to foreigners, with a view to induce them to join subscriptions publicly opened to strengthen the defensive system of Piedmont, which is not menaced by any Power; the official reception of pretended deputations from our Italian provinces to express their admiration for a policy disapproved by their own Government; finally, the acceptance of a monument, offered, it is said, by subjects of the Emperor, to commemorate deeds of the Sardinian army,—all these are so many offensive demonstrations, which, however calculated upon the too easy credulity of the public, nevertheless have their serious aspect."

The Austrian Government does not think it consistent with its dignity to avail itself of the reference by the Sardinian Government to the law courts of Piedmont, as a means of obtaining redress from the attacks complained of. The Sardinian revolutionary press, continues Count Buol, strikes at "the very principle of monarchy itself—at the roots of all social order." The Sardinian Government, therefore, has an equal interest with the Austrian in putting down these excesses. At any rate, "the Emperor owes it to his own dignity not to leave the Sardinian Government in ignorance of the displeasure which its proceedings generally have caused him."

In his reply (dated Turin, February 20th), Count Cavour says:—

"I shall not undertake to justify the national press against the reproaches of Count Buol. I do not hesitate to admit, not only, as that Minister says, 'confidentially,' but publicly, honestly, as is my custom, that it often goes to lamentable excesses—that it attacks the person of the Emperor in a manner I openly condemn. But what I think I have a right to maintain is, that the criticism of the press of the acts of the Austrian Government cannot cause it any serious embarrassment; and that, as regards the attacks against the Emperor, it would be easy to put a stop to them by having recourse to the means supplied by our laws for the suppression of offences of this description. How can the journals which attack the Austrian policy impede the action of the Imperial Government, when their admission into the provinces subjected to the Empire is rigorously prohibited? Whatever may be their influence in the interior of our country—and that influence is very small—their action is null beyond the Tessin. The statement in Count Buol's despatch of the reception of the Emperor at Milan is an incontestable proof of it."

The writer proceeds to observe that "free discussion of the acts of the Government is one of the essential principles of the present political system of Piedmont;" that the English papers had attacked the Emperor of Austria with as much bitterness as any of the Sardinian journals; but that Austria, nevertheless, had sought a friendly alliance with England "when it suited her interests." The Sardinian laws against offences of the press, says the Count, are more severe and certain than in any other country where freedom of discussion is allowed; and all foreign Governments which have made use of the legal means for the punishment of attacks against them have found the efficacy of those means. The Emperor of Austria had obtained a conviction against the *Espresso* for an attack on him, but was dissatisfied with the smallness of the penalty.

"In listening to the bitter complaints of Count Buol against the Sardinian press, it might be supposed that the Austrian press is very reserved as regards foreign sovereigns and governments, that it never exceeds the limits traced by moderation and politeness. This, however, is not the case; far from it. The Austrian journals, more especially those published in Lombardy, are full of insults and attacks upon the Sardinian Government, and they do not spare the person of the King and the members of his august family. I could easily support this assertion by numerous proofs; but I shall confine myself to calling your attention to the language of the journals of Milan and of Verona respecting an august princess, a near relation of the Emperor of Austria—language which, if I am rightly informed, led to energetic remonstrances at Vienna from the Court of Saxony."

"If Count Buol is justified in complaining of the violence of a perfectly free press, which is not admitted into the Austrian States, what must be said respecting a press submitted to a severe censorship, which spares neither the institutions nor the political men of our country, and which circulates freely among us? In Piedmont, if the attack is free, so is also the defence. Austria, attacked by a portion of the press, is defended not only by the journals which come to us from the other side of the Tessin, but also by a certain number of journals published in the States of the King. In Lombardy, on the contrary, only the attack is allowed; the journals there reproduce with impunity the most odious

articles of the journals opposed to the Government of the King, and contain frequently personal insults and insinuations against the statesmen of Piedmont, and create as much disgust as certain Sardinian journals cause to Count Buol.

"But this is not all. Count Buol accuses the Government of the King of remaining indifferent to the warm controversy of the newspapers. Truly this cannot be said of Austria. The articles of the official journals, inspired by the Imperial Government, prove that the Vienna Cabinet sanctions and directs the attacks against us. After reading a leader in the official *Milan Gazette*, the source of which cannot be doubted, and in which the Ministers of the King are compared to Robespierre and Cromwell, we may well be astonished at the bitterness of feeling which the toleration of the statesmen of Piedmont causes to Count Buol."

In answer to the charge of tacitly encouraging publications which aim at the very principle of monarchy, Count Cavour observes that, since the years 1848-9, when monarchy might have been somewhat shaken, that form of government has been so firmly re-established in Piedmont that the republican party is almost extinct; as a proof of which he alludes to the natural death, for want of subscribers, of the *Italia e Popolo*, "the sole organ of republicanism in the periodical press." For the popular demonstrations in other parts of Italy, Sardinia cannot hold herself responsible. She called the attention of the Congress of Paris to the condition of Italy; but Austria herself, by her recent concessions, has admitted that that condition required some alterations.

"As regards the monument spoken of as to be erected at Turin in honour of the Sardinian army, I may first observe that the Government of the King has nothing whatever to do with it. Some persons having inquired of it whether it would accept a gift from the Milanese, it replied by a distinct and positive refusal. The offer made to the Municipal Council was accepted. The Government could not, and ought not, to have prevented it, as it was made unconditionally and anonymously. But if the Royal Government could not prevent the gift of a sum of money to erect a statue in honour of the Sardinian army, meant especially to record the expedition to the Crimea, it will not allow any feature in this monument to hurt the susceptibility of Austria or her army, nor an inscription to imply that it was erected by Austrian subjects. This assurance appears to me of a nature fully to satisfy any complaints of Count Buol on the subject."

"Having replied to the reproaches of the Imperial Minister of Foreign Affairs, I might, in my turn, enumerate the annoyances caused to us by the Austrian Government, from the sequestration of the property of the Lombards and Venetians who had legally become Sardinian subjects, to the violent and unwarranted expulsion from Milan of one of the most distinguished members of the Senate of the kingdom. But I prefer not following in the track of complaints of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria, so as to avoid even mentioning a dispute which we do not think can prove advantageous to either country."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS AND VICTOR HUGO.—M. Alexandre Dumas has addressed the following letter to the Director of the *Théâtre-Français*: "Sir,—I learn that the '*Courrier*' of the *Figaro*, signed *Suzanne*, is from the pen of Mlle. Augustine Brohan. I have such a friendship, and such an admiration for M. Victor Hugo, that I desire that a person who attacks him in his exile should no longer act in any play of mine. I shall, therefore, be obliged by your withdrawing from the repertoire *Mademoiselle de Belle Isle*, and the *Demoiselles de Saint Cyr*, unless you prefer to place in other hands the characters in these plays represented by Mlle. Brohan. Accept, etc.—A. DUMAS."—"This letter," says the *Belgian National* (and we heartily concur with our contemporary), "will remain as a noble protest against the insults of a heartless woman, who has proved herself incapable of respecting genius, or fame, or misfortune, or exile."

Sir Morton Peto, has received an invitation from the Emperor of the French to proceed to Algeria with the view to the construction of a railway in that colony. Sir Morton left Suffolk last Saturday afternoon. The line to which attention is to be devoted in the first instance will commence at Constantine, one of the principal towns in the colony, and connect that place with another important point. The length of line at present projected is about one hundred miles.

M. Livois, chief of the French missions in China, has arrived in Paris, in order to give the Emperor full information with respect to the position of the Catholics in the Celestial Empire.

A young Corsican has been arrested in the church of St. Charles, where he had concealed himself, and broken open the poor-boxes.

A strange story is told in the French papers. Some time ago, a shepherd, named Martin, in one of the rural districts—a man of a sullen nature, reputed to be on

speaking terms with the devil—quarrelled with his wife, and threatened to kill himself in such a way that his body should not be found, and, consequently, that she should be unable to marry again. The wife went to bed, leaving the husband sitting by the fire. Next morning he had vanished. All the doors and windows were shut and bolted on the inside, and the most rigorous search failed to reveal the body of the shepherd alive or dead. Several weeks passed by, and one day the widow lit a fire in a back kitchen, which was seldom used. The chimney smoked very much; so a climbing boy was sent up to sweep it. In a very little time, the boy came back, half fainting with terror, and declared that there was a man in the chimney. Such was indeed the case. Martin had climbed up with a rope, a nail, and a hammer in his hand; had made all the arrangements for hanging himself, and had finally performed that exploit in the recesses of the chimney, first putting the hammer in his pocket. The rope was cut, and the corpse, horribly decomposed, tumbled down into the grate. The tale is not unlike that of a celebrated egotist of the ancient world, who, to make it supposed that he had been snatched up bodily to heaven, jumped down Mount Etna, and succeeded in his design till the treacherous mountain disgorged one of his brazen sandals: a story which makes us wish that King Bomba would go and do likewise.

The *Leader* has been again seized in France, together with various other English journals, including the *Tory Morning Herald* and *John Bull*.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor, last Saturday, appointed the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian Governor-General of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. Count Gyulai is appointed Commander of the Austrian army in Italy.

The *Frankfort Journal* states that a priest would not permit the body of an Austrian staff officer—an Englishman, of the Protestant faith—to be buried in a family vault which he had had constructed in a churchyard, near some property he possessed in Moravia. As the diocesan of Brünn fully approved the conduct of the priest, the remains of the officer were interred outside the churchyard.

"A new and very important reduction in the Austrian army," says a letter from Vienna, "is about to take place. It is said that it will be of 496 companies for the whole army, or nearly 50,000 men; and that there will also be reductions in the rifles, engineers, and cavalry."

ITALY.

The Commander Caraffa, Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs, has addressed a circular to all the diplomatic agents of the King of the Two Sicilies in foreign countries, directing them to contradict, by all means in their power, the fact, falsely announced in foreign journals, that torture is inflicted on political prisoners confined in the prisons of Naples. Signor Caraffa, in his circular, appeals to the Ministers of foreign Powers residing at Naples to prove the falsehood of those reports.

A monk, who had been degraded for some offences, has sent several anonymous letters to the Archbishop of Genoa. He has been arrested, and the facts were at first exaggerated into a report that the Archbishop had been murdered.

The Minister of War at Turin has offered a reward of 400*l.* to the inventor of the best musket for infantry soldiers. Foreigners are allowed to compete.

The amnesty granted by the Emperor of Austria to his Italian subjects has been regarded at Rome with great disfavour. Count Colloredo, the Austrian Minister at the Papal city, complained to Cardinal Antonelli that the amnesty had not been published in the Roman official journal. The Cardinal at once caused its insertion; but it was unaccompanied by a word of comment. It is said that Cardinal Antonelli is not pleased with the appointment of Cardinal Morlot to the Archbishopric of Paris.

The Piedmontese have been enjoying the Carnival with an overflow of fun and animal spirits not common among those northern Italians.

A very unpleasant sensation has been created in the city of Naples by the suicide of Captain Badini, of the artillery. It appears that, a short time before, his Majesty had given a receipt for the manufacture of signal rockets to Badini; that these rockets had exploded unexpectedly in the fortress near Portici; and that Colonel Agostinis, secretary of the King, had drawn up an unfavourable report, stating that they had been improperly made. The King was lately at Capua, and received M. Badini with unusual affability, but after the interview Agostinis told him that this treatment of him would be very shortly changed. Badini went home and shot himself, leaving a letter for the King, so says the report, and another for his family.—*Daily News Naples Correspondent*.

The Queen of Naples gave birth, last Saturday, to a prince, her ninth child.

The *Cattolico* of Genoa publishes a letter from Naples of the 21st ult., mentioning another explosion which took place three days before in the fort of Vigliena, on the sea-side between Naples and Portici, but caused little damage. The letter adds, that upon examination

it was found that both this explosion and that of the Carlo III. were owing to the spontaneous ignition of a peculiar compound invented for military purposes by one of the officers who perished on board that vessel.

TURKEY.

An audacious act of piracy has just been committed at the port of Pittalo, in one of the little isles of the Sea of Marmora, near Constantinople. A small vessel, carrying twenty-six armed men, dashed into the harbour, where twelve or thirteen vessels were lying, which had been driven in by the rough weather, and, coming alongside a barque which had put in there, on its way from Kulali to Constantinople, the pirates leaped on board, seized and bound the crew, and plundered the vessel. They attacked and pillaged all the other vessels in the port, one after another, and carried off a great deal of booty, amongst which was a box containing 16,000 piastres. The captain and two sailors of a Chiote bombard, having attempted resistance, were killed. The pirates then, taking with them their own vessel and the first barque which they had captured, sailed away from Pittalo, but afterwards visited the Asiatic shore, where they committed various depredations, and at last, at a point between Karta Liman and Fanaraki, abandoned the barque, leaving the crew still in their bonds. One of the sailors contrived, after the departure of the pirates, to crawl over to a comrade, and with his teeth untie the cords by which the other was bound; and so they all regained their liberty. The pirates have not been overtaken.

Two intendants have been arrested at Constantinople for being concerned in a considerable robbery from the Treasury of the Sultan.

Mehemed Bey, a Hungarian by birth and family, but a Turk by adoption, and a colonel in the Sultan's army, has been elected by the Circassian National Council to the command in chief of their army. He had distinguished himself in the Hungarian war of independence, and is connected with Circassia by marriage. On receiving the intelligence of his election, he applied some funds with which he had been furnished by the Circassians to the purchase in London of arms and ammunition, which had no sooner arrived than he resigned his post of chief of the Turkish general staff, hired an English steamer and a brig, and set sail for Circassia with three hundred Poles and the implements of war. When they went on board at Buyukdere, the Polish flag was hoisted, and the adventurers sang the national war hymn. The Russian ambassador, on getting intelligence of these matters, asked the Grand Vizier for explanations. Inquiries were made, and the reply then given was that Mehemed Bey had illegally absconded from his post. It is said that the Russian ambassador means to send off a war steamer in pursuit of the expedition; but the papers of the English captain are quite regular, and the Russians appear to be powerless.

SPAIN.

The Polaco party, the chiefs of which, driven out in 1854, have but recently been allowed to return, has been greatly exasperated at the marked disfavour by which it is viewed at the palace, where none of its representatives are ever asked to the balls. In revenge, they say that it is time to get rid of the present Queen, and to replace her by the Duchesse de Montpensier.

"It is stated," writes the *Times* Madrid Correspondent, "but I do not vouch for the truth of it, that the Spanish Government has applied to those of England and France to know if they will allow their naval forces to watch over the safety of the island of Cuba while those of Spain proceed from that island upon an expedition against Mexico. I am assured that up to yesterday (February 22nd) no answer had been received to this inquiry."

GERMANY.

After an interruption of nearly two years, the two Chambers of Wurtemberg, which were indefinitely prorogued in 1855, have just been convoked by the King for the 10th of March, to resume their deliberations at Stuttgart.

SWITZERLAND.

The authorities of Neuchâtel are apprehensive of a new attempt on the part of the Royalists. The Republican officers have assembled in council on the subject. The militia has received instructions to hold itself in readiness for events. The posts have been doubled, and the Gendarmerie reinforced by the Guides.

DENMARK.

Denmark has despatched her reply to the notes of Prussia and Austria on the subject of the Duchies. In this reply, which forms a voluminous document, the Danish Government enters into details already known. It rejects the demands of the two German Powers, declines the intervention of the Germanic Diet, and declares that the King is decided on maintaining "the rights confided to him by God and the nation."

Count de Bulow, the Danish Envoy, has arrived. According to rumours in circulation, he is charged with a special mission relative to the affairs of Holstein.

RUSSIA.

Russia is stated to have obtained from China the cession of three thousand acres in Chusan for a naval port, leave for the establishment of commercial factories, and the confirmation of the privilege of a resident am-

bassador at the court of Peking, with the right of access to the Emperor's person; all which is granted in exchange for assistance which the Czar undertakes to give the present dynasty against the rebels.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Russian Government, according to the French journal, *La Patrie*, has despatched a memorandum to its diplomatic agents in foreign countries, advocating the union of Moldavia and Wallachia.

Kaboul Effendi, the first interpreter to the Divan, left Constantinople on the 18th ult. for Moldavia, on a mission to convey to Jassy the firman for the convocation of the Divans *ad hoc*. Kiamel Bey, the introducer of ambassadors, who is charged with a similar mission in Wallachia, left the same day for Bucharest. Balsche, the Kaimakan of Moldavia, has died suddenly.

The Moldavian troops (according to a despatch from Vienna) occupied and garrisoned, on the 23rd ult., the towns of Bolgrad, Ismail, and Reni, surrendered by the Russians in pursuance of the Treaty of Paris. The same despatch mentions that the Russians were expected to take possession of Komrat and the new territory on the Upper Yalpuck some time between the 25th of February and the 1st of March, at which period the boundary would be defined.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

MAINE LIQUOR LAW DISTURBANCES IN EDINBURGH.

SOME violent disturbances have taken place in Edinburgh, in consequence of a disagreement between the advocates of total abstinence and of indulgence in spirituous liquors. Dr. Laycock, the professor of physic in Edinburgh University, delivered, some weeks ago, two lectures on "the Physiology of Drunkenness—its causes and remedies," to the members of the Total Abstinence Society. Unfortunately for the listeners, the Professor argued against total abstinence, and showed that Mr. Forbes Mackenzie's Sunday Closing Act had had the effect of producing a vast amount of perjury, evasion, and smuggling. The use of alcoholic drinks, he observed, has prevailed in all ages, and it is therefore in vain to endeavour to suppress it by any legislative enactment. If the Maine Liquor Law were introduced, he added, the perjury and perjure which are now confined to one day of the week would be spread over the entire week. These remarks were received with a great deal of hooting, and, at the close, a Mr. McLaren accused the professor of having libelled the Edinburgh police—an intention which Dr. Laycock repudiated; and shortly afterwards he left. A lecture in reply was delivered by a Dr. Lees, and another, under the sanction of the Edinburgh Board for the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic, was announced for the evening of Monday week. The placard was headed "Dr. Laycock Dissected." The students of the University looked on this as an insult to their professor. They therefore issued a counter placard, calling on all of their body to attend, and avenge the impertinence. On the appointed evening, the hall was completely packed by the students, who prevented the delivery of the lecture by a scene of wild confusion. Having thus secured the defeat of their enemy, the students paraded the town, induced Dr. Laycock to come out into the balcony of his house and address them, and then noisily dispersed.

Their next performance, a day or two after, was to burn several copies of two teetotal newspapers on the top of Calton Hill, the University authorities having forbidden the cremation within the walls, according to the original design. A great deal of rioting in the Edinburgh streets next ensued, and the police found it necessary to charge the learned mob repeatedly. Several persons were hurt, and some of the students were apprehended, but soon set at liberty. This continued on Friday week; and on the following day the students waited on Mr. Hope, the manager of the teetotal lecture, to demand from him an apology for the obnoxious phrase. That gentleman refused, saying the apology was due to him. The populace, however, by this time had been aroused, and serious disturbances between the rabble and the police continued through the Friday; but the students, at the advice of Dr. Laycock, withdrew from further demonstrations, and order is once more restored.

THE ASSIZES.

George Forster, a young man employed as a 'hurrier' in a coalpit at Mickley, near Newcastle, has been found guilty at the last-mentioned town of embezzling 17*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, the property of his employers, the owners of the pit. It is the custom of that colliery to pay the men by batches of a dozen with a paynote, on which is entered the name of each man, and also the amount due to each. Any one of these men receives the note, by agreement among themselves, gets it cashed, and afterwards divides the money. On Saturday, the 12th of last December, Forster and eleven other men were thus classed together in a note on which 18*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* was payable, the joint amount of their weekly wages. A

person named Althar, one of those men, had been accustomed to obtain the paynote and get it cashed; but that day, being in his working clothes, he asked Forster to do it for him, the prisoner's name being on the note. He complied, obtained the money, and fled, but was soon afterwards apprehended, when the greater part of the money was found to have been spent. The defence was that Forster, in this particular transaction, was the agent of the men, not of his employers, and that he could not be convicted of embezzling from the latter. But the jury took a different view, and Forster was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and hard labour.

John Johnson Walker has been found guilty at the same Assizes of violently assaulting on the high road one John Robinson, and stealing from his person the sum of 11*5l.* He was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

Thomas Wilson, a deaf and dumb man, was indicted for stealing a silver watch. On the afternoon of the 9th of January, he called at the house of a person named Charlton, and found Mrs. Charlton alone. Having made signs to her indicating that he was deaf and dumb, which she could not comprehend, he drew from his basket a slate, and wrote upon it that he was much distressed, as the police had taken all his things, in consequence of his having been found hawking without a license. Mrs. Charlton, not being able to read the writing, sought the help of a neighbour, and, as it was rather dusk at the time, Wilson motioned to them to go near the door for better light, while he remained by the fireplace. During this interval, he took down a watch which was suspended over the mantel-piece, and, after making signs that he was hungry, though rejecting some bread which had been offered to him, he left. As soon as the husband returned home in the evening, he missed his watch, which he afterwards traced to a lodging-house where Wilson had hired a bed. Here he turned up the missing property from under the mattress. The accused was convicted, and sentenced to six months' hard labour.

John Lewis, a skinner, has been tried at Swansea for the murder of his wife on the 4th of last January at the house of a Mr. Morgan, at Merthyr, where both were employed. Our readers are already in possession of the circumstances. The jury could not agree as to their verdict, and they were locked up during the whole of the night of Friday week; but, as they had not come to any understanding on the following morning, they were dismissed, and Lewis was discharged. He will be tried again, however, at the Summer Assizes.

Jabez Thomas, Rowland Rowlands, and Morgan Rowlands, were tried at Swansea on Monday, charged with the wilful murder of William Thomas, Samuel Edmonds, and another, on the 15th of last July. An explosion took place at the Cymmer colliery on the day in question, by which one hundred and fourteen persons were killed. Jabez Thomas was manager of the pit; the other prisoners were employed in the superintendence of it; and the question was, whether the accident had arisen in consequence of neglect of proper precautions by the accused. The jury returned a verdict of Acquittal.

Charles Tipple, a surgeon at Baldock, has been acquitted of a charge of attempting to procure abortion.

Charles Forester, a tailor, has been acquitted at Reading, on the ground of insanity, of the murder of his infant son, at Wokingham, on the 14th of November. The particulars were related in the *Leader* at the time. Forester will of course be kept in confinement.

James Johnson, a convict at Portsea, has been found guilty at Winchester of an attempt to murder one of the warders. Judgment of death was recorded against him. He told the judge that he would seize the first opportunity to kill the warders, and rid the world of them.—William Wallace, another Portsea convict, has been convicted of stabbing one of his fellow-prisoners. In this case also, sentence of death was recorded.

Several other cases of secondary importance have been disposed of at the various Assize towns during the week; but the great pressure on our space precludes our specifying them.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

The March session commenced on Monday, when the only case of interest was that of Mr. Henry Parish, a gentleman of property, who was indicted on two charges of perjury and forgery. The facts were singular, and showed a very disgraceful design on the part of the prosecutor, who did not appear, nor was his name mentioned. There had been business transactions between Mr. Parish and the prosecutor, and legal proceedings were pending between them. In order to prevent the former from giving evidence at a trial which was about to take place, the prosecutor went before the grand jury of the Central Criminal Court, and obtained the two bills that were now before the court, never intending, however, to proceed with the charges. Notice had been left at the address given by the prosecutor of the intention of Mr. Parish to appear and take his trial; but no one was now in attendance to support either of the indictments, and the prosecutor could not be found. Under these circumstances, the jury found a verdict of Not Guilty.

George Dixey and Thomas Hulme, shopmen, were

tried, the first for stealing fifty dozen pairs of gloves, value 76*l.*, the property of his employer, and the second for feloniously receiving the stolen property. The facts have already appeared in this journal. They were found guilty, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment each.

Dr. James Mitchell Wynne, a physician, and Thomas Tinley, his servant, surrendered to take their trial upon an indictment which charged them with feloniously cutting and wounding Mark Benjamin Benham, on the 29th of last December. The quarrel arose out of some dispute relative to the prosecutor's occupancy of rooms in Dr. Wynne's house; but our readers were placed in full possession of the facts at the time the case was before the police magistrate. The defence was that Mr. Benham had grossly insulted Dr. Wynne; that a scuffle took place, in which the doctor was forced to defend himself; that his servant assisted him; that the prosecutor wished, in order to forward his own views, to get the doctor within the meshes of the law; and that the assaults had been greatly exaggerated. Several witnesses testified to Dr. Wynne's mild and gentlemanly manners; and the jury acquitted both the accused.

John Paul and Joseph William Hawes were charged, the former with having feloniously uttered a receipt for 290*l.* knowing it to have been forged, and the latter with having forged the same instrument, with intent to defraud the Guardians of the Poor of the City of London Union. This charge arose out of the frauds and forgeries committed by Paul on the Union to which he was clerk. It will be recollected that he was convicted at the last session of those felonies, and was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. He now appeared in his prison dress, and looked extremely dejected and wretched. The case was watched on his behalf, but no defence was made. The defence for Hawes was that he had acted as the tool of Paul, and did not know he was doing wrong. The jury acquitted him, and found Paul guilty. No further sentence was passed on him, and he was simply remitted back to prison.

Edwin Hammond surrendered to take his trial for the manslaughter of Richard Cottrell. On the night of the 31st January, Cottrell and a friend were passing King's-cross, when Hammond and two other men came up and assaulted them. The prisoner knocked the deceased down, and, his head coming upon the kerb, his skull was fractured, from the effects of which he died a week afterwards. Hammond was found guilty, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

THE CASE OF MRS. HOPE.—This case, which has been argued for a long time before the Lords Justices of Appeal, has been decided. The appeal was from the decision of the Master of the Rolls, overruling a demurrer put in to the bill. The bill was filed by Madame Emilie Melanie Mathilde Hope, by her next friend, against Mr. Adrian John Hope, her husband, praying the specific performance of an agreement entered into between the parties at Paris in 1855. The principal provisions of this agreement were—Firstly, that Mrs. Hope would immediately deliver up to Mr. Hope Mr. Adrian Elias Hope, the youngest but one of their children, the youngest, Mr. Jean Henry Hope, being to be left under the care of his mother. Secondly, that Mrs. Hope would abandon a suit which she had commenced in the English courts for a divorce against Mr. Hope. Thirdly, that Mrs. Hope would not oppose a suit for divorce instituted against her by Mr. Hope in the English courts, but, on the contrary, would facilitate the obtaining of such divorce; the understanding being that Mrs. Hope should have access to, and be allowed to correspond with, her elder children. Fourthly, that Mr. Hope should pay Mrs. Hope for her life 75,000 francs per year. The bill alleged that Mrs. Hope had fulfilled this agreement, by performing the stipulations on her part, but that Mr. Hope had refused her access to her children, and declined to pay her the annuity of 75,000 francs. The Master of the Rolls had considered the question too difficult to be decided upon demurrer. The Lords Justices of Appeal now said that, assuming the contract to be such as would be enforced by the French tribunals—though that, perhaps, did not sufficiently appear on the bill—the demurrer must, nevertheless, be allowed, as the agreement was one which could not be enforced by the courts in England, inasmuch as it contained stipulations contrary to the policy of the law here. The first article of the agreement was plainly so, being to withdraw the youngest child from the care and superintendence of his father, his natural guardian according to the law of England; and the third was equally, if not more repugnant to the policy of that law, inasmuch as it had a double object—firstly, to promote proceedings for a divorce, and secondly, to frustrate underhand proceedings commenced in a court of justice. That being so, the agreement could not be enforced.

ILL-USAGE OF A SON.—A shocking case of ill-usage of a son was brought before the Worship-street magistrate last Saturday. The lad is about eighteen years of age, and is the son of Joseph Williams, a letter-sorter at the General Post Office. He is of weak intellect, and appears to have been systematically neglected by his parents; but it is asserted that the mother is also imbecile. A publican living next door to the father, observing that the youth was sadly emaciated, would give him bread; which the poor fellow would eat

furtively, carrying it to the dust-bin, to be out of observation, and occasionally glancing up to the windows of his father's house. At length, the publican brought the matter before the attention of the parish authorities, who went to the place, and found the lad seated in the kitchen by a small fire, horribly filthy, and covered with vermin. A room up-stairs where he slept was in a sickening condition from accumulations of dirt; and the youth, on being taken to the workhouse, and stripped, was found to be dreadfully emaciated, and suffering from a great many sores and from general neglect. The father has seven other children, who appear to be well fed. The publican, in giving evidence, said he had seen one of them, a girl, laughing and mocking at her miserable brother, on account of the vermin on him. Williams was remanded, but bail was accepted for his reappearance.

HOCUSING ON THE HIGHWAY.—A young woman servant was stopped in the evening in the outskirts of Wakefield by two men, who solicited alms. On her replying that she had nothing for them, one uncorked a phial, and, while his companion held the girl, poured some of the contents down her throat. Some persons at that moment approached, and the men ran away. The girl was found in a state of stupefaction, and her throat was severely burnt by the fluid. The police are looking out for the offenders.

SUSPECTED MURDER NEAR LANCASTER.—The body of a man has been discovered lying in blood at the bottom of a very high precipice, called the Scotch Quarry, near Lancaster. Two men, named Nelson and Leach, have been apprehended under suspicion, and committed for trial on the coroner's warrant. One of them is a poacher and a man of dissolute habits; both were known to have quarrelled with the murdered man on the night when he was missed; and a great deal of circumstantial evidence points to them as the perpetrators.

ANOTHER HOLT RABBIT CASE.—John Hagon has been again charged at the Holt Petty Sessions with trespassing on "the Low," and taking a rabbit from that piece of ground which by right belongs to the poor of the neighbourhood. He was convicted, and sentenced to two months' hard labour. The Petty Sessions are acquiring a disgraceful notoriety.

THE ASHOVER BURGLARY.—Thomas Wooton, the man in custody under suspicion of being concerned in the burglary at the house of the Rev. Mr. Nodder at Marsh Green, Ashover, has been examined before the local magistrates, and committed for trial. He is apparently the man who was shot by Mr. Nodder. His manner during the examination was very impudent, and he asked the court to allow him to leave for a time, to get his dinner.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.—A young woman at Southampton has been shot by a man with whom she had been living, and who had quarrelled with her. She was hit in the shoulder, but not mortally wounded. The man is in custody, and committed for trial.

THE CITY BANK FRAUDS.—The trial of James Townsend Saward and James Anderson for the celebrated frauds on the City and other banks took place at the Central Criminal Court on Thursday before the Chief Baron and Mr. Baron Bramwell. Sir Frederick Thesiger prosecuted, with the assistance of Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Sleight. The prisoners, who were not defended, were found guilty, and on the following day (yesterday) the Lord Chief Baron sentenced them to transportation for life, not heeding a recommendation by Sir Frederick Thesiger, on the part of the Bankers' Association, who were the prosecutors, that Anderson should be regarded with some leniency, on the ground that he was a mere tool of Saward.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

THOMAS BELL, a person charged at the Thames police-office on a previous day with sending threatening letters to Lord John Russell, was brought up again last Saturday, at the instigation of the Home Secretary, to enable the magistrate to inquire as to the state of his mind, with a view to his future disposal. Mr. Thomas Meares, surgeon, stated that he had examined Mr. Bell on Friday and again that morning, and found that he laboured under a delusion that Lord John Russell had disseminated slanders respecting him, and had employed persons to infuse poison into his food and medicine. He admitted the authorship of the letters. Mr. Meares was satisfied that he was a lunatic, and that, as his insanity might assume a dangerous form, he ought to be put under restraint. Mr. Bell, who appeared firm and collected, demanded upon what grounds the surgeon came to the conclusion that he was of unsound mind. On having the last letter he wrote to Lord John Russell put into his hand, he admitted it was his writing, and then asserted that he had been slandered, and that persons had been employed to poison him by his Lordship. He repeatedly declared that they were "mercandott" slanders, and that Lord John "Mercandott" Russell deserved the "mercandott" medicine, as he had repeated the slanders at Dover-house to Lord Dover and others, and he wished Lord John Russell to be summoned as a witness, to see if he could deny it. In reply to the magistrate as to what was meant by the term "mercandott," which he used so often, he said, "Mercandott is an ash plant—a stick. Mercandott medicine should

be applied to his Lordship." The magistrate made out an order for the removal of the unfortunate man to Colney-hatch Lunatic Asylum. Mr. Bell exclaimed that the decision of the magistrate was an act of tyranny and injustice, as they had not put Lord John Russell into the box; but he was shortly afterwards removed.

Mr. Commissioner Goulburn, in the Court of Bankruptcy, on Monday, spoke with great severity of those tailors who encourage young men, under age, to reckless expenditure in clothes, by granting them credit. John Baxter Folkard, a tailor of Jermyn-street, applied for a certificate. His accounts commenced on the 1st of January, 1855, with a surplus of 3387*l.*, and, extending over a period of sixteen months, close with unsecured creditors, 8377*l.* There are also liabilities to the further extent of 6830*l.* to Mr. Baxter, the bankrupt's godfather, for bills which he has discounted, bearing the names of the bankrupt and his customers. The estate would now be solvent but for losses to an enormous amount by bad debts by young gentlemen, who, it would appear, have but in few instances paid for their clothes. As it is, the assets to meet the debts of 8377*l.*, and such further amount as may accrue from the liabilities of 6830*l.*, have as yet realized only 2800*l.*, and the Commissioner calculated that the total amount could only be made up to about 3000*l.* After a severe lecture, Mr. Commissioner Goulburn said the bankrupt would merely receive a third-class certificate after a year's suspension from that day, with protection from three months to three months.

An American, named Alexander Harnett Clarke, pursuing business as a photographic artist in Sun-court, Upper East Smithfield, is under remand at the Thames police-office, charged with the manslaughter of a Mrs. Bunn. That person had gone to Clarke's room, and asked for a portrait which had been taken of her son. The man said that it was not in a fit state to leave his "establishment;" but Mrs. Bunn rejoined that she had paid for it, and would have it. Clarke then seized a hammer and struck at a female companion of Mrs. Bunn; but the blow fell on the latter, who was much hurt. The American was given into custody; but the Thames magistrate, believing that the case was only one of ordinary assault, fined Clarke twenty shillings, which he paid. The woman, however, has since died, and Clarke was therefore again apprehended.

The old man calling himself Williams, who stands charged with obtaining charitable contributions from Lord Rokeby, by false pretences, was brought before the Bow-street magistrate on Wednesday, for final examination. He then stated that he was unable to produce the Mrs. Duke, on whom he had relied for his defence, excepting by criminating another person, which he refused to do; and he therefore threw himself on the mercy of the court, and besought the magistrate to consider his years and the fact of his having disease of the heart. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Mr. Birchmore, the relieving officer of the parish of St. Pancras, attended at the Clerkenwell police-office to make a statement to the magistrate of the results of some investigations he had been making into the circumstances of the applicants for relief belonging to the society of the unemployed. According to this statement, a very large proportion of the applicants were impostors.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A MAN employed on the Bristol and Exeter Railway has been killed while courageously performing an act of duty. Turner, the man in question, was in charge of the down luggage train, and observed that a truck had been left on the line near the Highbridge station. Although the train was in motion, he attempted to descend, in order to remove the obstacle, but missed his footing, and was thrown across the rails, where the wheels of some of the luggage vans went over him. He was instantly killed.

Mrs. Sarah Elliott, an elderly maiden lady, who has lived for several years in Nursery-row, Brandon-street, Walworth, was found dead on Sunday morning by her servant, lying in the parlour on three chairs with a half-empty gin bottle by her side. Her habits were very eccentric. She was supposed by her neighbours to be highly connected; but none of her friends were observed to visit her. She lived parsimoniously except in the matter of drink, in which she indulged. The house had at one time been richly furnished; but, from neglect, the furniture is now in a deplorable state. Mrs. Elliott, when the body was discovered, was dressed in miserable rags, held together by an inconceivable number of pins, though there were plenty of clothes of a costly character in the house. Forty sovereigns, and six 5*l.* Bank of England notes, were also found in a bag under the head of the corpse. The old lady had drunk a whole bottle of wine the night before her death; but she appears to have expired from natural causes.

The inquest on the bodies of the men killed by the explosion at the fog-signal factory of the Eastern Counties Railway was concluded on Wednesday, when the jury found a verdict of death from the explosion, adding—"And the jury are of opinion that the greatest negligence has been exhibited in conducting the manufacture of the fog-signals, and the most ordinary precautions

have been neglected for protecting the lives of the workmen. That the factory building was unsuited for the purpose of the manufactory, and placed in a position highly dangerous to the workmen on the works, the passengers by the company's trains, and the surrounding neighbourhood."

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

ACCIDENT TO A BOAT'S CREW.—A boat belonging to her Majesty's ship *Herald*, Capt. Denham, was overturned, "on the 20th of October, 1856," to quote from the captain's report, "while returning from the island *Wakaya*, adjacent to *Ovolau*, in the *Fejees*, while under a press of sail, with an overload of cocoa-nuts, through which the officer in charge, Mr. A. R. Nugent, midshipman, aged twenty, and five seamen, lost their lives, while so free from turbulence was the channel between the island and ship, that two of the crew swam back to the shore—a distance of two miles in the wind's eye—and another gained the ship with the sad intelligence. All the united efforts of the small craft of *Ovolau* and the ship's boats failed in even recovering the bodies of our lamented shipmates."

PEMBROKE DOCKYARD.—The extension and improvements of the dockyard at Pembroke are this year to be carried out to the extent of 120,000*l.*

THE VICTORIA CROSS.—This decoration consists of a Maltese cross, formed from the cannon taken from the Russians. In the centre of the cross is the Royal crown, surmounted by the lion, and below it a scroll bearing the words, "For valour." The riband is blue for the navy, and red for the army. On the clasp are two branches of laurel, and from it, suspended by a Roman V, hangs the cross. The execution of the work has been entrusted by Lord Panmure to Mr. Hancock, of Bruton-street. The decoration carries with it a pension of 10*l.* a year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FATHER PAUL MARY (the Hon. and Rev. C. R. Pakenham), Passionist, died at Dublin, in the convent of the order, last Sunday. He was brother to the Earl of Longford, and nephew of the late Duchess of Wellington; and he accompanied the Queen, on her first visit to Ireland, as one of her aides-de-camp, being at that time an officer of the Guards. He resigned the profession of arms on the occasion of his conversion to the Romish faith a few years since, and then joined the order of the "Barefooted Clerks of the Most Sacred Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ."

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—A meeting of the creditors and depositors of this bank was held on Tuesday evening at Evans's Hotel, Covent Garden, to consider a compromise proposed by the shareholders. After considerable discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting is of opinion that it is not expedient to accept any offer of a composition from the shareholders of the Royal British Bank until an official statement has been laid before the depositors of the actual pecuniary resources of the shareholders; nor without receiving the most ample and satisfactory security for the payment of any composition, should any offer from the shareholders to that effect be accepted by this meeting."—A general meeting of the depositors in the Royal British Bank was held on Wednesday evening, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, for the purpose of obtaining their assent to the compromise proposed by the shareholders, and which had been approved by the committee of depositors. After a great deal of discussion, Mr. James Wyld was called to the chair. The following resolutions were carried, though not without opposition:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is essential to the interests of the creditors of the Royal British Bank, that the proposed composition of 6*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, beyond the assets in bankruptcy, should be accepted, and that the shareholders should be required to pay the same by two instalments before the 30th of April next. That it is desirable that the acceptance of such composition by a majority of the creditors should be binding upon the minority, and that an Act of Parliament for that purpose should be obtained, the application for which this meeting pledges itself to support; and that the petition already prepared in favour of such act be presented to both Houses of Parliament."

LECTURES ON ITALY.—Miss J. M. White has been lecturing with great success, to very large audiences in the principal cities and towns of Scotland, and has elicited the strongest expressions of public sympathy with the aspirations of the Italian people.

A JEWIS WEDDING.—The daily papers, even at this exciting period of political crisis, contrive to give long accounts of the marriage, on Wednesday (at Gunnersbury Park, near Chiswick, the country-seat of Baron Lionel de Rothschild), of Miss Leonora, the daughter of the Baron, to Baron Alphonse, the eldest son of Baron James Rothschild, of Paris. The ceremony seems to have taken place in a perfect light of jewels and of gold and silver plate. Some of the observances were singular, but we have no room to detail them.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The last news from the Cape of Good Hope is to the effect that all is tranquil.

THE WEST INDIES.—Very little of importance is brought by the last mails. The islands for the most part are healthy, and the process of sugar manufacture

is proceeding favourably. In Demerara, the ravages of cholera continue, but without increase of virulence. A fast had been appointed. The death of the Hon. John Cameron, of Barcalidie, is recorded. 1170 immigrants had arrived in the course of the year from the East Indies.

SIR JOHN McNEILL AND COLONEL TULLOCH have received an address from the city of Bath, signed by numerous gentlemen, and expressing the highest approval of the Crimean Commissioners' Report. An address has also been sent from Preston.—A letter, dated February 20th, from Lord Panmure to Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch, has been published. It contains the offer of 1000*l.* to each which was recently alluded to in Parliament; and also the annexed paragraph:—"I have reason to believe that you have felt hurt by the omission made on my part of the usual official acknowledgment of so important a document as the report laid by you before the Government. I at once admit the ground of this complaint, and express my personal regret that it should have existed, but the fact was that, having accepted the report from the hands of one of the Commissioners at a personal interview, without, so far as I can trace, any formal letter accompanying it, and my mind being much occupied by important affairs at the time, I omitted that formal acknowledgment of your services which courtesy and my own opinion of their value required." Sir John McNeill, in his reply, says:—"If I rightly understand this statement of the grounds on which the grant is tendered to me, it means that the sum of 1000*l.* is intended to be considered not merely as a recognition by her Majesty's Government of the manner in which the duty was performed, but likewise as the pecuniary equivalent of the results of the inquiry—that is, the money value of the advantages which the country has derived from those results. This estimate alone is sufficient to lead me, without further consideration, at once to decline a proposal which, as explained by your Lordship, appears to me to involve the admission that the results of my labours have been so insignificant as to be almost without appreciable value to the public. The thanks which your Lordship has done me the honour to convey to me would have been far more acceptable if they had been unconnected with such an estimate." Colonel Tulloch has also declined the proffered sum.

MR. SERJEANT WILKINS died on Wednesday morning after a long and painful illness.

NEUCHÂTEL AND PERSIA.—The first conference on the Neuchâtel question met on Thursday in Paris at one o'clock.—A treaty of peace between England and Persia was signed by Lord Cowley and Ferukh Khan at Paris on Tuesday.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR CHINA.—Orders have been received at Plymouth to prepare, with the utmost despatch, the *Sanspareil*, *Himalaya*, and another vessel, for the conveyance of reinforcements, ammunition, &c., to the China station.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 7th.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House met for a quarter of an hour, but transacted no business.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BURIAL ACTS.

In answer to Sir DE LACY EVANS, Mr. MASSEY said that the Government had the subject of the amendment of the present Burial Acts under consideration, but of course, at present, they could not undertake to bring in a bill on the subject.

WEST LONDON UNION.

In answer to Lord CLAUD HAMILTON, Mr. BOUYERIE said that inquiry had been made by the Poor-Law Commissioners into the accommodation for the casual poor in the workhouse of the West London Union, and it was found that, when the workhouse itself was full, the casual poor were sent to a place which was wholly unfit to afford them decent shelter. Means had been taken to remedy that state of things.

PERSIA.

In answer to Mr. LAYARD, Mr. VERNON SMITH said that, although peace was concluded with Persia, it was still objectionable to produce the papers relating to the difference with that country until after the treaty had been ratified. No vote for the expense would probably be taken this year.—Mr. GLADSTONE complained that no opportunity would be afforded for discussing the Persian question before the meeting of the new Parliament.

THE RESOLUTE.

In answer to Mr. EVELYN, Sir CHARLES WOOD explained that what had been done with the Arctic ship *Resolute* was not done with any discourteous intention towards the American Government, but solely with a view to her preservation.

CHINA.

Sir FITZROY KELLY inquired whether the Government intended to continue to act on the Colonial Ordinance with reference to the carrying of the British flag

in the Chinese waters, for it was clear that that ordinance was illegal.—Lord PALMERSTON said that the hon. and learned gentlemen seemed to wish to reopen the Chinese debate. There was no intention at present to discontinue acting on the ordinance in question.

THE COURSE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

On the motion for going into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. DISRAELI rose to state the course he proposed to take with regard to the modified arrangements which the Government had indicated they were about to bring forward with a view to a dissolution. He and his party wished to consider the proposition of the Government without offering obstacles to it, and they were prepared to consent to the arrangement of the income-tax proposed, so that it was consistent with the spirit of the settlement of 1853. But, on the whole, he was disinclined to permit the present Parliament to deal with taxation, as the new Parliament which would meet in May would have ample time to make fiscal arrangements. It was not unusual to have a Budget in May, and he had even known one in August.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER urged that the plan he proposed was the only really feasible one, and thought it would be desirable to go into Committee of Ways and Means to discuss the Tea Duties.—Mr. GLADSTONE concurred that it would be a more convenient course to take all discussion in committee.

THE TEA DUTIES.

The House having gone into Committee of Ways and Means, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved a resolution that, in lieu of the Customs duties now chargeable on tea imported into the United Kingdom, the following duties shall be charged:—To the 5th of April, 1857, inclusive, 1*s.* 9*d.* in the pound; from and after the 5th April, 1857, to the 5th April, 1858, inclusive, 1*s.* 5*d.* in the pound.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved as an amendment that the duty on tea shall be, after the 5th April, 1857, 1*s.* 3*d.* per pound, and after the 5th April, 1858, 1*s.* per pound (18 & 19 Vic. c. 97., Act of 1855).—Lord JOHN RUSSELL said he approved of the plan of finance of the Government as it was now modified.—A discussion followed, in which the scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was criticised by Mr. RICARDO, Mr. MILNER GIBSON, Mr. MALINS, Mr. HORSEFALL, Mr. LAING, Mr. HEYWORTH, and Mr. MOFATT.—Mr. MUNTZ believed that the difference in the tea duty proposed by Mr. Gladstone would go into the pockets of the importers, and not of the consumers. He should prefer a reduction of the income-tax to that of the duty on tea.—Mr. DISRAELI again objected to entertaining the question of new taxes in the present Parliament. He believed that a duty of 1*s.* 5*d.* on tea, though it was said to be only 2*d.*—which, however, represented a sum of half a million of taxation—would press on the consumer and interfere with an important branch of trade.—In answer to Lord JOHN RUSSELL, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that by his present proposition he did not pledge himself not to propose a higher duty on tea after April, 1858.—Mr. HENLEY supported the proposition of the Government because he did not wish to risk revenue too suddenly.

The House divided:—
For the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer 187
Against it 125

Majority 62

THE SUGAR DUTIES.

The alterations in the sugar duties were then agreed to as proposed by the Government,—namely, on the principal sugar, 17 per cent. to 8th April, 1857, and 18*s.* 4*d.* from 5th April, 1857, to 8th April, 1858, &c.—Mr. Gladstone having withdrawn his amendment to reduce them to the amount proposed by the Act of 1853.

The other business was disposed of and the House adjourned at half-past eleven.

MOLDAVIA.

After the death of the Kaimaikan of Moldavia, a Provisional Government was installed with the consent of the foreign consuls, and this Government will act until the Porte shall have made some other appointment.

ANOTHER COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—Three explosions of fire damp have occurred at a pit belonging to Mr. Mundy, at Shipley, eight miles from Derby. Three men and two boys were killed, and thirteen other persons have been injured.

DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO MURDER IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—About eight o'clock on Thursday night, much alarm prevailed at the Camden-town station of the North Western Railway, in consequence of the cries of murder having been heard to proceed from a railway carriage attached to a Blackwall and Camden-town train. The driver as soon as possible stopped the train, when, on the guard opening the door of the carriage from which the cries proceeded, he found a gentleman from whose neck blood was profusely flowing. A man was in the carriage, who was charged by the gentleman with having stabbed him in the neck with some sharp instrument. The person accused was immediately secured. He gave his name as Webb. Robbery was supposed to be the object.

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

CULTIVATION OF COTTON IN INDIA.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

Sir,—Having, in connexion with a few others, spent much time and money in the years 1841 and 1842 in acquiring and disseminating accurate information on the subject of cotton cultivation in India, you may imagine that I have read with no little interest your able article, headed "Slavery Abolition, and Cotton Supply," in the last number of your journal. I say able article, because I am in a position to know that you have placed before the public the most prominent facts on this really great question.

You commence by alluding to the probability of a scanty cotton crop in the United States, and the dire mischief which such a catastrophe would produce in our factory districts. The evils can scarcely be over-rated. I remember Lord Ellenborough, when Governor-General of India, to have said that, looking at its effects in Great Britain, he dreaded a famine in cotton more than a famine in bread.

Then as to the slave question. At the period I have named, and subsequently, I have taken many occasions, publicly and privately, of impressing on the Abolitionists the paramount importance of instituting or encouraging all efforts to obtain our supplies of cotton from the East instead of the West, as the surest, easiest, and most speedy and legitimate way of getting rid of slavery. It was truly said by Mr. Gurney, at the Annual Meeting of the Anti-Slavery Society in 1841, that, "if a supply of cotton could be obtained from any other part of the world, no greater stab could be given to slavery in the United States."

That such a supply can be obtained from our territory in the East, whenever those most interested will it, and use the proper means—now well ascertained—is quite certain.

When I and my colleagues were engaged in agitating the subject in 1841-2, there were many difficulties which have since been overcome. Railways have been made in various directions in India, giving a facility of transit much needed, instead of sending the staple loosely and carelessly packed on the backs of bullocks to the place of shipment. That enormous burden the land-tax, too, operating in some districts almost as a prohibition on cultivation, taking from the ryots one half of their produce, is, it seems, in course of abatement and adjustment. From the result of interviews we had with the Governor-General of India, the Court of Directors of the East India Company, and the President of the Board of Control; I am satisfied that this might have been accomplished fifteen years ago, if the men of Manchester and Glasgow had then, as they were expected, pursued their real interests, instead of waiting until now, when they are absolutely threatened with a scarcity, if not a famine, in their raw material.

It is to be hoped they will now bestir themselves in the way you, sir, have indicated. It is British capital, and British intelligence in superintending the application of that capital, which is required. A company should be forthwith formed, having for its object the supply of the British markets with cotton of Indian growth, of equal quality and at least as low a rate as that now brought from America, though I am satisfied it may be produced lower.

For this purpose the company should:—

1. Make advances to the native growers to enable them to extend and improve the cultivation of cotton, upon the same system which has so long and successfully been practised in the cultivation of indigo.
2. Furnish the growers from time to time with such seed as may be desirable from other countries.
3. Introduce an improved practice of picking, cleaning, and packing the cotton, these being the points on which its value essentially depends as an article of British commerce, and in which the natives of India are chiefly deficient.

It is gratifying to find by your article that Mr. Shaw, who has had practical experience in the recent experiments of improved cotton culture in India, is now in this country, prepared to give information on the subject; and for many graver reasons it is much to be hoped that the present year may not be allowed to pass away without seeing formed a vigorous company, with adequate capital, for commencing at once the cultivation and importation of Indian cotton.

W. PARR.

Seville Works, Dublin, Feb. 18, 1857.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1857.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

COMING DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

LORD PALMERSTON follows the only constitutional course open to him when he appeals from the House of Commons to the country, instead of attempting to carry on the administration with a Parliament by which his policy has been censured. The insignificance of the majority scarcely affects the question. Nor is it of much importance to inquire whether one party or a combination of parties has succeeded in obtaining judgment against the Minister. He stands, no doubt, at the head of the largest following in the House of Commons—a following much larger than that of Lord DERBY, and greater than that commanded some years ago by Lord JOHN RUSSELL; but he has sustained one defeat, and may sustain many, should he endeavour to hold office in the face of even so heterogeneous an opposition; his temerity would only exasperate the coalesced cliques on the Tory and Independent benches. It may be that the recent division represented the passions of a cabal rather than any serious convictions relating to an affair of Chinese policy; but that would only demonstrate still more conclusively the necessity for a partial reconstitution of the House of Commons. If a majority could be packed upon such a question, it is obvious that one adverse vote after another might be forced, until the position of the Cabinet became altogether untenable.

The alternative lies between resigning office and dissolving Parliament. Sir ROBERT WALPOLE was in power for twenty-five years; a vote of want of confidence was then moved against him; it was lost by a majority of three; he was then opposed on an election question and defeated; thereupon he relinquished office. Lord NORFOLK, in 1782, met two want-of-confidence motions, and, being supported by only slight majorities, retired. Lord SIDMOUTH would not carry on the Government after his working majority had been reduced to thirty-seven. Lord LIVERPOOL resigned his authority at the feet of a majority composed of no more than four members; even the Duke of WELLINGTON, in 1830, yielded, under the advice of Sir ROBERT PEEL, to a majority of twenty-nine. Sir ROBERT PEEL himself, five years later, surrendered to the adverse votes of Parliament. When Lord DERBY resigned in 1853, upon the rejection of his Budget, it was because he felt, not only that by a majority of twenty the House of Commons had refused his finance, but that it declared generally against his policy and authority. Whig and Conser-

vative ministers alike have admitted in practice that to attempt governing with a minority, is to set at defiance the principle of parliamentary representation, to excite contempt, and to challenge the inveterate hostility of an Opposition that has been victorious, and is denied the fruits of victory.

But Lord PALMERSTON will not resign. He is right; but then he must dissolve. The conspicuous dissolution of the last half century was that of 1831; the Government had been left with a majority of one; shortly after it was defeated by a majority of eight, and next by twenty-two. Parliament was dissolved. The dissolution which followed the final passage of the Reform Bill was a matter of course, to exercise the new faculties of the British constitution. Then came the dissolution of 1835. Sir ROBERT was not followed by a third of the House of Commons; he tried the experiment of a general election; it failed to reverse the relation of parties, and the minister was compelled to retire. An election took place in 1837. That Parliament lasted through four sessions, and in 1841 was dissolved after a vote of want of confidence had been carried against the Ministers by a majority of one. The general election of 1841 was of vast importance. It settled the question for some years between the Whigs and Tories. The Parliament returned, in spite of all that official activity and influence could effect, was intensely hostile to the Liberal party, and the MELBOURNE Administration fell, exhausted and damaged in character. The appeals to the country, made upon the abolition of the Corn Laws, and upon the accession of Lord DERBY to office, were also examples of Governments with an inefficient actual following endeavouring to strengthen themselves, and resigning when the verdict went against them.

It would be ridiculous on the part of Lord PALMERSTON to go to the country upon the Chinese question alone; he must go upon a policy, and what is that policy to be? Not the weak drifting of the past three years, for no Russian war is now upon our hands; the Persian dispute is at an end; the Chinese difficulty cannot stand by itself as an obstacle in the way of reform. Lord PALMERSTON will not bid against Lord DERBY only, but against Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Sir JAMES GRAHAM, and those other leaders who have already professed themselves in favour of an extended programme. A general election is a season of pledges and promises; the whole body of voters in the three kingdoms must not be brought to the hustings and invited to judge between Sir JOHN BOWRING and Mr. COBDEN. That is a serious matter, but not serious enough to furnish a basis for six or seven years of imperial legislation; the Parliament elected this year may have a great work to do; it can scarcely pass away without discussing the leading topic of parliamentary reform; it is with reference to that topic that candidates will be cross-examined by constituencies; and Lord PALMERSTON will be required to explain how far he is prepared to go. It does not follow that those who have upheld his Chinese policy, and have been disgusted by the factious combination against it, should defend his evasive indifference at a general election against the activity of more liberal statesmen. The forthcoming struggle should be a great trial of national questions, not of any special issue; we cannot blame the first Minister for vindicating the conduct of his representatives in the East; but from the moment that a new Parliament is announced, the Liberal party must gather under its old standards, and contend, not for the bombardment of Canton, but for political progress—for representative reform. Even a Ministry of "all the Talents" is preferable to a Ministry of all the Claptraps.

SUSPICION OF A SECRET TREATY.

We are totally in the dark as to the resolutions to which the Tory party may have come on the leading problems of administrative policy. It was until recently supposed, it is true, that the Tories had an organ; but such is not the case. Lord DERBY, in his place in the House of Peers, has rebuked the print which had affected to represent him, and has disavowed, in terms of indignant contempt, the pretensions it has put forward. The account of the meeting at his house turns out to have been a gross misrepresentation, framed upon a bad report "surreptitiously obtained" from some understrapper of the party, if not from one of Lord DERBY's 'gentlemen.' We are sorry that not one of our contemporaries is entitled to speak with authority in the name of the Tory leaders; but it is better to be uninformed than misinformed; we shall at least be spared the pain of seeing our contemporaries copying at solemn length fictitious reports of private political meetings, and, in some instances, actually attributing them to Mr. DISRAELI. For ourselves, we are not on speaking terms with any member of the DERBY or DISRAELI establishments; we are not known down Mr. GLADSTONE's area steps; no crumb of official inspiration reaches us among the perquisites of the porter's chair at Cambridge House. It is impossible, therefore, for us to justify by evidence the assertion made by Lord PALMERSTON that Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Mr. GLADSTONE, and Mr. DISRAELI have secretly conspired to expel him from office; this was, perhaps, among the indiscretions of his great speech on Tuesday evening—the worst indiscretion of all being his contemptuous treatment of Mr. COBDEN. The case against Lord JOHN RUSSELL does not seem very clear; that against Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. DISRAELI, however, appears past doubt. Something has wrought a deplorable change in Mr. GLADSTONE's mind and manners. He continues to split hairs, but he no longer minces his language; he is violent, abusive, personal; he betrays a passionate eagerness to thrust the ministers from their seats of power; and he works along a line of action exactly parallel with that of Mr. DISRAELI. Mr. DISRAELI objects to the finance of Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS, so does Mr. GLADSTONE; Mr. GLADSTONE would revert to the settlement of 1853, so would Mr. DISRAELI. Mr. DISRAELI and Mr. GLADSTONE have something to say against the estimates; Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. DISRAELI are pledged to modify the tea and sugar duties; and when Mr. COBDEN moves his Canton resolution, with the approval of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Mr. DISRAELI supports him; and on that point there happens to be a remarkable coincidence of opinion between the personal friend and the personal libeller of Sir ROBERT PEEL. Mr. GLADSTONE, at last, has his mocking-bird on the Tory benches. What, however, is the object of this eccentric alliance—ambition or revenge—the ambition of place, or the revenge of jealousy? Jealousy, so far as we can understand, and the chance of something turning up in a scramble. For what can Mr. GLADSTONE expect personally from his union with the Tories? To be Chancellor of the Exchequer to a DERBY Administration? Supposing, however, a proposal of reform on the part of the Whigs, similar to the proposal of 1853, is Mr. GLADSTONE prepared so far to sacrifice his opinions as to resist it?

As we have said, we can only guess at the views of the Opposition otherwise than as they are expressed in Parliament, since the assumption of representative authority by a contemporary print has been exposed as a false pretence. The "slight and graceful

allusion" of Lord DERBY to the Established Church turns out to be the slight and graceful fabrication of a liner—not more authentic than Mr. SPOONER's "generous warmth," or the ineffable servility attributed to Lord MARCH, who was prepared to support Lord DERBY, "whatever course he might deem it expedient to pursue." For "important" read "impertinent," in the case of this "exclusive communication." Consequently, no one out of a certain circle knows whether Lord DERBY has really had any serious political conversations with Mr. GLADSTONE, or whether or not he has denied the existence of the alleged coalition; but it is certain that Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. DISRAELI have acted and spoken in suspicious concert, and we are not prepared to deny the possibility of a Secret Treaty between one politician so unscrupulous and another politician so uncertain.

The High Church party, it is said, have determined to punish Lord PALMERSTON for his Low Church appointments. The High Church is capable of such a course, no doubt; and such an insinuation adds to the probabilities of the suspected compact. The melancholy sincerity of Mr. GLADSTONE, on such a point, would find a ready ally in the indifference of Mr. DISRAELI.

The debate on the Chinese question, however, afforded in itself the strongest evidence that some sinister understanding had been established between the Tory Opposition and the Peelites; they fired successively in platoons; a Peelite followed a Tory, and justified him, and a Tory succeeded to defend the Peelite and vilify the Ministers, Sir FREDERICK THESIGER attaining the climax of all cant when he burst into an Old Bailey peroration, and declared that he should never again enjoy a moment's inward peace unless he recorded his sympathy with the poisoners, kidnappers, and assassins of Canton. The attempt to drag in Sir JOHN DAVIS as a witness against the Government was, however, a failure. Sir JOHN DAVIS, than whom no more competent authority could be found, affirms that the retaliation at Canton was a just and necessary proceeding, and shows upon what an infamous Asiatic burlesque of JEFFREYS—Commissioner YEH—Lord DERBY had lavished his encomiums.

We do not here reopen the discussion so far as it affects China; because it was not upon the merits of the question that the majority of the Opposition voted. It was faction that ruled the House of Commons on Tuesday night. But it may be observed that an address to Lord PALMERSTON was immediately circulated for signature in the City of London; and that, so far as we can ascertain, the undivided opinion of the metropolitan commercial body is in favour of Sir JOHN BOWRING's measures. Sir JOHN BOWRING may be an "iron-headed old rat," to borrow a euphuism quoted by Mr. GLADSTONE; but he understands the Chinese character, and knows of what value the diplomacy of Europe would be if applied with all its forms, revisions, and delays, to the most obstinate authorities in Asia. A detailed history of British intercourse with China, if only commenced from 1843, would expose the fallacies upon which the vote of Tuesday evening was partially grounded. It was grounded chiefly, however, upon the reckless immorality of the Opposition, and against that recklessness and that immorality the Government will appeal to the nation.

THE DARK COMMERCE.

You never detect large dealings in that style of commerce which has been brought to perfection in our own day, the commerce that is not admitted on the Stock Exchange, without

finding that its connexions are as extensively ramified as those of the recognised commerce. Not long since we noticed the case of two tailors who combined another branch of business with the making of clothes,—who brought custom to their shop by lending money,—and who increased their tailors' bills by the charges for loans. This week we have a third tailor before us—Mr. JOHN BAXTER FOLKARD, of 69, Jermyn-street—a bankrupt. His account commenced on the 1st of January, 1855, with a surplus of 3387*l.*, and at the end of sixteen months they closed, with liabilities to a friend who had assisted him to the amount of 6830*l.*, besides unsecured creditors to the amount of 8377*l.* Of those sums, the bankrupt, since his bankruptcy, has collected 2800*l.*, and he will probably realize 200*l.* more. Thus, in the back-shop part of his business, he has incurred liabilities to the extent of something over 15,000*l.*, and he has recovered 3000*l.*—one-fifth. His counsel contended that the bankrupt's style of doing business was not "reckless," and we are inclined to doubt whether, in comparison with others of the same trade, he really deserves that damnatory epithet. There is so much competition, that it is necessary to employ attractions to the shop; and what attraction so great as an easy loan?

In this case the tailor appears not as the harpy, but as the victim. It is the young gentlemen who are the harpies,—the 'green' young men who are under age. Some of these gentlemen, it appears, have been serving their country in the Crimea; but the reason why they went is curiously indicated by Mr. Commissioner GOULBURN. He was censuring the class of tailors who combine money lending with clothes' making. "Young men," he said, "were tempted to their ruin, and driven abroad; young men came from the Crimea expecting to be welcomed by their friends, only to find themselves pursued by a sheriff's officer." Luckless young men! Mr. GOULBURN seemed to imply that the sheriff's officer should be spared; that the tailor should put up with his loss. He gravely adopts, as a correct expression, the sarcasm of the gentleman who, pointing to his friend's new clothes, said, "Who suffers?" To enjoy is the lot of young gentlemen of high connexions; to suffer is the tailor's. The wrong part of Mr. FOLKARD's business was the employing the sheriff's officer.

A tailor must not seduce young men,—it undermines the manhood of the country. This is no figure of speech. "Was it not reckless for the bankrupt to go, as he had gone, to almost every regiment in the service and accommodate the young officers with clothes? The trade that he had pursued was one that carried much misery into families." We well remember that when one regiment was ordered to the Crimea,—and it was a regiment very high in the service,—doubts were openly expressed how the officers would be able to go; since, in that regiment, it was supposed, every officer was so deeply involved to his tailor and other creditors that his means would be quite unable to cover the insurance of his debts. Mr. GOULBURN seems to think that the fault lies entirely with the tailors who tempt; that the young men—and some of them are "young" only by courtesy—have no duties of their own, no duties towards their parents, for whom Mr. GOULBURN feels so much; that if tempted, they must have clothes, borrow money, and then be spared the sheriff's officer.

This style of tailoring, Mr. GOULBURN says, "is quite common in the West-end;" it partly helps to explain how custom has been taken from homelier tailors, who make clothes quite as good, at more reasonable prices.

The proceedings of the Bankruptcy Court disclosed to us the very extensive branch of tailoring which has hitherto been kept in the dark. This commerce under the rose is constantly developing its extensive connexions, and we have this week some further evidence that its connexions also are very high. A passage in the *Times* Money Article tells us that "the New York and New Haven Railway had declared a dividend of 3 per cent., but an injunction against it had been obtained in the Supreme Court. This is the company of which Mr. ROBERT SCHUYLER, a year or two back, acting as president with full power, issued fictitious shares, and which, unlike the Royal Swedish Railway, the Crystal Palace, and the Great Northern Railway Companies in London, forthwith repudiated the acts of its own officers."

In the trial of the directors of the Docks Napoléon at Paris, M. ARTHUR BERRYER, son of the distinguished advocate of that name, a Government commissioner, whose duty it was to watch over the proceedings of the company, is accused of having connived at the frauds with which the directors are charged; and his defence is one of the most remarkable disclosures yet furnished to us in this kind of commerce. "He says that M. PERSIGNY, who, when Minister of Commerce, appointed him to the post, M. MAGNE, and M. ROUHER were all made aware by him that the company, though ostensibly starting with subscriptions for 200,000 shares, had, in fact, only from 85,000 to 86,000 shares subscribed for. If they chose to take no initiative, M. BERRYER argues that it was not for him, a subaltern, to make a stir about the matter." This statement is in part contradicted by M. HEURTIER, formerly Director-General in the department of Agriculture and Commerce; but, as M. BERRYER says, "Perhaps the whole truth will never be known." If hard pressed, he promises to tell some "secrets," which will be interesting and instructive. Meanwhile, it is the fact that M. BERRYER himself was a Government commissioner, and that, being accused of connivance in the fraud, he makes this defence!

THE FRANCHISE MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

THE Scottish movement in favour of a 40s. county franchise is an excellent specimen of the political movements of the day; it is dictated by a manifest void in the Scottish constituency; a void, that is, as compared with the English constituency. For until every free and independent Englishman is allowed by statute that electoral right which he has by the common law and the constitution of this country, we hold that the franchise of all three kingdoms is radically defective. The Scotch county franchise is in a very absurd condition: the right is held by freeholders and occupiers to a high amount; but anything resembling the humbler class of English yeomanry, or the working vote, Scotland does not show. Freeholds are held there at a much higher value, and represent a totally different class. In fact, the tenure of land differs materially, and lawyers make a vast distinction between the English freehold and the Scottish feu. It is a distinction for lawyers, but not for practical men. There are various kinds of freehold in this country, differing materially from each other; but the practical pinch of the distinction lies in the question, whether or not the owner has a permanent possession of the land, not subject to renewal, as in the case of copyhold and some other kinds of inferior tenure. Now, in Scotland, we are told, and the statement is not denied, that the feu is a kind of tenure as permanent in its character as our fee simple; although theoretically and technically

it is in the nature of a copyhold, it constitutes, in fact, positive ownership. In England, such an ownership to the clear annual value of 40s. gives a man a right to vote in the county; in Scotland it does not. In England, a man living in a town, possessing property of that kind, may not possess a vote for the borough in which he lives; but he does possess for the county; in Scotland, if the owner lives within the precincts of a borough, he does not possess the vote for the county. The sum and substance of the complaint is that the humbler middle-class man, or the rising working man who lays by and accumulates independent means, has in Scotland no prospect of acquiring the vote by his own act; in England he has; and the sole question is, why there should be that distinction.

The question is reduced *ad absurdum* by a consideration of the national character of the Scotch. That part of the country is poorer, and therefore a lower range of money value would, all things considered, represent the same level with a higher range in this country. As 40s. will buy more land, on the average, in Scotland than 40s. would buy in England, so a 40s. ownership in Scotland would give a higher grade, as it is called, than in England.

Again, taking the Scotchman and the Englishman one with another, you will find that the Scotchman at a given social level will be at least as well informed, as intelligent, as energetic, and as prudent as the Englishman. Why then have only a 50l. or a 60l. freehold for Scotland, and a 40s. freehold for England? What is the reason for the distinction?

When the Reform Bills were under consideration, attention was turned upon the main questions of the struggle, and these details escaped notice. Scotland has since been torn by ecclesiastical dissensions. The appetite for that kind of quarrelling has now been satiated. It happened that a leading man in the Free Church had occasion to travel in North America; one of the first things that struck him was the independent bearing of the resident classes, however humble, on political subjects. Every man had his own opinion, and was prepared to enforce it with his vote. Some of these persons were found in Nova Scotia,—they were Scotchmen; by crossing the Atlantic they had regained that political right which, in modern times, is denied to them in their own land. Nay, on consideration, the traveller found that the Scotchman is not on a level even with the Englishman. Returning, he detected some further reasons for the docility of the Scotch: from the comparative smallness of the constituency, the position of the tenantry, and the large possessions of individual families, the counties are really private possessions. Thus, Buteshire returns persons under the approval of the Marquis of Bute, who sometimes puts members of the aristocracy into the House of Commons; persons possessing very little sympathy with the agricultural and industrial inhabitants of Bute. He neutralises the entire population of Greenock, Paisley, Dundee, or Aberdeen; Rothsay or Arran being entirely unrepresented. If Dumfries, with Annan, Lochmaben, Moffat, Lockerby, and other villages, possessed a franchise for 40s. owners, they would send into the House of Commons men representing the real blood and muscle of Dumfriesshire. It is the same in Lanarkshire, now handed over to the decrees of HAMILTON and DOUGLAS.

There is, however, a serious difficulty in the way of this reform: the Scottish members, in a large proportion, are of Whig if not Tory principles, and they are not for anything so really popular. They will not speak up for the disfranchised counties and

communities of Scotland. Here is a reform for which justice loudly calls, but which awaits the revival of political feeling in the United Kingdom generally. It is one of those political movements that remain in abeyance for want of political union; one of the materials that would supply the strength for a political action, as soon as our public men have the courage or the sense to act upon the popular invitation.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S DIVORCE BILL.

THE real difficulty in making progress with amendments affecting either the position of women or the law of marriage and divorce is, that there is no effective public opinion upon the subject, and for obvious reasons. Those who are most conscious of the evils of the present law, are, speaking generally, disinclined to place themselves prominently forward. They are in the condition of persons suffering under some hereditary disease, who shrink from the hospital applicable to their case above all other buildings in the world. They would like a remedy, but they still more dread to draw attention upon their own sufferings; hence they can only operate through a very peculiar agency, which effects great reforms in the world, but accomplishes them slowly. Their true hope lies in the thorough conviction of thinking men. But we seldom find that thinking men are men of action, and we commonly find that men of action adopt their convictions long after they have ceased to be discussed by thinking men. So that, in the present day, we are accomplishing thoughts which lurked in the minds of philosophers hundreds or thousands of years ago. The best hopes for practical law reforms upon subjects affecting the moral regimen of society, lies in the carrying out of Mr. NAPIER's motion, which Government accepted—the appointment of a Minister of Justice.

The course of the LORD CHANCELLOR'S Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill shows this. Society has long made up its mind upon some points at least of this subject—that, if there is to be divorce at all, it should not be a question of expense, so as to exclude from its benefit persons because they are poor: that in questions of matrimonial litigation the wife ought to be placed upon an equality with the husband; that the industrious and neglected wife should not be liable to licensed burglary on the part of a profligate husband; and that the outrageous indecency of the action for criminal conversation, by which the husband brings in his bill to the seducer, should be totally abolished. The subject has been before Parliament now for several years. It was laid before a Commission; the Commission could agree only upon a report which amounted to the suggestion—that the expense of divorce should be reduced so as to bring it within the attainment of poor persons. Successive bills have taken in new proposals. The LORD CHANCELLOR'S last bill proposes that divorce should be granted for adultery on some few of the recognised causes; principally differing from the present law in rendering such a relief real and tangible. It also proposes that husband and wife should be allowed to separate by agreement, leaving the wife independent of the man with reference to property and earnings. These are real additions to the present law, for, as it now stands, a separation can be overruled by the Ecclesiastical Court at the instance of one of the parties. The bill, however, is still more conspicuous for its omissions than for its inclusions. Two omissions are very remarkable. It does not make systematic desertion a ground of divorce; it does not

abolish the action for criminal conversation. Who pointed out these omissions? A man remarkable for his mastery of law, his clear intellect, and his strong Conservatism—Lord LYNDBURST. Lord LYNDBURST is a good measure of the extent to which reforms might be carried without amounting to what would be called innovation or subversiveness. Yet the LORD CHANCELLOR does not go even so far as the LYNDBURST measure.

The second reading was carried. OXFORD and EXETER stand ready to destroy the Bill in Committee, if the dissolution do not postpone the subject altogether. The Bill, therefore, constitutes nothing more than a mark—the highest mark to which the tide of legislation has yet risen on this subject.

DUTY OF THE UNREPRESENTED.

ONE-SIXTH of the voters of the United Kingdom, and one-fortieth of the adult male population, will shortly be vested with authority to elect, if they please, a majority of the House of Commons. As there are divergencies of opinion, however, among the electoral sixth, and the national fortieth, one million of men out of six millions will divide the chance of establishing the Government of Great Britain for seven years, upon Tory or Liberal principles. To every man who has a vote there are five men who have none; how then can the unrepresented be said to have duties connected with a general election?

They can influence the electors; they can compare their own opinions, by shows of hands, with those of the privileged body. It would be a very important result if, at a large number of county and borough returns, the decision of a show of hands at the nomination should have been found to have reversed upon going to the poll: that would be one test of the nature of public opinion, as contradicted by electoral opinion.

The unrepresented should be careful to attend the elections in large bodies, and make their voices heard where their suffrages will not be received. They should exhibit no sullenness, which would be construed as apathy; but should contrast their broad and multitudinous masses with the shrivelled shadows so often called constituencies. Wherever it is practicable, a candidate should be brought forward on advanced popular principles, so that the returning officer should be forced, upon a show of hands, to declare him elected, although it may not be intended to drive his opponents to the poll: in no case should this opportunity be missed. The Liberal party might thus gain a considerable accession of moral influence in the House of Commons.

At the same time the members of the new House of Commons should carry with them to London a cloud of petitions from the unrepresented classes. This would stimulate the Liberal party in Parliament, and force on a serious discussion between the advocates and the enemies of reform.

We can conceive no fallacy more injurious than that which supposes the unrepresented part of the population to have no duties to perform during the period of a general election. They have the more important duties to perform, because they are unrepresented. They have to make an advance towards representation. Reform will be, in all probability, the question that will ultimately divide the next Parliament into an Opposition and a Ministerial party. Now, it would be a grievous error to commit the interests of the non-electors to the keeping of the electors, and to trust implicitly in them.

BACON IN THE MANTLE OF PALMER.
A SUSPECTED criminal becomes at once the property of malignant gossips, who convert

him to every possible use. WILLIAM PALMER was represented by the snappers up of atrocious rumours as a man who had spent his whole life in murdering, who had sprinkled a neighbourhood with the graves of his poisoned relatives, who had possessed himself of all the infernal arts in order to cut off his fellow-creatures. Without assigning any limit to that miserable man's capacity for guilt, we may doubt whether it is a wholesome practice to assert a multitude of assassinations on the proof of one. BACON, charged with having killed his two children at Walworth, was next arraigned as a matricide; his mother's body was exhumed; his father's name was then whispered, and the legend of infamy grew until the horror once attaching to WILLIAM PALMER was transferred to WILLIAM BACON. He had committed arson—he had forged—he had robbed a friend—he had driven one wife mad—a child by a former marriage had been buried in suspicious haste—a neighbour had disappeared; by the time he is tried a calendar of crimes will hang like a convict garment upon him—a San Benito of pitiless social suspicion. It is even imputed to him for wickedness that he is "a monstrous eater." Inspector YOUNG and Sergeant BROAD and Constable REED dispute the honour of having been "superhumanly active" in breaking open the sepulchre in which the poisoner had laid his victim. So rancorous, indeed, has been the detecting spirit of the Stamford population, that the authorities have been wearied by their importunity, and have refused to disturb any more churchyard mould. Many persons remember the tales that flew from tongue to tongue after BURKE was hanged. How a great house had been discovered in Drury-lane, where dead bodies were kept in stock; how the arch-murderer had paid a battalion of agents, to whom he forwarded specifications of the 'subject' in demand; how many a young girl in the country, lured to town by false promises, had entered a certain door, and never emerged, except in a shell, by night. This sort of appetite goes far to prove that the British intellect has not been very highly rectified since the age of sorcery and witch-burning. The lurid lights of superstition—for superstition it is—still strike upon the minds even of persons who would pay for the prophecies of Wizard HARRISON, or touch with silver the palm of a gipsy, whose native Devonshire complexion has been dyed with walnut juice. By all means let murder be traced and the murderer convicted; but do not encourage this unscrupulous multiplication of imaginary crimes, which feed the fancy with poison, and stain it with blood. Above all, whatever may happen, let us not have a PALMER excitement every three months in the year.

£1000 REWARD.

COLONEL TULLOCH and Sir JOHN M'NEILL might have rejected without pain the offer of 1000Z. each, for forbearing to assert their position as gentlemen, had Lord PANMURE discussed the point grammatically with them. Since he stumbled in his syntax, however, they could not but be resentful. They have not learned that when men do their duty in England, they receive small sums in payment; but that when they fail in their duty, stars and crosses are rewarded as official consolations. A reward of 200Z. has been offered for the capture of the Redhill highwayman; the services of Colonel TULLOCH and Sir JOHN M'NEILL are severally assessed at five times that amount. Five acts of detective sagacity constitute a claim as great as that of the Commissioners who explained why a British army perished, and by that explanation saved another army from destruction.

SUPER FLUMINA BABYLONIS.

THEY sat down and wept by the waters of Babylon, and thought of the day when, although Baron DE ROTHSCHILD could not sit in the high place of Salem, as colleague of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, that stupendous representative of an afflicted race married a "desolate daughter" to one of the "scattered all weeping away," at Gunnersbury Park. There was something paralysing to an imagination not so weak as that of JENKINS in the fairyland light and beauty of the Chiswick feast. It was a cooling sight to see BENJAMIN DISRAELI, of pale, Asiatic complexion, seated like one of ZENOBIA's councillors in that eye-delighting saloon, trellised with flowers, roofed with crystal, multiplied by mirrors, and suffused with a rosy glow from flutings of pink silk. "Only the plate of the family was used;" assuredly the ROTHSCHILDS, always lending, never borrow. No; they can lay covers for a hundred and forty, and their friends can cast at the feet of the bride six breakfast services of massive silver, and one of chased gold, besides a parasol of lace, every rib of which is tipped with oval-shaped emeralds and pearls, so that Baroness ALPHONSE in future may ride if she please in the chariot of the Queen of SHEBA. Wonderful were the candlesticks, fit for Solomon's Temple; prodigious were the fans, each sumptuous enough for a Sultana; but the Lydian gift of the great promoter was most marvellous of all—a cheque, they say, for a million! 1,000,000Z.! Not possible, is it? But then, do not the ROTHSCHILDS "date beyond monarchies?" Are not these their savings since the Dispersion? Mr. DISRAELI said in his ethereal Caucasian way, that the bridegroom had found a treasure "dearer than rubies." Ah! but Baron ALPHONSE DE ROTHSCHILD has the treasure and the rubies too; "one set of jewels alone, the gift of his father, being worth 30,000Z.;" and the "tulle illusion," draping the bride, revealed a Persian luxury of pearls. The popular man in England on Wednesday morning was the Benedict of the Bourse, but was it on account of the "far above rubies," or the rubies themselves? We know not; yet there is an unctuous loving style of talking about "almost priceless floral gems," and "triumphs of GUNTER'S art," and "decorations of pure white and gold," and "costly chandeliers," and velvet and frippery, that might almost tempt a cynical outsider to doubt whether the lilies of the valley, that neither toil nor spin, would have a chance of respectful recognition in the presence of this gilded gold. Buy Palestine, Baron ROTHSCHILD; and wear your purple on a throne! The Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, we are persuaded, will be happy on that condition to "say grace."

MANCHESTER MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND EXHIBITION OF INDUSTRIAL ART.—The thirty-third annual meeting of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, and the last that will be held in the old building, Cooper-street, took place on the evening of Thursday week, and drew together some of the most distinguished men of the town, including Mr. J. C. Dyer; Mr. W. Fairbairn, C.E., F.R.S.; Mr. Roberts, C.E.; Mr. Fothergill, C.E.; and others. Mr. Oliver Heywood presided, and mentioned that some gentlemen were proposing to establish a Working Men's College in connexion with the institution. He trusted that the proposal would be carried into effect. The funds of the institution were described as being in a very prosperous condition; and a vote of thanks to the secretary, Mr. Hutchings, for his energetic management, was unanimously and cordially passed.

ART-MANUFACTURE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND.—It has been resolved that, owing to the success of the first exhibition of this association in Edinburgh, the second shall also be held in that city at the close of the present year. Already about 3700 or 4000 subscribers have been enrolled in the Art Union department, and the committee are engaged in the purchase of prizes to be distributed at the first annual ballot to be made next June. A prize of 20Z. has been offered for the best model of a useful and ornamental article to be produced at moderate cost for distribution among the subscribers.

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.*

THE question of Style in Literature is both interesting and important; but, like many other questions which present obvious superficial characteristics easily seized, its real nature is seldom recognised. Only the other day we had to notice a paper in the *North British Review* on this subject; and this month *Fraser* opens with the first part of an Essay of some pretension, in which the writer errs, we conceive, at the very outset. He compares the relation of style to matter, with the relation of cookery to food:—

Or, to vary the metaphor, we may compare literary to architectural style, and as the same stones in the hands of the builder will form the most beautiful or the most unsightly edifice—the Parthenon of the Acropolis or the National Gallery of Trafalgar-square—so from the same subject-matter the pen may produce the dullest or the most interesting book.

This we believe to be a profound misconception of the nature of Style, and consequently it vitiates all the conclusions which the writer draws. To show that we are not holding him responsible for the meaning of a mere metaphor, but that this metaphor does express his conception of style, we quote this passage:—

There are some books—few indeed in number, we admit—which have been kept afloat on the stream of time, almost solely by the buoyancy of their style. And by this we do not mean merely the grammatical and proper arrangement of words in each sentence, but the due relation of sentences to each other. A rhythmical structure ought to exist, not only in the separate but in the collective periods; and the warp and woof of the entire texture should be so woven as to preserve continuity of pattern, and produce the effect of an harmonious whole.

Against the common error of supposing style to be the "dress of thought," we maintain that it is in all cases the incarnation of thought. However needful certain canons of syntactical or rhythmical arrangement may be, no Style can be made of them. It is necessary for a writer to learn certain elements of verbal composition, just as it is necessary for a dancer to learn his steps; but the Style of the one, like the Grace of the other, is only made effective by such acquisitions, it does not spring from them. No initiation into the mystery of construction will make a good Style. It is in vain that men ape MACAULAY'S short sentences and epigrammatic antitheses, his geographical and historical illustrations, and his eighteenth century diction; they cannot seize the secret of his charm, because that charm lies in the felicity of his talent, not in the structure of his sentences. We are perfectly aware that writers may by study improve their Style, as by cultivation they may enrich their minds. We admit that certain defects of expression may be cured, and certain effects attained by attention to the structure of sentences, and precision of expression. But no study, no attention, no rules will give the easy turn, the graceful idiom, the fine felicity, the movement and the power which constitute the separate varieties of style. A picturesque talent will express itself in concrete images; a genial talent will express itself in pleasant turns; a rapid, unhesitating mind will express itself in quick incisive phrases; a full, discursive mind will overflow in ample paragraphs of suggestive eloquence. But the charm of a CARLYLE, a CHARLES LAMB, a MACAULAY, or a DE QUINCEY, is not to be attained by imitating their manner, unless the imitator be himself of kindred nature. When books succeed by style, in spite of the mediocrity of their matter, the success is not due to any felicitous arrangement of sentences, except in as far as this arrangement is itself the expression of a felicitous talent. We may be indifferent to the matter directly treated by the writer, as in PAUL LOUIS COURIER'S immortal pamphlets and BURKE'S *Letter to a Noble Lord*, but we are delighted with the mind of the writer, charmed with the matter indirectly treated by him. This is the secret of style, and this is a gift.

In *Blackwood* there is a paper which will illustrate our remarks. The writer of "Æsthetics among the Alps" has really very little to say of a direct kind; the propositions or "views" of his essay would make but a meagre appearance if separately stated; yet we read the essay with pleasure, and receive a certain mountainous impression of the grandeur and suggestiveness of the Alps. Another specimen of style, in its best sense, is "Mr. Gilfil's Love Story," which commences No. II. of the "Scenes from Clerical Life." Story, at present, there is little, only preparations for story to come; and yet these preparations are so vividly and truthfully painted, that, as we accompany the writer, we seem to be recalling an experience of our own lives. There can be no doubt as to this writer's fondness for children. In the former story there were some delightful touches, and the scene we are about to extract, between the old vicar and Master Tommy, appeals directly to the parental bosom. We are introduced to

Little Tommy Bond, who had recently quitted frocks and trousers for the severe simplicity of a tight suit of corduroys, relieved by numerous brass buttons. Tommy was a saucy boy, impervious to all impressions of reverence, and excessively addicted to humming-tops and marbles, with which recreative resources he was in the habit of immoderately distending the pockets of his corduroys. One day, spinning his top on the garden-walk, and seeing the Vicar advance directly towards it, at that exciting moment when it was beginning to "sleep" magnificently, he shouted out with all the force of his lungs—"Stop! don't knock my top down, now!" From that day "little corduroys" had been an especial favourite with Mr. Gilfil, who delighted to provoke his ready scorn and wonder by putting questions which gave Tommy the meanest opinion of his intellect.

"Well, little Corduroys, have they milked the geese to-day?"

"Milked the geese! why, they don't milk the geese; yer silly!"

"No! dear heart! why, how do the goslings live, then?"

The nutriment of goslings rather transcending Tommy's observations in natural history, he feigned to understand this question in an exclamatory rather than an interrogatory sense, and became absorbed in winding up his top.

"Ah, I see you don't know how the goslings live! But did you notice how it rained sugar-plums yesterday?" (Here Tommy became attentive.) "Why, they fell into my pocket as I rode along. You look in my pocket, and see if they didn't." Tommy, without waiting to discuss the alleged antecedent, lost no time in ascertaining the presence of the agreeable consequent, for he had a well-founded belief in the advantages of diving into the Vicar's pocket. Mr. Gilfil called it his wonderful pocket, because, as he delighted to tell the "young shavers" and "two-shoes"—so he called all little boys and girls—whenever he put pennies into it, they turned into sugar-plums or gingerbread, or some other nice thing. Indeed, little Bessie Parrot, a flaxen-headed "two-shoes," very white and fat as to her neck, always had the admirable directness and sincerity to salute him with the question—"What zoo dot in zoo pottet?"

Paved with Gold is a new serial, commenced by the Brothers MATHEW, with the intention, apparently, of conveying in the form of fiction many of the terrible realities of the London Streets, with which the authors are so familiar. There is too much set description in this number, the description having the appearance of being introduced for its own sake, instead of being the scenery of the drama; but when such scenes as that of the Asylum for the Houseless Poor are described, our interest in them makes us forget the sacrifice of art. Did the reader ever chance to hear of this Asylum?—

An asylum which is opened only, be it said, when the thermometer reaches freezing-point, and which offers nothing but dry bread and warm shelter to such as avail themselves of its charity.

To this place swarm, as the bitter winter's night comes on, some half-thousand penniless and homeless wanderers. The poverty-stricken from every quarter of the globe are found within its wards; from the haggard American seaman to the lank Polish refugee, the pale German "out-wanderer," the tearful black sea-cook, the shivering Lascar crossing-sweeper, the helpless Chinese beggar, and the half-torpid Italian organ-boy. It is a ragged congress of nations, a convocation of squalor and misery, of destitution, degradation, and suffering, from all the corners of the earth. Almost every trade and calling are there too: agricultural, railway, and dock labourers, thrown out of work by the frost; unemployed artisans, chiefly belonging to the out-door trades, such as carpenters and painters; sailors without their registry tickets, who have either been cast away, or cheated of their all by the "crimps;" broken-down tradesmen, clerks, shopmen, and errand-boys, who, either through illness or guilt, have been deprived of their situations; and, above all, Irish immigrants, who have been starved out of their own land. Moreover, there are poor needlewomen, driven for "back rent" from their lodgings; servants out of place; charwomen; real "frozen-out" garden-women; street-sellers, who have eaten up their stock money; tramps; beggar-women; and old habitual vagrants. Nearly every shade and grade of misery, misfortune, vice, and even guilt, are to be found in the place; for characters are not demanded previous to admission, and want alone is the sole qualification required of the applicants. The asylum for the houseless is at once the beggar's hotel, the tramp's town-house, the outcast's haven of refuge—the last dwelling, indeed, on the high road to ruin.

Let us take a glimpse at the men's dormitory:—

The sight was utterly unlike all preconceived notions of a dormitory. There was not a bedstead to be seen, nor even so much as a sheet or blanket visible. The ward itself was a long, bare, whitewashed apartment, with square post-like pillars supporting the flat-beamed roof, and reminding the visitor of a large unoccupied store-room—such as are occasionally seen in the neighbourhood of Thames-street and the Docks. Along the floor were ranged what appeared at first sight to be endless rows of empty orange-chests, packed closely side by side, so that the boards were divided off into some two hundred shallow tanpit-like compartments; and these the visitors soon learnt, were the berths, or, to speak technically, the "bunks" of the institution. In each of them lay a black mattress, made of some shiny waterproof material, like tarpauling stuffed with straw. At the head of every bunk, hanging against the wall, was a leather, a big "basil" covering, that looked more like a wine-cooper's apron than a counterpane. These are used as coverlids, because they are not only strong and durable, but they do not retain vermin.

In the centre of this ward was a large double-faced grate, with a bright piled-up coke fire, that glowed like a furnace both behind and before. The space around was railed off, the railings serving in rainy weather as a clothes-horse upon which to dry the wet rags of garments of the inmates whilst sleeping. Around the fierce stove was gathered a group of the houseless wanderers, the red rays tinting the crowd of haggard faces with a bright lurid light that coloured the skin as red as wine; and one and all stretched forth their hands, as if to let the delicious heat soak into their half-numbed limbs. They seemed positively greedy of the warmth, drawing up their sleeves and trousers so that their naked legs and arms might present a larger surface to the fire than even the wide and frequent holes in their rags permitted. They appeared all as if longing to stretch themselves like cats at full length before the stove. Not a laugh nor sound was heard, but the men stood still, munching their bread, their teeth champing like horses in a manger. One poor wretch had been allowed to sit on a form inside the railings, for he had the ague, and there he crouched, with his legs near as a roasting joint to the burning coals, as if he were trying to thaw his very marrow.

Then how fearful it was to hear the coughing, as it seemed to pass round the room from one to another, now sharp and hoarse as a bark, then deep and hollow as a lowing, or—with the old—feeble and trembling as a bleat.

There were boys of ten, like dwarfs of twenty; and old men, with the bent kangaroo-like hands and drivelling mouth, so indicative of idiocy. Every one seemed to have been made apathetic by long misery; even strong, stalwart fellows sat in lumpish silence, staring vacantly at the floor (for your true vagrant's mind is a dull blank); whilst others, who were footsore and worn out with their day's tramp, were busy unlacing their stiff, cast-iron-like boots.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S MEMOIRS.

Memoirs by the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P. Published by the Trustees of his Papers, Lord Mahon (now Earl Stanhope), and the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, M.P. II.—*The New Government, 1834-5.* III.—*Repeal of the Corn Laws, 1845-6.*

This second volume of Memoirs by Sir Robert Peel displays even more conspicuously than the first his immense intellectual and moral superiority over the party so long distinguished and strengthened by his leadership. With him Toryism had become Conservative, not reactionary; when he abdicated, it was again degraded into the pulseless, formless, policy of prejudice and obstruction. He proves by conclusive evidence that it was

his misfortune from 1841 to 1845 to preside over a Cabinet in which the narrowest doctrines were urged in a spirit of the narrowest pedantry; he was frequently in a minority among his own colleagues; he was continually applied to for pledges, which he refused to give; he foresaw the great political necessities of the future, but explained them in vain to the sightless mediocrity of the old family peers and rural representatives. They afterwards charged him with treachery, and being little more than barely articulate themselves, employed a rhetorical adventurer to vilify Peel in human language, while they assented in shouts and cries—the language of the Eastern forest and the Western prairie. The statesman, however, has avenged himself from his tomb upon Benjamin Disraeli, who fancied, in former days, that he had helped to break Peel's heart. Why, Peel never once alludes to him, treats him as altogether insignificant, does not think it worth while to bestow so much as a passing mention upon the studious elocutionist, who imagined, while he committed hard phrases to memory, that he was about to blister the parliamentary middleman's mind, and burn a stigma into his memory. It must be a real pleasure to Mr. Disraeli's friends to find him thus ignored. On no occasion did Peel defer to the egotism of his once obsequious follower, who had played in every political part, except that of a leader, and who illustrated the proverb which describes what sort of a cart may go down the street after the chariot of Augustus.

Sir Robert Peel avoided coalitions; he would not combine with Viscount Melbourne, Lord Stanley, and the other scattered leaders in 1834, and refused, upon other occasions, to promote the official union of men divided upon questions of permanent principle. Nor was he disposed, as a minister, to sustain himself in power in the presence of an unfriendly majority; though often urged by the Duke of Wellington to overlook repeated defeats, he invariably declined, and laid it down as a maxim that the government could not be constitutionally or creditably carried on by a minister in a minority. At the same time, however, he by no means believed it necessary that one questionable success on the part of an opposition rendered it necessary for an administration either to retire from office or to cast itself upon the chances of a general election.

The first Memoir in this volume contains "a short account of a short administration"—that which was headed by Sir Robert Peel from November, 1834, to March, 1835. The history of that administration was not a little remarkable. In July, 1835, Earl Grey and Viscount Althorp resigned, and the King invited Lord Melbourne to calculate the probabilities of a ministry formed of the coalesced leaders of all parties. Such a project involved an abandonment of the traditional methods of parliamentary government, to which an important organized opposition is necessary. The politicians applied to, in the first instance, were Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, and Lord Stanley, who concurrently declared against the King's idea. They were opposed to the government of the day on vital questions of policy; they could not destroy their objections to the measures by joining the men; the King was disappointed; Lord Melbourne was not surprised, and Sir Robert Peel went to Rome. At Rome, it has been said, he counted the hours while awaiting a summons to London. The insinuation is wholly unfounded. He received two letters on the 25th of November, from William Rex and the Duke of Wellington:—

On my return, on the night of Tuesday, the 25th of November, from a ball at the Duchess of Torlonia's, those letters were delivered to me at my residence in Rome, the Hôtel de l'Europe.

I had seen in the public papers the intelligence of the death of Earl Spencer (Lord Althorp's father) one or two days before Mr. Hudson's arrival; and although I thought it probable that the necessary removal of Lord Althorp from the House of Commons would have a material bearing on the position and the interests of the Government, I did not contemplate the sudden dissolution of it. I was about to leave Rome for Naples on the day or day but one after Mr. Hudson's arrival, and had made arrangements for my return from Naples, after staying there a short time, by the steamer which plied between Naples and Genoa. I had actually taken the passage for our return to Civita Vecchia for myself, Lady Peel, and our travelling companions.

Cobbett's "Baronet and cotton-weaver" was now on his way to London to become Prime Minister of Great Britain:—

By dint of considerable exertion my preparations were completed the following day, and we left Rome about three o'clock on Wednesday, the 26th of November. I had taken the precaution of providing myself with a separate passport, in case Lady Peel should be unable to bear the fatigue of rapid and continued travelling. She accompanied me, however, the whole way to Dover, where we landed on the evening of the 8th of December. We travelled eight nights out of the twelve we were on the road, having no choice but to halt on four of them. We stayed one night at Massa (at least a few hours of the night) in consequence of a rapid torrent, which could not be safely ferried over by dark; one night at Susa, previously to crossing Mont Cenis; one night at Lyons, which had been lately declared *en état de siège*, and where it was necessary to have the passports *visé*; one night at Paris, where I expected letters that it might be useful for me to receive previously to my arrival in England.

Wellington wrote confidentially to his friend and future colleague to describe the incidents of the Melbourne abdication. "The former ministers," he said, "were sulky enough." They even hesitated to give up their seals. "The King had expected it, and had desired me to have members of council in readiness." They were called in that I might be sworn."

In another letter he wrote:—

He [the King] mentioned that ——— had threatened that he would not put the Great Seal to a Commission to prorogue the Parliament.

This is the only name suppressed in the second Memoir. Lord Brougham, we believe, insisted upon its omission; but whom could he expect to mystify? He was Lord Chancellor; and who but he could have had anything to do with refusing to affix the great seal to a public document?

Peel undertook to form a government. Neither Lord Stanley nor Sir James Graham would then act with him, although they gladly accepted his appointments in 1841. They foresaw, probably, that his would be a short-lived administration; he himself, also, counted innumerable difficulties ahead:—

One important question I found practically, and perhaps unavoidably, decided before my arrival,—namely, the dissolution of the existing Parliament. Every one seemed to have taken it for granted that the Parliament must be dissolved, and preparations had accordingly been made almost universally for the coming contest. New candidates had declared themselves for many places—every newspaper was

filled with addresses to constituents—and considerable expense in the prosecution of electioneering warfare had been already incurred.

I have little doubt, however, that supposing on my arrival the question of dissolution had been *res integra*, and that a perfectly free and unfettered judgment could have been formed upon it by me, I should have decided to dissolve without delay. I was, indeed, no advocate for frequent or abrupt dissolutions. I had more than once had occasion in council to express my distrust in them as remedies for the weakness of a Government, constantly bearing in mind the remark of Lord Clarendon, at the commencement of his History of the Rebellion, upon the evil effects of an ill-considered exercise of this branch of the prerogative. "No man," says he, "can show me a source from whence these waters of bitterness we now taste have more probably flowed than from those unreasonable and precipitate dissolutions of Parliament." And again, "The passion and distemper gotten and received into Parliament cannot be removed and reformed by the more passionate breaking and dissolving of it."

However, he did dissolve; the majority was hostile; the Whigs defeated him again and again; and he retired, having gained immense accession of popularity, as well as increased respect among the rival political leaders.

In his statement on the repeal of the Corn Laws, illustrated by quotations from correspondence, Peel demonstrates clearly enough that he never had pledged himself to protection, that he was in no way committed to the rabid Toryism of his supporters and his colleagues. Nor did he take his colleagues by surprise; he communicated his opinions to them at an early period. As to the general body of Conservatives he writes:—

In the particular case, when was this communication to have been made by me? Was it to have been made during that interval after the 1st of November, 1845, when you and two other members of the Cabinet were the only ones who agreed with me? There is not one of Lord ———'s fourteen or fifteen who would not have sided with Lord Stanley and the dissentients.

There is not time for a Minister to hold separate communications with Lord This and Mr. That, and go through the whole series of facts and arguments, the combination, the general result of which has led him to form a settled but still debatable conclusion. Nothing but that full and ample detail which can be made once for all in Parliament will do justice to the case, and gain the assent of reluctant supporters. I am perfectly satisfied that if at any time between the 1st of November and the day on which (having resumed the Government, on which neither Lord John Russell nor Lord Stanley would venture) I announced in the House of Commons the intended repeal of the Corn Laws, I had tried to gain acquiescence, either by belabouring individuals separately, or by summoning the party generally, I should have received scarcely one promise of support. I should have had, on the part of the most moderate, a formal protest against the course I intended to pursue; to the most violent I should have given facilities for organized opposition; I should have appeared to be flying in the face of a whole party, and contumaciously disregarding their opinion and advice after I had professed to consult them; but (what is of infinitely more importance) I should have failed in carrying the repeal of the Corn Laws.

Now I was resolved *not to fail*. I did not fail; and if I had to fight the battle over again, I would fight it in the same way.

Lord John Russell, he here says, would not venture to form a government. We are afraid it must be admitted that the ambitious strategy of Sir Robert Peel was employed to baffle the ambitious caution of Lord John Russell. Lord Stanley's pretensions were at that moment ridiculous; had he accepted office there must have been civil conflict in England; but had Sir Robert Peel chosen to explain himself, the Whig statesman could have entered Downing-street in triumph, proposed and carried Corn Law Repeal, and not have left the policy of the new Whigs to be developed into practice by the leader of the old Tories. However, it was Peel's desire to sweeten with a sense of justice the bread of the poor; and his tactics did not, perhaps, exceed the limits of justifiable parliamentary emulation. On one point there can be no doubt: Peel was convinced in favour of free trade. He kept for months an almost daily record of the fearful menaces of famine and of national trouble, forcing upon the Government a policy of remission and relief. He did what he could to persuade his party; but failing, he did what he was bound to do to mitigate the sufferings of the country.

This volume is full of interesting matter—cabinet memoranda, confidential correspondence, and personal remarks on men and on events, addressed to posterity by the late Sir Robert Peel.

NATURE AND ART IN DISEASE.

Of Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease. By Sir John Forbes, M.D. Churchill.

SIR JOHN FORBES leaves as a legacy to his younger brethren this result of a long medical career: Put not your trust in Medicine! He has the smallest faith in drugs which it is possible for a wise physician to get on with. He has the profoundest conviction that Nature is capable of curing herself in all curable cases. The Art of Medicine will do much to alleviate and to prevent, but *cures* are the work of Nature and not of Medicine. How to discriminate the precise influence of Art, and how to know when Nature had better be left to herself, is the great problem of Medicine, and Sir John Forbes directs attention to it. His book addresses itself to the intelligent reader quite as emphatically as to the young physician, for the reader, be he never so intelligent in general matters, is apt to be a considerable blockhead in matters of medical treatment:—

The following are a few of the many ways in which the ignorance of the public, in regard to several parts of medicine which they are competent to understand, influences injuriously the conduct of physicians:—

1. Ignorance of the natural course and progress of diseases which are essentially slow and not to be altered by any artificial means, often leads the friends of the patient to be urgent with the medical attendant to employ more powerful measures, or at least to change the means used, to give more frequent or more powerful doses, &c. &c.

2. Ignorance of the power of Nature to cure diseases, and an undue estimate of the power of medicines to do so, sometimes almost compel practitioners to prescribe remedies when they are either useless or injurious.

3. The same ignorance not seldom occasions dissatisfaction with, and loss of confidence in, those practitioners who, from conscientious motives, and on the justest grounds of Art, refrain from having recourse to measures of undue activity, or from prescribing medicines unnecessarily; and leads to the countenance and employment of men who have obtained the reputation of greater activity and boldness, through their very ignorance of the true character and requirements of their art.

4. It is the same state of mind that leads the public generally to give ear to the most ridiculous promises of charlatans; also to run after the professors and practisers of doctrines utterly absurd and useless, as in the instance of Homœopathy and Mesmerism, or dangerous, except in the proper cases, as in the instance of Hydropathy.

5. Finally, it is the same ignorance of Nature and her proceedings that often forces medical men to multiply their visits and their prescriptions, to an extent not simply unnecessary, but really injurious to the patient, as could be easily shown.

The work is characterized by moderation and good sense. Its opinions are urged with the warmth of conviction, but without the heat of polemics. After explaining what are the general notions of Disease he touches on the causes and nature of Disease, adding:—

It will be thus seen that disease, contrary to the vulgar notion of it, is no new thing superadded to the living body and constituting a special entity *in rerum natura*, but is a mere group or collection of modifications of structures already existing, and of actions always going on in a living system. Whatever be the remote or exciting cause of the morbid state or disease, whether external to the body or originating in the body, the morbid state itself is always the product of the body itself, that is, of the vital actions always taking place within it, and of the materials of which it is normally composed.

Neither is disease, as others believe, a distinct *imperium in imperio*, independent of, and setting at defiance the legitimate laws of the organism in which it is developed, and acting in accordance with laws of its own. It is rather, if we may carry on this analogy, like a constitutional Opposition in a free government, organized in accordance with the existing laws, and still submitting—reluctantly it may be—to their sway.

This brings the question within the scope of Physiology and Pathology; and leads to the investigation of the laws of the organic processes, which, when fully ascertained, will enable us to appreciate the disturbances we name disease, and the means possessed of arresting them.

Sir John Forbes, in speaking of the ordinary division into Structural and Functional diseases, says, "It may even be questioned whether there is not of necessity some degree of structural change, whether discoverable or not, in every instance of disease." We cannot think it questionable at all, but certain. Functional disease means disturbance of some function; function is the activity of an organ; but this activity is no independent entity capable of being affected in itself; and to suppose a function can be disturbed without an equivalent cause in the disturbance of the organ, is like supposing that the *motion* of a billiard ball could be changed in its direction without any alteration in the direction of the ball. The equivocal lies in men habitually regarding the solids of the body as alone constituting the structure; whereas the fluids not only constitute part of the structure—the blood being, as Bordeu finely called it, fluent flesh, *la chair coulante*—but almost all the so called solids of the body are semi-fluid.

Sir John believes, as we said, in the curative powers of Nature. He does not seem to have very clearly settled with himself what precise meaning should be attached to such a statement; at times he seems to favour the idea of a *vis medicatrix*, at times he seems more philosophically to believe that the natural organic processes tend in their undisturbed influence to rid the body of all noxious influences, and restore the healthy activity of the organs:—

Among the numerous and manifold misconceptions respecting the natural history of diseases prevalent in the public mind, and, I may add, in the mind of professional men also, there is none greater than that which regards the termination of diseases, especially acute diseases. In the case of chronic diseases, and of slight diseases of all kinds, most persons are prepared to admit that a certain proportion of cases may end favourably—in other words, may terminate in health—when abandoned entirely to Nature. In the case of severe diseases, however, more especially acute diseases, and most of all in inflammatory and febrile diseases, the predominant opinion is that, if left to Nature, the great majority of cases would prove fatal, the recoveries witnessed being regarded as almost entirely the consequence of the interference of Art. That such should be the opinion of non-professional persons is not at all surprising, when we consider what is the ordinary source of lay notions respecting diseases and their treatment. It may seem, however, somewhat strange that, with their opportunities of judging, such an opinion should be also that of the professors of the medical art. Yet that it is so, is not only to be inferred from the extreme reluctance universally evinced to trust the event of such cases to Nature, but from the recorded opinions of practical authorities. And yet the facts of the case are entirely at variance with such a statement.

Even in the instance of the most fatal of acute diseases, as in Asiatic cholera, plague, and yellow fever, we find a considerable proportion of the sick recover, under every variety of treatment, and alike under nominal as real treatment. The half, the third, or fourth part, of those attacked by such diseases, who recover, are, generally speaking, restored by the powers of Nature alone. In less fatal diseases, as in ordinary inflammations of the viscera or membranes, as in inflammations of the lungs, liver, pleura, peritoneum, &c., whether left entirely to Nature or treated by means incapable of controlling them in any way, we find a still larger proportion of cases terminating in recovery, more or less perfect.

In the zymotic or poisonous eruptive fevers, as in smallpox, measles, scarlatina, &c., it is now universally admitted to be impossible to check their course; and all our most experienced and most enlightened practitioners agree that the terminations, whether favourable or unfavourable, are only very slightly modifiable by treatment; and yet we find a large proportion of such diseases always terminating in restoration or health.

For the carrying out of his views into detail Sir John declares that health and years are wanting to him; but he points out the direction which Young Physic should take.

IVORS.

Ivors. By the Author of "Amy Herbert," "Cleve Hall," &c. 2 vols. Longman and Co.

WE have had these two thick volumes in hand too long, perplexed to know how to deal with them. We have seldom met with more pleasant reading, and yet the construction of the work is indifferent. There are some excellent developments of character and good situations, but no story. What perplexes us the most is, that the book is a total failure for the object of the writer, if we guess that right; but it is eminently successful in refuting her positions, so that we should condemn it probably for what the lady desires to enforce, and our condemnation would be clinched by the hearty praise which we must bestow. Perhaps we may guess at the duplex causes which have produced this unequal result: we should say that the writer has a hearty, clear, healthy, and animated intellect, but has been brought up in a sectarian training, the habits of which she does not know what to do with.

Ivors is the seat of Sir Henry Clare, a good and kind-hearted man, too much interested in political affairs to give due attention to those of his family. Having lost an excellent wife, and having two young children, a son and a daughter, he seeks a head for his household; and he offers his hand to Lady Augusta Mordaunt, "a cold, hard, harsh-mannered woman." The lady accepts him, not from any affection, but "because she wanted occupation, independence, and the excitement of a new-made life," because "it was an opportunity for testing her theories," for she is a Maria Edgeworth of forty-tutor power. She enters her married life with the determination to be an exemplary stepmother; but as she was actuated by no feelings of tenderness towards the child, no earnest desire to ensure her future happiness; as every thought, word, and action had reference to herself, and the triumphant success which she anticipated; so the child becomes at first a slave, and then a renegade. In her childhood, "playfellows were forbidden, walks were limited to the precincts of the park; the contaminating influence of the world was the subject continually discussed in Helen's presence."

In the neighbourhood of Ivors resides the sister of Helen's own mother, a widow with a large family, brought up in an unpretending, practical way. Mrs. Graham is the contrast with Lady Augusta. She is always doing good, always sensible; a genuine Maria Edgeworth, at the head of a cheerful household, only inspired with evangelical principles. Her circumstances being by no means equal to those of the Baronet, she necessarily cultivates a plainer mode of life, and her daughters, to use Lady Augusta's expression, are allowed to associate with people "whom, of course, we could never visit." She addresses the remark to another neighbour of Sir Henry, his uncle, old Admiral Clare.

"People you can't visit!" muttered the Admiral, "I shall talk to Frances Graham about it."

"Oh! my dear sir, pray—I entreat you—not for the world. She would never forgive me!" Lady Augusta seized the Admiral's hand in her alarm.

He drew it away. "Your Ladyship will excuse me. Frances Graham was my ward; if she is bringing up her children wrongly, it is my duty to warn her. 'People you could never visit!' he muttered again in an under tone.

"You are so exact, Admiral," and Lady Augusta laughed rather nervously. "There is no physical nor moral responsibility. They may be very good people, but unrefined, homely—not at all what Helen has been accustomed to."

The Admiral is a formidable test for the didactic Lady Augusta; he is a man of strong sense, excellent good heart, and merciless tongue. His house becomes the residence of Claude Egerton, a pattern man, whom the fair authoress endeavours to endow only with so much imperfection as shall make him human and "real,"—shall throw a little salt into the otherwise unvarying sweetness and wisdom of his composition. Susan Graham, the most perfect daughter of Mrs. Graham's household, and Helen Clare, the imperfect manufacture of Lady Augusta out of an admirable raw material, unconsciously become rivals. Susan is painted the very type of gentleness and self-sacrifice; Helen is more beautiful, but far more imperfect. Inheriting a fierce and wayward disposition, she has been left practically untaught by the systematic Lady Augusta; whose education has slipped off her like water off a duck's back. She has to learn her discipline in actual life, and this appears to be the object of the book. It is intended to compare the natural result of an education in which the heart has been cultivated, and practical goodness made the object of all labour, with one in which the intellectual faculties alone are aimed at. The dry Lady Augusta thinks to produce a pattern lady out of Helen Clare, and the result is something of a Di Vernon with a Spanish impetuosity. To apply such a test as the author would use, the distinction between her and Susan is shown in the exercise of their charity. One gives time and kindness; the other sends money, of which she knows neither the value nor the want, and which will be supplied to her on demand, too readily for her to be subjected to the slightest privation by the bestowal. This lesson is well taught.

But also the author teaches another lesson, still more striking, and still more forcibly made out. She is to her book what Lady Augusta is to Helen; she produces a moral of which she is unconscious,—one as much to astonish herself as the ducklings astonished the hen, as Hercules astonished Alcmena; and we are perplexed to know by what Jovial inspiration so stout a moral has been given to the world through so sectarian a channel.

The engaging, gentle, self-sacrificing Susan Graham is not successful as a working model. Evidently she might if she pleased, at more than one point of the story, take to herself the pattern hero, with whom both the heroines are as much in love as the authoress is. He is an intellectual, moral man; no one can more justly rate at its minimum the beauty of Helen Clare, or more accurately probe her imperfections and morbid fancies. She hates the persecutors who would compel her to do right, and he is the very slave of conscience. Yet he is also the slave of Helen; her beauty, the vivacity of her spirits, the power of her will, all hold him captive. Even her infidelity, her perverse flirting with an unworthy rival, cannot estrange him. At last he wins the lovely tyrant, and receives her with as much gratitude as a gift from Heaven. Undoubtedly she has become improved under the discipline of sorrow, and she is to be made yet better when they live happy ever after; but while the Spanish-faced Di Vernon carries off the prize hero, the gentle, Christian, self-sacrificing Susan Graham nearly dies of unknown love, and finds an ultimate consolation in becoming a species of lodger in the home of the other two—a spectator of the happiness which she has deserved and the sinner has attained. This is an odd moral to find in the book of a writer who condemns novels, and intends to develop a tract into an evangelical copy of *Sir Charles Grandison*. The characters are excellently drawn, and the moral stands out, as Stewart Rose's servant said, sculptured.

THE PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

Reports on the Paris Universal Exhibition. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty. 1856. Spottiswoode. The Paris Universal Exhibition has passed away; not so its results. The Palace of Industry has been emptied of that gorgeous collection of the

products of all nations which were there to be examined at one view. The colossal Annex, which stretched more than three-quarters of a mile along the banks of the Seine and stole a glorious promenade from the Parisians, is no longer deafened with the whirl of machinery. The Galerie des Tableaux has been spoiled of its splendid riches of art, and its monuments of sculpture and its treasures of painted canvas are returned to the depositories whence they came. All the materiality of the Great Exhibition of 1855 has vanished from the scene. But the impressions which it created will long outlive the objects which produced them. Mind was there represented by matter, the invisible by the visible, the intellectual by the passive, the creative by the forms it called into existence. The development and progress of the Fine, as well as the Industrial Arts, in different countries could there be distinctly traced. Each national peculiarity, or, as we should more properly term it, *style*, became boldly defined by their close juxtaposition and their strong contrast; and the defects of the one were prominently indicated by the perfections of the other. Artists learnt from artists, and in the race of competition stimulated all their faculties to achieve their *chef-d'œuvre*. Such a combination of educated and educating minds could not but be productive of beneficial fruits. The short interval that elapsed between the Exhibition in Hyde Park and that in the Champs Elysées proved the influence which one style exercised upon another, and the same progressive influence may be noticed as in operation at the present time.

In no instance, perhaps, is this recognizable more than in that of Design as applied to Manufactures. We must not, however, be deceived. "In these Exhibitions," observes Mr. Redgrave in his Report, "the Manufacturers of all countries are striving to compete, not so much in works of ordinary excellence as in the production of such as shall outvie each other and be considered markedly in advance of the taste and skill of the times, and the result of these competitive struggles must be an advance to real excellence, or a retrograde movement towards decline, as they are made on sound or on ill-understood principles." One false principle may lead to the greatest extravagances. Nothing is so easily vitiated as taste. This might easily be shown in a review of the different orders of style as illustrative of different epochs. Feeling the necessity of a just standard of taste, by which to mete the purity of style, Mr. Redgrave has laid down five propositions on the elements of design, by which to regulate his judgment. He considers in the first place that style, implying some dominating influence reflecting the mind of the age in all its works, presumes also a certain unity of character throughout; secondly, that the primary elements of style are constructive, and that utility must have precedence of decoration. He proceeds to show, fourthly, that the design must be bad which applies indiscriminately the same constructive forms or ornamental treatments to materials differing in their nature and application; and fifthly, that the building should determine the style.

On the question as to whether England can boast of any style, he observes:—"Although to Englishmen there appeared so little originality in the art applied to our own manufactures at Paris, so as to incline us to regard them as devoid of any peculiar character, we were less at a loss to perceive a nationality in those produced in Germany, France, or Spain. It was some satisfaction, therefore, on various occasions, to hear the same remark from Frenchmen and others on the manufactures of their own land, namely, that they could recognize national characteristics and many indications of novelty and unity of style in British goods, these qualities being absent to them in their own; a subject which seemed most justly a cause of regret on their part. Our mutual remarks are therefore somewhat encouraging to each other, and we may hope that there are influences at work to raise us above the rank of mere imitators of the men of other lands and other times—and as imitators necessarily short-comers—and to impress the national character of our age and people on our art and our works. The great effort that is now made towards a wide-spread development of art education in Great Britain—and this not alone for the upper and middle classes but for all, even the poorest—must tell upon the rising generation. Once properly instructed, there is very little doubt that the plain good sense, the energy of will, and the dislike of mere display of our countrymen will result in works of much higher excellence in decorative art than has yet been attained in this country, while the artisan will add to his admitted manual dexterity and thorough workmanship the knowledge and taste that will enable him to add beauty to excellence, and to carry out the labours which the advanced taste of the general public will demand at his hands." May we not rather hope that he shall attain to such excellence that, instead of being the servant of the public taste, he shall be its guide and instructor?

The Paris Universal Exhibition differed from all others which had preceded it in the extent of its productions, the variety of its objects, and the facilities afforded for the disposal of the exhibited articles at a fair market price. In fact, it was an immense bazaar, from which might be selected every description of manufacture and almost every kind of produce. The mechanical department brought out especially the English strength. Our superiority over other countries in mechanical contrivances was strikingly displayed as well, it must be confessed, as our deficiencies. We had no mean antagonists to compete with. France, Belgium, and America vied with us for the honours of a prize. We regret to find then that in our mining and metallurgical productions, Britain was inadequately represented. It was supposed that the exhibition of such specimens would scarcely counter-balance the inconvenience and cost of extraction and carriage. A general lukewarmness prevailed amongst the owners and workers of mines, since it was uncertain whether the expenses incurred in the removal of specimens would be ever repaid. Thus, observes Mr. Smyth, "what our neighbours will do for glory, we hesitate to commence, unless assured it will 'pay.'"

We have some curious statistics on the subject of coals and iron in these Reports. It appears that in 1854, 64,661,401 tons of coal were produced from the mines of Great Britain and Ireland, representing at the mouth of the pit an average value of 14,975,000*l.* The number of collieries is put down at 2397, employing about 220,000 persons. France possesses 286 mines, producing about from 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 tons annually. This, however, is insufficient for her consumption, and she is indebted to her

neighbours Belgium, England, and Prussia, for above 3,000,000 tons more. Belgium produces 8,000,000 tons, Prussia 34,000,000, Austria 1,500,000, and Spain about 242,550 tons. Several of the other European countries exhibited isolated specimens of mineral fuel, most of them of the class of lignite or brown coal. Southern France, Italy, Styria, and Greece sent samples. The rapid progress of the manufacture of iron, will be apparent from the production of that mineral in the following years. In 1740 were produced 17,350 tons, in 1840, 1,248,781, in 1854, 3,069,838. This was the produce of about 555 furnaces. The annual production of the iron works of France is estimated at 700,000 tons. Prussia produces an almost inappreciable quantity, whilst Belgium, by enlarged operations, within the last few years has raised the annual amount to upwards of 200,000 tons. The produce of Austria nearly doubles this amount. Sweden, Spain, and Italy were also represented, and though the latter exported, in 1854, 35,000 tons—seven-twelfths of its production—the quantities are too small to demand enumeration. Mr. Tilor, remarking on metal work, observes with much truth that "in no country was ornamental smiths' work more appreciated than in England during the last century; yet, during the first half of this century, there is probably no country which was satisfied with so low a quality of material, design, and execution of the iron work." It is lamentable to see with what little taste public works are executed. As an example, we may take the newly-introduced street letter-boxes. Instead of their being elegant columnar structures, ornamented with leaves, and scrolls, and flowers, such as we see in Paris, they are unshaped, square blocks, apparently placed in the position they occupy to prevent an omnibus or runaway cab from invading the pavement.

We have no room to notice particularly Sir David Brewster's report on optical instruments, Dr. Arnott on warming and ventilating, Captain Fowke on civil and naval constructions, M. Léon Arnoux on ceramic manufactures, Sir William Hooker on vegetable products, and Dr. Royle on Indian and colonial products, &c. The reader will find much interesting and instructive information in the three volumes of Reports presented to both Houses of Parliament.

QUEDAH.

Quedah; or, Stray Leaves from a Journal in Malayan Waters. By Captain Sherard Osborn, R.N., C.B. Longman and Co.

INDIAN Archipelago literature is on the increase. A library of excellent books has been published since James Brooke wrote his first account of Sarawak—a history, a gazetteer, several narratives of travel, more than one noble volume of illustrations. Captain Osborn's experiences are not of recent date, but they are interesting, nevertheless. He has been, he tells us, a self-taught man, who has made his own way to knowledge, and, let us add, to distinction. The lively diarist of Arctic adventure, the intelligent historian of the discovery of the North-West passage, he finds the far East, warmed by incessant summer, as congenial to his sympathies as the deep North, buried in unmelting winter. He admires an iceberg, but he admires also a starry island; along the coasts of a frosty continent, or in a golden Indian moonlight, he voyages with equal enthusiasm.

Twenty years ago the small state of Quedah, on the Malay peninsula, was guaranteed to Siam by the English, and attacked by the Malays, who preferred a rival claim. The English took part with the Siamese, and thus it happened that Captain Osborn, then a midshipman, entered into the warfare of the Archipelago, roved among its beautiful islands, and learned something of its kings, pirates, vessels, villages, and social miscellanea. He had a variety of uncommon adventures to narrate, and he possesses a particular power of description. His sketches on sea and land are among the most picturesque, while they are among the most truthful that we have met with in a traveller's book for a considerable time. He saw Singapore when that Queen of Malaya was still young, but even then the activity inspired by Stamford Raffles had developed itself in a flourishing town, a profitable trade, and a large concourse of population. In front of the busy quays, at a distance of a mile, lay a fleet of huge junks, glittering with variegated colours, and between these and the shore thousands of prahus crowded the waters, leaving only narrow channels through which the light sampans and miniature junks threaded their rapid way. The Chinese, Mr. Osborn tells us, have but one fashion in marine architecture—the junk—the shape of which is traditionally derived from an imperial slipper. The legend is this: a great Chinese emperor of ancient days having cut off his empire from the rest of the continent by building a vast frontier wall, was anxious to discourage navigation, in order that China might enjoy the safety of political solitude. However, he could not prevail over the restless enterprise of his subjects, and when a daring inventor submitted to him the model of a perfect ship, he took a slipper from his foot, and decreed, in his irritation, that it should be the type of every floating thing in the Flowery Land.

From Singapore Mr. Osborn went to Quedah, in command of a gunboat, which, with another vessel of the same class and an armed pinnace, blockaded the water approaches to the town. For a time his adventures were chiefly among bees, pelicans, and alligators. Sometimes, by night, he had to follow the stealthy prahus of the Malays, which, moved by lofty mat sails that caught the faintest wind, and steering through the shadows of the coast, continually escaped capture. On all occasions he made the best use of his opportunities, visited every interesting locality within reach, and collected useful information. He was successful in exploring a birds'-nest cave, and writes pleasantly on that well-worn subject:—

One person largely engaged in the trade assured me that, on an average, two out of five men employed in birds'-nesting met with a violent death; and, under those circumstances, it is not to be wondered at that a catty (or pound and a quarter English) of the best nests costs generally forty dollars, or about nine pounds sterling!

The value of the nests depends upon their translucent whiteness and freedom from feathers or dirt; the first quality being those which evidently have not been lined, or used, by the unfortunate little swallows. Such nests are nothing but a morsel of pure gelatine; and having often eaten them in their native state, I can vouch for their perfect tastelessness; indeed, upon one occasion, after being twenty-four hours without food, I enjoyed birds'-nests boiled down in cocoa-nut milk.

They are not prized by the Chinese for their flavour, but because they supply incomparable "thickening" for soups and gravies.

Captain Osborn's book is one that is best described by quotations. We shall select a few passages illustrative of Indian Archipelago scenery and manners. This is a picture of justice as enacted by the Siamese—upon women as well as men:—

One was cooking a human being alive: a hollow tree, either naturally so, or scooped out by manual labour, was left with merely its bare stem standing; into it a prisoner was put naked, his hands tied behind his back, and a large piece of fat lashed on his head; the tree was then carefully coated with an unctuous mud, to prevent its ignition, or if it did ignite, that it might merely smoulder, and then a slow, steady fire was maintained round it, the unfortunate victim's sufferings being by these means terribly prolonged, his shrieks and exclamations being responded to by the exultant shouts of his executioners.

Another torture was that of carrying the pirate or rebel down to the banks of a river where a peculiar species of palm-tree grows, and choosing a spot in the mud where the sprout of a young plant was just found shooting upwards, which it does at the rate of several inches in twenty-four hours, they would construct a platform around it, and lash their miserable victim in a sitting posture over the young tree, so that its lance-like point should enter his body, and bring on mortification and death by piercing the intestines—in short, a slow mode of impaling.

Captain Osborn alludes to the practice of smearing people with honey and tying them to trees, near the nests of venomous ants, but he is wrong in imputing it to the Malays alone. It was formerly the habit of the Dutch women in Java to inflict this torture on any young handmaiden of whom they happened to be jealous.

Here is an Eastern perspective, the picture of a bamboo town:—

It is almost impossible to convey a good idea of the beauty and neatness of abodes entirely constructed of wood, bamboo, and matting or leaves. Those of Kangah, although far above the river, were, according to the constant rule, built upon piles three to four feet high; possibly this might be a necessary measure for the rainy season, but at that time, when the earth was baked as hard as rock, it seemed an act of supererogation. They, however, were generally oblong in the ground-plan, having a gallery extending along each of the long sides, to which a primitive ladder gave access from the ground. The floor (for each house was only one story high) consisted of strips of bamboo, sufficiently strong to bear the weight, but giving a pleasant spring to the tread; over these bamboos, which were perhaps an inch apart, and kept so by a transverse "snaking" of strips of ratan, neat mats were spread, their number, fineness, and beauty depending upon the wealth of the owner and the skill of his women. The walls were constructed of cocoa-nut and other palm leaves, secured with such cunning and neatness as to be perfectly wind and water tight, and at the same time pleasing to the eye. The roofs were somewhat high and peaked, betokening heavy rains, and with broad, overhanging eaves, which added to the picturesque appearance of the buildings, and reminded me strongly of the "chalets" in Switzerland.

Lastly, a night chase of a prahu on a river:

We were soon on her heels, and guided by the sound she made in forcing through the mangrove swamp, held our course: now aground upon the straddling legs of a mangrove tree; then pushing through a thicket, out of which the affrighted birds flew shrieking; then listening to try and distinguish the sound of the flying canoe from all the shrill whistles, chirrups, and drumming noises, which render an Indian jungle far more lively by night than by day. Once or twice we thought we were fast catching her, when suddenly our canoe passed from the mangrove swamp into an open forest of trees, which rose in all their solemn majesty from the dark waters. We saw our chance of success was now hopeless, for the scout canoe had fifty avenues by which to baffle us, and *terra firma* was, we knew, not far distant. It was a strange and beautiful scene. The water was as smooth as burnished steel, and reflected, wherever the trees left an opening, the thousand stars which strewed the sky: the tall stems of the forest trees rose from this glittering surface, and waved their sable plumes over our heads; whilst the fire-fly, or some equally luminous insect, occasionally lit up first one tree and then another, as if sparks of liquid gold were being emitted from the rustling leaves.

To read such a book as this is a pleasure.

SMALL NOVELS.

Gil Talbot; or, Woman's Manœuvres and Man's Tactics. By A. M. Maillard. 3 vols. (Newby.)—With so much twaddle to be had at a shilling a volume, it is astonishing to find Mrs. Maillard publishing hers, in three volumes, nominally at the regulation price, 11. 11s. 6d. *Gil Talbot*, we believe, is her sixth work of the same size and quality; by such is oblivion fed. The heroine, Claris, should have been kept at school, and disciplined with some severity; Gothen Travannes, the captain, whose heart is agonised, is simply a suit of regiments stuffed with straw; the book, in fact, is compounded of old clothes, old crockery, and broken lay-figures from the storehouses of second-hand and tenth-rate romance.

Friends of Bohemia; or, Phases of London Life. By E. M. Whitty. 2 vols. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)—The character of this production is best exemplified by the circumstance that its very respectable publishers have apologized for its publication. We may regret that they have not exercised a discretion similar to that which, in a recent instance, resulted in the suppression of a libellous tirade; but, in the present case, such a proceeding might have been superfluous. Few readers will care for the political oracles of the reporters' gallery, the social "phases" of public-house life, the dialogues of shabby cynics and scribbling Thugs, which make up Mr. Whitty's "satirical novel." There is no story; the incidents are disjointed, improbable, and repulsive; some of the conversations are specimens of raw impropriety. The work is at once coarse and juvenile. No woman will read it through on account of its dulness; certainly, for other reasons, it ought to lie on no family table. In this strange compound of bile and bad manners, there is a foul sprinkling of what is probably intended to be satirical, but would more properly be called spiteful, allusion to certain organs and personages of the London press, to whom, no doubt, the author is indebted for a recognised existence. Indeed, these two volumes appear to have been written for the express purpose of relieving an indigestion of malice. Now, this may be diverting enough to the author and to his select admirers (the Irish ruffian who murders his friend and benefactor from behind a hedge has had his admirers and apologists, and why not this *Friend of Bohemia* his?), but it is

scarcely possible for the most curious of scandal-loving readers to make his way through such a farrago of ignorance and absurdity for the sake of getting at the tidbits of insult and abuse. The politics, we repeat, are the scourgings of the Strangers' Gallery; the life and manners are the life and manners of the back slums of penny-a-liners; the talk is the talk of pothouses in or near the Strand. No doubt an author may be pardoned for describing the only sort of life he has known, but the general public may be equally forgiven for taking a very limited interest in those experiences. As to the author's personalities, we do not usually attach much credit to the opinion of their masters which discharged servants are apt to express—especially if they have been discharged very summarily for gross negligence and incapacity. There are men who can forget, but never forgive, an obligation; and if, as we have heard, the writer of this dismal book expelled himself from the comparative heaven of London journalism on account of certain eccentricities not appreciated among gentlemen, let us pity his writhings in the purgatory of provincial insignificance. He may yet find promotion in Donnybrook until his 'Australian Republic' has room for more of those *Friends of Bohemia*, whom the England of their detestation will so gladly spare. *Odisse quem laseris*, we are inclined to believe, would have been a fitting motto to this sorry and malignant trash.

Western Border Life; or, What Fanny Hunter Saw and Heard in Kansas and Missouri. (Low and Son.)—This specimen of the American novel is monotonous, but neatly written. It is special in its purpose, and, therefore, addressed to a special class of readers.

The Arts.

THE NEW ITALIAN OPERA HOUSE.

"ARE we to have a second Italian Opera House? and, if so, where is it to be?" are questions which, as the Spring draws near, the fashionable world—following Parliament into London, as *Oberon's* elves "follow darkness like a dream"—is naturally beginning to ask itself. Does Mr. GYE intend permanently to take up his dramatic abode within the narrow bounds of the LYCEUM? Or will he erect a new house in Leicester-square, causing "the Great Globe" to "leave not a rack behind?" Or will he turn Burlington House or Devonshire House into temples for the Olympian utterances of MAURO and GARSI? The *Times* of Monday answers these fond inquiries by a direct negative, as regards Mr. GYE's ultimate designs. He will do none of these things. For the present season he must, of course, make special arrangements; but, for the future, he will recall the vanished theatre which, for more than a century, has made Bow-street as celebrated for classical dramas, of one sort or another, as for police cases and the achievements of the "runners." He will still force the aristocracy of the West-end to consort three times a week with plebeian cabbages and democratical potatoes; and he will make the neighbourhood of the piazzas again resonant with the sounds of Italian melody. For—says the *Times*—

"We are now informed, upon the best authority, that the necessary documents are signed. The Duke of Bedford has leased to Mr. Gye, for ninety years, not only the ground upon which Covent-garden Theatre stood, but also that which is covered by the Piazza Hotel, together with other tenements in the rear, extending into Hart-street—the whole being equivalent to upwards of an acre of land. The lease becomes the more advantageous to the holder from the fact that it is unfettered by any of those drawbacks, such as renters' privileges, property boxes, &c., which weighed so heavily on former administrations. The only reservation exacted by his Grace is one private box for his own family.

"Some few particulars connected with the plan of the new building may not be uninteresting to our readers. The area of the theatre will be considerably larger than previously, comprising an enclosure of two hundred and forty feet by one hundred. The roof is to constitute a span of one hundred feet, without any intermediate supports—so that the scenery and stage appurtenances may be removed at the shortest notice, and the whole interior converted into a vast concert-room. The building is to be entirely fireproof, the timbers being prepared on the fireproof process which is now adopted in constructing the Government lighthouses. Although the space to be occupied by the theatre is necessarily large, it will not include the whole of the ground comprehended in the lease. It is intended to devote the remaining portion to a flower-market, in the shape of a vast glass bazaar, eighty feet in diameter and two hundred and fifty feet in length, for the exhibition and sale of flowers, plants, and all the objects and conveniences that incidentally relate to them. This idea was suggested by the well-known *Marché aux Fleurs*, which forms one of the most popular and agreeable lounges in that city of loungers, Paris."

In the ensuing spring and summer, Mr. Gye's company, we believe, will perform at DRURY LANE.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

MORTON'S *Cure for the Heartache*—one of the popular comedies of half a century ago—was revived at DRURY LANE on Monday, for the purpose of exhibiting Mr. KEELY as *Old Rapid*, a sleepy-headed elderly fool, the very antipodes of his name; Mr. CHARLES MATHEWS as *Young Rapid*, an ever-active, vivacious rattle, as rattles were, or were supposed to be, in the days of our fathers; Mr. TILBURY as *Mr. Vortex*, a Nabob of the true stage cut; Mrs. KEELY as a rustic boy, *Frank Oatlands*; and Miss OLIVER and Miss CLEVELAND in two young-lady parts. So excellent a caste gives vitality to an obsolete style of drama.

Mr. DILLON has been performing at the LYCEUM the part of *Don Cesar de Bazan*, in the drama of that name; and he has also produced another version of the French piece *Auge et Démon*, in which he and Mrs. DILLON perform the husband and wife, and Mr. TOOLE the part of the devoted servant, exhibiting therein a great deal of humour, streaked with pathos and tragic power.

We regret to learn that Mrs. STIRLING has been seized with sudden indisposition, and has been obliged to abandon for a time her part in Mr. TOM TAYLOR'S drama, *A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing*. Mrs. WIGAN now appears in the part; so that the piece still goes on.

THE REV. CANON PARKINSON was struck with paralysis while preaching in the cathedral church at Manchester. He was obliged to close his discourse abruptly, and was then removed to the house of the Dean. There is reason to hope he will recover.

THE COLLIERY EXPLOSION NEAR BARNSELY.—The inquest still continues, but the evidence is chiefly of a technical character. The proprietors have resolved to turn an adjacent brook into the pit.

SOCIETY OF ANCIENT BRITONS.—The one hundred and forty-second anniversary festival of this national society took place last Saturday evening, at the Freemasons' Tavern. The Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer presided, supported by Earl Powis, Sir J. Walsh, M.P., Sir J. Harrington, Colonel the Hon. Percy Herbert, C.B., M.P., Mr. Blakemore, M.P., Colonel Brownrigg, C.B., Colonel Wood, C.B., Sir R. Kerrison, Sir Thomas Philips, the Archdeacon of Cardigan, &c.

REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF BREAD.—Another reduction in the price of bread was on Monday made by most of the bakers in the metropolis; and what is termed "good wheaten bread" is now selling as low as 6d. the four pound loaf, and "best wheaten bread" at 7d. the four pound loaf. In the very poor neighbourhoods, the price is 5½d. The highest-price bakers are charging 8d. and 9d. the loaf. Flour is being sold by the corn-chandlers at from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. the stone of fourteen pounds.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Lord John Manners was on Thursday elected for North Leicestershire, the Hon. Major Powys declining to press his candidature to a poll. During the proceedings, some amusement was created by a draper of Loughborough proposing Richard Cobden, Esq.—Lord Pevensey has been elected for East Sussex by 2300 over 211 for Mr. Dodson.—The Glasgow election has terminated in the return of Mr. Buchanan (Liberal) by 5979 to 2943, who voted for his opponent, Mr. Merry.

FREE EMIGRATION TO THE COLONIES.—A large meeting, consisting of upwards of 5000 of the working classes of London, convened by the British Working Man's Association, was held on Monday afternoon in Bethnal-green-fields, for the purpose of promoting free emigration to the British colonies, and adopting petitions to Parliament on the subject. Mr. Bowen, a mason, was called to the chair. The speakers were chiefly working men, and a petition was resolved on.

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL SOCIETY.—The thirty-sixth anniversary of this charity was celebrated last Saturday evening with much success at the London Tavern. Lord Stanley of Alderley occupied the chair, and the guests included Colonel Sykes, Chairman of the East India Company; Admiral Sir G. Sartorius, Mr. S. Lindsay, M.P., Mr. Richard Green, Captain Shepherd, Captain Kennedy, R.N., &c.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.
DAVIS.—On the 26th of February, at 22, Great Alic-street, the wife of Mr. Davis, Esq., a daughter.
DUCIE.—On the 4th inst., at 80, Eaton-place, the Countess of Ducie: a son.
WHITE.—On the 2nd of February, at 8, Argyll-place, the wife of William White, architect: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.
CASTLE-LANGSTAFF.—On the 3rd inst., at St. Saviour's Church, Paddington, R. H. B. Castle, Esq., son of Captain Castle, Cavalry Depot, Maidstone, to Louisa Anne Langstaff, daughter of the late Thomas Langstaff, Esq., of Andover.
IVENS-DE VILS.—On the 3rd inst., Edgar Ivens, Esq., of Melbourne, Victoria, to Eugénie, only daughter of Mons. L. de Vils, of Islington, and granddaughter of the late Colonel Lefebvre, of the 9th Regiment of Dragoons, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

DEATHS.
DE ROSEN.—On the 22nd of December, at Liebenthal, near Odessa, where he was stationed with his regiment, in his 23th year, Edward de Rosen, only son of Baron Robert de Rosen, of Esthonia, and grandson of the late Dr. Rigby, of Norwich.
ELGEE.—On the 22nd January, of dysentery, in the 20th year of his age, on board the African mail steamer Ethiopie, while on his passage to England from Sierra Leone, Edmund Morphy Elgee, Esq., Gold Coast Corps, youngest son of the late Capt. Elgee, 67th Regiment.
THURLOW.—On the 2nd inst., at Herno Bay, the Right Hon. Edward Thomas Howell, Lord Thurlow.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Thursday, March 3.
BANKRUPTS.—GUSTAVUS SIGHELL, New Broad-street, merchant.—WILLIAM SQUIRES, Oxford-street, gunmaker.—HENRY NEWMAN KETTLE, Godalming, grocer.—WILLIAM BROWNSWORD CHORLEY, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, and Festiniog, Merionethshire, slate merchant.—FREDERICK HOEMANN, Herbert-street, New North-road, merchant.—WILLIAM STAPLETON, Wharf, Paddington, contractor.—JAMES KEYWOOD, jun., Littlehampton, Sussex, plumber.—WALTER SULLY, Strand, printer.—EDWIN MOSLEY, Hyde-street, Bloomsbury, goldbeater.—JOHN BISBOP, Shrewsbury, cabinetmaker.—JOHN HOOPER DAVIES, jun., Bridgford, Glamorganshire, grocer.—RICHARD GELDER, Bradford, Yorkshire, warehouseman.—MARMADUKE CHAPLIN, Kingston-upon-Hull, auctioneer.—GEORGE WATMOUGH, Bolton and Sheffield, draper.—JOHN DEWEZA, Manchester, cotton waste dealer.—JOHN MARTIN COOPER, Sunderland, ship-owner.—THOMAS YOUNGE, jun., Monkwearmouth, mason.—THOMAS HENRY COGDON, Sunderland, plumber.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. MACKAY, Glasgow, commission agent.—J. ANDERSON, Invergowrie, Perthshire, grocer.—G. F. RUTHERFORD, Hutcheson-town, Glasgow, brewer.—D. LAMONT, Moulin, Perth, farmer.

Friday, March 6.
BANKRUPTS.—HENRY ORESSY VANDERPANT, Maddox-

street, dentist.—ALEXANDER SYME, Tonbridge Wells, stationer.—BENJAMIN EDWARDS, Davies-street, Oxford-street, rope dealer.—THOMAS IRLAM, Liverpool, broker.—JOSIAH WIGLEY, Uttoxeter, provision dealer.—THOMAS HUGHES, Dudley, Worcester, innkeeper.—GEORGE JAMES WAGSTAFF, Whitechapel-road, watchmaker.—JAMES GARRETT YATES, Bristol, grocer.—THOMAS JAMES THOMAS, Cardiff, carpenter.—HENRY BLYTON, York-terrace, Ratcliffe, clothier.—WILLIAM MARSDEN SALMON, Brettle-lane, Staffordshire, innkeeper.—THOMAS YOUNGER (and not YOUNGE, as advertised in last Tuesday's Gazette), jun., Monkwearmouth, Durham, builder.—JAMES BOOKLESS, Maryport, Cumberland, grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—GEORGE AITKEN, Glasgow, draper.—PETER BROWN, Dundee, flesh and cattle dealer.—JAMES GORDON M'KAY, Edinburgh, drysalter.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, March 6, 1857.

So confident was the City and its followers in the certainty of Lord Palmerston obtaining a majority on the Chinese question, that they kept up the price of Consols at 94 in the face of a continuation amounting to nine-sixteenths percent. and even higher.

The unexpected defeat of the Ministry sorely tried the tempers of our respectable moneyed men. No question of right or wrong arose, or whether members had really voted conscientiously or only for factious purposes.

A party of enthusiastic admirers, headed by *Lambeth* officialism, went round with a hat, I beg pardon, a paper, begging signatures from voters requesting Lord Palmerston to stand for London in the event of a dissolution. It is said they met with only two refusals.

The funds, however, fell, and still look to go down lower. Railway Shares are well supported—Caledonian and Eastern Counties still taking the lead. Foreign shares, such as Paris and Lyons, Orleans, Northern, Great Luxembourg, Namurs, Sambres, and Dutch Rhenish are in demand. Lombardo-Venetians hang fire; the Hebrew party, which especially favours this line, has been so busy the last week with the marriage of one of its scions, that it has neglected to keep up its price.

Heavy shares are well maintained, Great Westerns and London and South-Westerns prominently. Great Western of Canada are creeping up to 30l. per share by slow degrees. The coming dividend will be nearer nine per cent. than seven, and the traffic receipts increase weekly. Grand Trunk of Canada are about 13; the expenditure of the Great Victoria Bridge, and the risk of its not being completed, will tend to keep those shares low for some time—their traffic returns are excellent.

Turkish Six per Cent. bonds have fluctuated a good deal; the April dividend may probably send them to par, but there is no stable confidence shown by the holders of this stock. The Guaranteed Four per Cent. stock stands at 101. 102, but little dealt in. Ceylon Railway is 10s. per share better.

Joint-Stock Banks have been briskly dealt in. Ottoman and Egyptian Banks show great fluctuations. In Ottomans, 1l. and 1l. 10s. per share; United Mexican mines show 10s. per share improvement. A fair amount of business has been transacted in British mines.

A Paris Chocolate Company (Limited), established for the purpose of giving us pure chocolate as it is drunk in France, is announced. The prospectus puts forth a list of very reliable names, and we may be permitted to hope that our breakfast-tables will be the gainers by the association.

Blackburn, 8½, 9; Caledonian, 70, 70½; Chester and Holyhead, 38, 39; Eastern Counties, 10½, 11; Great Northern, 95½, 96½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 110, 112; Great Western, 88½, 89 x. d.; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 102, 102½; London and Blackwall, 61, 61 x. d.; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 108, 110; London and North-Western, 105½, 106 x. d.; London and South-Western, 105, 105½; Midland, 82½, 82½ x. d.; North-Eastern (Berwick), 86, 87; South-Eastern (Dover), 75½, 76½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 64, 64½; Dutch Rhenish, 8, 8 pm.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 33, 33½; Great Central of France, 44, 44 pm.; Great Luxembourg, 64, 64½; Northern of France, 38½, 39; Paris and Lyons, 57½, 58; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 1, 1½; Sambre and Meuse, 8½, 9.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, March 6, 1857.

THERE have been only small arrivals of Wheat, but we have had fair supplies of Barley and Oats this week. There is no alteration in the value of any article except Barley, which is rather dearer for the better qualities. A few cargoes of Wheat, Maize, and Barley have arrived off the coast. The chief sales are Bahia Wheat, 40s. 6d., Saida, 43s. Galatz Maize, 42s. 6d. to Spain, Ibraila, 37s. 6d., and 38s. 6d. to the United Kingdom. Odessa Barley, 24s. and 24s. 6d., Ibraila, 24s. Both here and throughout the country, the trade is very quiet.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	221	221	221	220	220	220½
3 per Cent. Red.....	94	94	94	93½	93½	93½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Consols for Account	93½	93½	93½	93½	94	94
New 3 per Cent. An.	94	94	94	94	94	93½
New 2½ per Cents...	77	77	77	77	77	77
Long Ans. 1860.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
India Stock.....	.....	.....	.....	223	223	221
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	.....	.....	par	par	par	.....
Ditto, under £1000.....	5 d	par	4 d	3 d	.....	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	2 p	.....	2 d	2 p	3 p	3 p
Ditto, £500.....	.....	1 d	2 p	2 p	2 d	3 p
Ditto, Small.....	3 p	2 p	2 d	.....	2 d	3 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds.....	88½	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ...	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents 86	.....	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents.....	107½
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	104½	Russian 4½ per Cents.....	98½
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	Spanish.....	40½
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	65	Spanish Committee Cor-	.....
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	69	Equador Bonds.....	.....
Equador Bonds.....	.....	of Comp. not fun.....	67
Mexican Account.....	22½	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	97½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.....	79	Turkish New, 4 ditto.....	101½
Portuguese 3 per Cents. 44½	.....	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; Anne Carew, Mrs. A. Wigan. After which, **A CONJUGAL LESSON.** Mr. F. Robson and Miss Swanborough. To conclude with **A SPLENDID INVESTMENT.** Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, H. 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 16th 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 GREAT TOBACCO CONTROVERSY.
DR. SEXTON will LECTURE on this important topic every Evening at Half-past Seven, at

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM,
 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. The Museum is open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, and contains upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men, &c. Lectures on various branches of Physiology, at Twelve, Two, and Four, by Dr. Sexton; and at a Quarter past Eight, p.m., by Dr. Kahn. Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Dr. Kahn's Lectures, gratis.

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(Copy.)
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LONDON UNADULTERATED FOOD COMPANY (Limited). For the Importation, Manufacture, and Supply of Food, Drinks, and Drugs, in a Pure State. Capital 100,000l., in 5000 Shares of 20l. each, with power to increase. Deposit, 5l. per Share. The Liability Limited to the amount of each Share. Incorporated under the Joint-Stock Companies Act of 1856, with Limited Liability. TRUSTEES. General Sir John Forster Fitzgerald, K.C.B., M.P. Henry Morris, Esq., late Madras Civil Service. DIRECTORS. The Right Hon. Lord THOMAS PELHAM CLINTON, 10, Cleveland-square, Chairman. The Hon. F. H. F. BERKELEY, M.P. for Bristol, Victoria-square, Piccadilly, Deputy-Chairman. John Cropp, Esq., Oaklands, Clapham. Charles Henegge, Esq., 3, Cadogan-place, Belgrave-square. Samuel J. Noble, Esq., Soho, and S. Moreton-street, Piccadilly. Capt. W. Peel, 24, Beaumont-street, Portland-place. (With power to add to their number.)

CHIEF ANALYST. Dr. Letheby, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, London Hospital, and Officer of Health for the City of London. SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Harbin and Smith, 12, Clement's-inn. BANKERS.—The Bank of London, Threadneedle-street. GENERAL MANAGER.—William Cribb, Esq. Offices—25, Bucklersbury, London. The Adulteration of our Food has become so dangerous and universal a practice, that the Legislature have deemed it necessary to inquire searchingly into the social evil by means of a Committee of the House of Commons, which has found it to be no fanciful chimera, but a dangerous fact, that nearly all the necessaries of life are fearfully adulterated.

The *Times* newspaper has made the most strenuous efforts to arouse the attention of the public to a sense of the dangers they incur from the present system, and the importance of an effectual remedy being found. In one of its leading articles the evil is thus graphically depicted:—"We pay not only with our money, but our lives. For the worst of it is, that the articles we purchase are not merely diluted—they are adulterated—positively—abominably—poisonously. There is scarcely a single article of daily use which it is possible to procure genuine from ordinary shops. "For Bread, and we receive a Stone—"For Coffee, and we receive Chicory—"For Chicory, and we receive Burnt Carrots, and Powder of Dried Horses' Liver—"For Oil of Almonds, and we receive Prussic Acid. "What are we to do when our meat and drink are poisoned?" And again:—"Surely any one of respectability sufficient to gain credence for his assertion would make a fortune were he to set his face strenuously against all imposture, and determine to sell only genuine articles, even at a slightly enhanced price."

There is no exaggeration in saying that numbers of invalids, delicate women, and tender children, have fallen victims to adulterations of food, drink, and drugs. Paralysis has also been clearly traced to this cause, and the universal diffusion of indigestion owes its origin very largely to the effect of the dangerous adulterations of our food. To remedy this great social evil, the London Unadulterated Food Company is established. Each article vended will be manufactured or prepared entirely by the Company, and foreign productions will be imported direct; it will therefore derive the profits of both manufacturer and dealer, at the same time that it ensures perfect freedom from adulteration. A wholesale and export trade of unequalled magnitude may already be considered as guaranteed. Shareholders will have the privilege of purchasing their goods of the Company at wholesale price. The great additional value that will attach to the shares from this regulation is obvious.

Amongst the questions put to one of the witnesses by the Committee of the House of Commons were the following:— Q. Is it your opinion that adulteration is very prevalent? A. I find adulteration to be exceedingly prevalent; it may be stated, generally, that it prevails in nearly all articles which it will pay to adulterate. Q. Is it your opinion that the adulterations of the various articles to which you have referred have a very important influence on the public health? A. No doubt, I think, can possibly be entertained on the subject—in the list are some of the most virulent poisons.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES. To the Directors of the "London Unadulterated Food Company" (Limited), 25, Bucklersbury, London. Gentlemen,—I request that you will allot me Shares, of 20l. each, in the above-named Company, and I undertake to accept the same, or such less number as you may allot me; to pay for the same, and to sign the articles of association of the Company, when required, and I enclose [have paid into the bankers of the Company] (alter as the case may be) a deposit of £. Dated this day of 1857. Name in full..... Profession or business..... Residence..... Each application must be accompanied by a remittance of, or a banker's receipt for, 1l. per share. Should the full number of shares applied for not be allotted, a proportionate part of the amount will be immediately returned, or applied to the payment of the remaining 4l. per share upon the number allotted.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CITY ARTICLES OF THE DAILY PRESS. (The *Times*, February 27, 1857.) "The prospectus has been issued of the 'London Unadulterated Food Company,' with a capital of 100,000l. in 20l. shares. It is respectably constituted, and the object is to manufacture and sell some of the articles of food which are most exposed to deleterious admixture, in a form that will guarantee their genuineness. Dr. Letheby is to be the chief analyst, and the names of the various dealers authorized to sell the Company's goods will be advertised in the local papers throughout the country." (Morning Post, February 28, 1857.) "The establishment of such a company is a natural necessity, as well as a moral boon, and it is consequently one that should be encouraged in every possible manner by the public, or by that portion at least which values its health and existence. It is by no means surprising, therefore, to find that gentlemen of high station have consented to ally their names and influence to the promotion of the 'Un-

adulterated Food Company,' and there can be scarcely a doubt that, if the objects laid down in the prospectus are energetically pursued, and the reputation of the Company established for the supply of aliment in the highest state of purity, that it will answer well as a commercial enterprise, and fully justify the expectations of the promoters." (Morning Herald, February 28, 1857.)

"The company have secured the services of that eminent man, Dr. Letheby, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at the London Hospital, and Officer of Health for the City of London, as chief analyst. This fact is a proof that if science can be beneficially directed towards the detection of deleterious compounds in the substances on which we exist, it will be called into request." (Morning Chronicle, February 28, 1857.) "It has a respectable direction, and Dr. Letheby is the chief analyst. The company will hold themselves pledged to the purity of every article sold by them, and are determined that not merely the purity but the general condition of the goods shall be all that the most efficient supervision and improved machinery can make them. After careful calculation, and allowing for every contingency, it is anticipated that the net profits will realise at least 15 per cent. per annum."

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Mr. C. W. BLACK, 9, Catherine-court, Tower-hill. Mr. W. FREEMAN, 69, Fleet-street. Mr. G. F. KNOX, 39, Davies-street, Berkeley-square. Mr. C. PHILLIPS, 4, Newgate-street. Mr. J. PALMER, 2, Farm-terrace, High-street, Clapham. Mr. J. W. TODD, Sydenham. AUDITORS.—Mr. T. E. REES, 3, St. Peter's-terrace, Islington, Messrs. COOPER and STEVENS, 78, Basinghall-street, Public Accountants. BANKERS.—Messrs. BARCLAY, BEVAN, TRITTON, & CO., 54, Lombard-street. SOLICITOR.—S. N. DRIVER, Esq., 13, Birch-in-lane. BROKER.—WM. MORRIS, Esq., 80, Old Broad-street. The expediency of applying Joint Stock Capital to large trading operations in articles of general use or consumption has been indisputably proved by the success of the Gutta Percha, Patent Candle, and many other Companies, and the sanction which the Legislature has at length extended to the principle of limited liability, removes the objections which formerly existed to such enterprises, as no shareholder is now liable beyond the amount of his shares. The consumption of Cocoa in England has nearly doubled since 1851, as shown by the Customs returns to the Board of Trade.

The Paris Chocolate Company's articles will be manufactured upon the Parisian principle from the choicest Cocoas only, quite equal in quality to those of France and Spain, but produced at less cost, by employing skilled Parisian as well as English workmen, and the most efficient machinery. The Council and Prize Medals of the Exhibition of 1851 were awarded them, and they have been honoured with the patronage of Her Majesty. The Company's Chocolates exclusively supplied at the Central Refreshment Court of the Great Exhibition of 1851, exceeded that of Tea or Coffee, and upon the quantity there sold, the Contractors realised a profit of upwards of 1000l. in six months, and at the Refreshment Rooms of the Railway Termini they are in constant demand, the public preferring them to all others. With a connexion already formed, perhaps no commercial or manufacturing enterprise ever presented so fair an opportunity for the employment of combined capital, and from the increasing extension of the Home and Export Trade a very large business may soon be realised, which, as the profits average at least twenty-five per cent., renders it both a safe and lucrative investment.

All the necessary arrangements having been effected, the Company will commence operations immediately after the allotment of Shares, as orders are now waiting execution. Upwards of one-third of the Capital having already been subscribed for, applications for the remaining Shares, in the usual form, must be accompanied by a payment to the Bankers of the Company of the deposit of 1l. per Share on the number of the Shares applied for, for which a voucher will be given; but should no allotment be made to the applicant, the money thus lodged with the Bankers will be returned without deduction. Prospectuses, and all further information, may be obtained of the Broker, 80, Old Broad-street; and at the Offices of the Company, 35, Pudding-lane.

GENTLEMEN IN SEARCH of a TAILOR are directed to B. BENJAMIN, Merchant Tailor, 74, Regent-street. THE FORTY-SEVEN SHILLING SUITS, made to order, from Scotch, Heather, and Cheviot Tweeds, all wool and thoroughly shrunken. THE PELISSIER SACS, 21s., 25s., and 28s. THE BENJAMIN CLERICAL and PROFESSIONAL OVER or UNDER COAT, from 30s. The ALBERT LONG FROCK or OVER COAT, from 35s. to 55s. The REVERSIBLE WAISTCOAT, buttoning four different sides, 14s. The TWO GUINEA DRESS and FROCK COATS, the GUINEA DRESS TROUSERS, and the HALF-GUINEA WAISTCOATS.—N.B. A perfect fit guaranteed.

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BONUS TABLE,
Showing the additions made to Policies of 1000l. each.

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum Payable after Death.
1820.....	£ s. d. 523 16 0	£ s. d. 114 5 0	£ s. d. 1638 1 0
1825.....	332 14 0	103 14 0	1486 8 0
1830.....	241 12 0	93 2 0	1334 14 0
1835.....	185 3 0	88 17 0	1274 0 0
1840.....	128 15 0	84 13 0	1213 8 0
1845.....	65 15 0	79 18 0	1145 13 0
1850.....	10 0 0	75 15 0	1085 15 0
1855.....	—	15 0 0	1015 0 0

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