

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1857.

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Review of the Week.

LIKE a giant refreshed, Parliament has come back from the Whitsuntide holidays, and it has proceeded at once to grapple with all sorts of subjects, from the Board of Trade to the Board of County Cess in Ireland; from the sale of poisons to the divorce of married couples. Although this is to be a short session, the number of subjects discussed, at least, is great. Nothing would satisfy Mr. HORSFALL but an inquiry with a view of remodelling the Board of Trade—about the most harmless and the most useful of all the official departments. The very proposal evoked an outcry from the friends of HUSKISSON and POULETT THOMPSON, and there it ended. Lord ROBERT CECIL wanted us to take votes at Parliamentary elections in counties and universities by means of voting papers, as in poor-law elections; but Government showed many reasons against thus voting by general ticket, as the Conservative Lord proposed. And the attempt to convert Parliamentary election into a really domestic institution, with paper proposals passing through the hands of the maid-servants of the country, does not improve on further acquaintance. Paper does not prove to be an effectual safeguard against fraud, even in the poor-law elections; how much less in the election of honourable members! Lord GRANVILLE's bill to restrain the sale of poisons by regulating their custody, their packing up, their colour, and the certificates on which they may be sold, is referred to a select committee, for the consideration of practical details; the Peers not being apothecaries. And Lord BROUGHAM has thundered down upon the House of Lords, with a protest against one of the many detestable amendments in the Divorce Bill—that one which prohibited the re-marriage of a condemned 'party.' Lord BROUGHAM's speech, although delivered after the debate in the Lords, will be effectual to prevent the consummation of that preposterous piece of CANTERBURY-REDESDALE law.

Government has been drawn out until it has become quite a reforming Government! Lord PALMERSTON has announced a bill on Church rates, and he will settle it. Sir FREDERICK THESIGER has virtually intimated that the Opposition in the Commons do not intend to resist the Oaths Bill. They will try once more to keep in the un-Christian 'Christian' quibble which excludes Jews, but more

they will not attempt; and everybody believes that the matter has been settled in the Peers.

What other measures are there that have been long standing, and long wanted? It would be quite worth while to ask Lord PALMERSTON to undertake them.

Mr. SLANEY failed to persuade either Government or the House of Commons to appoint his 'standing committee' or unpaid commission of Notables to deliberate on improvements for the working-classes, yet improvements for the working-classes, and for other classes too, are going on. One of the most considerable is the increase of public parks and places of recreation. If the employing classes desire to keep their workmen in a state of allegiance not only to the Government but to the avocations of this our working country, they will continue in the course laid down by Mr. ADDERLEY, and other Liberal-Conservatives, at Birmingham. Lord CALTHORPE has given to the people of that town a new park, which the Duke of CAMBRIDGE has opened with so excellent a speech, full of hearty sympathy for the working classes, and of good instruction for their employers.

The Court is under the sun of popularity this week. The work cleverly and kindly done by 'our cousin' at Birmingham has scarcely pleased the public more than the excellent manner of dispensing English hospitalities to the Grand Duke CONSTANTINE at Osborne. We may assume what the object was to offer a royal hospitality, without pledging too much of national sympathy—to receive an Imperial Grand Duke as an Imperial Grand Duke should be received, but not to welcome a Russian and the representative of aggressive Russia as England should receive him; since that would be to meet him in HAYNAU fashion. For it is impossible to say that others than draymen might not have forgotten themselves when they saw him—unless, indeed, we had played traitor to the country, and given him the run of our arsenals and ports. We are at peace with Russia, but not in alliance with that distant country, as France appears to be; so the hospitality thrown open to CONSTANTINE was that of Osborne, where he found the requisite splendour of dinner, the full allowance of personal courtesy from hostess and host, a pleasant trip in a royal steamer to look at the picturesque coast of Portsmouth with its shipping, and a courteous leave-taking. He has gone! The English Government did not invite the Grand Duke to overhaul its armouries, as if it were planning the next campaign in concert.

Everything is growing so popular amongst us that the Tories themselves do not like to be left out. 'We are no longer Tories!' cries the Duke of CLEVELAND at the Darlington dinner to Mr. FARRER. Mr. FARRER is the late member for South Durham, and it is consistent with the Conservative party always to celebrate some 'late' person or 'late' event. However, on this occasion the gist of the speaking was, that they were only too anxious for the Reform Bill of 1858, to which they hope to become godfathers for the express purpose of gifting it with certain endowments of their own. They want to say to the franchise, So far shalt thou go, and no farther; to upset the Whig 'oligarchy,' and to provide for the representation of the minority. What public-spirited, modest people those Tories have become!

If anything could really make English Tories heartily popular in their feelings, it would be the spectacle of France at the present moment. It is peculiar. By the avowals of the Emperor's own supporters, in the press as well as in public, the *coup d'état* is rendered permanent in its rule; and this week he is again appealing to the millions for the vote 'Yes or No.' He does not do this in person; he does it by deputy, in the persons of the members of the Corps Législatif, whom the electors of France are now invited to re-elect. There are exceptions: the Government displaces some of its candidates, and proposes others; and it calls upon the millions to rally round the Emperor in order to carry on the administration as he has administered it. There has seldom been a manifesto more outspoken. It is a renewal of the first proposal by 'the Elected of December,' after a lapse of more than five years. And really LOUIS NAPOLEON has some right to consider that France has endorsed his decrees at least upon sufferance. It is true that the Army now stands confessed as his accomplice in the *coup d'état*; but there is no army in the world more popular than that of France; and it is inconceivable that if nine millions and a half of men really resent the present state of things, and desire something different, they should lack either the will, the cleverness, or the courage to overthrow it, and establish what pleases them better.

The condition of France is most important in connexion with a neighbouring country. Belgium is in a state bordering on revolution. The clergy have for years been endeavouring to increase their control over the people, and especially over the education of the people. Government has compromised between opposing parties;



bill for giving new laws over charitable bequests, it has rather provided for strengthening the priestly influence, by leaving all testators at liberty to appoint the persons that should hold their property, and the purpose to which it should be devoted. The Liberals ask that all such bequests should be handed over to the control of a public department,—the only means of placing a shield between the spiritual conspiracy of the priesthood and the ignorant multitude. The people in the towns sympathize with the Liberals; and when they were undergoing defeat in the Chambers, the people gave their support in the form of rioting. The Government endeavoured to maintain its position by the use of the military in repression; the tumults spread; the rural populations supported the priests; and the whole country, with its Chambers dissolved, is in a state of civil commotion. The position of the King is the most embarrassing that can be conceived. Pressed on the one side by Liberals with whom he must sympathize, and on the other by the vast majority of his subjects and the influence of the clergy, into whose hands the despotic powers, France especially, have been playing for years, he will need all his sagacity to escape disaster.

While states are falling abroad, we look at home—at our own houses. The inquest upon the fallen houses in Tottenham Court-road has concluded as everybody knew it must; the jury pointing out the dangerous state of the buildings before the proposed repairs, the hazardous manner of carrying on the repairs, and the conflict between the official and local surveyors. There is, in fact, no effectual control over the abuses of the building trade, while the competition and exactions of the commercial world stimulate the worst vices of the trade, and visit the over-cunning with the consequences. It appears, however, that from this last case an effectual alarm has been given. The examination has been extended to other parts. We hear of other surveyors appointed in order to keep a better watch; other houses are placed under surveillance, and greater respect for the use of proper supports has been restored. But since large districts in that part of the world labour under the suspicion of instability in the houses, there ought to be a good field for the new surveyors to show their vigilance. One incident shows the spurious character of our most modern architecture; it beats even the fall of the houses in the district of the north of London. In ancient days they used to build their cathedrals so that in our own age we have them still standing as firm as parts of the mountain. They have been building a cathedral near Plymouth, but it was so constructed that it had not the strength to stand even until it was concluded.

Mr. CONINGHAM's motion for a select judicial committee on the allegations of Mr. BERTOLACCI's petition has been seconded and granted with an almost suspicious readiness. The defence will probably be based rather upon the rumours consequent upon, than upon the facts antecedent to, the petition. We are too sensible of the supreme virtue of moderation to confound facts and rumours, and, our readers will remember, we spoke of rumours, 'painful rumours' only. We shall, indeed, be too glad to find every breath of suspicion dissipated and that everything is for the best in the best possible of Duchies. But we may be permitted to suggest that Mr. BERTOLACCI—not Lords GRANVILLE, HARROWBY, and the rest—is the aggrieved party; and that they will be called upon to show cause why they dismissed a gentleman recommended by the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, and installed in his office by letters patent, against whom no charge of incapacity or neglect of duty has been brought. The *onus probandi* clearly rests with the defendants.

ILLNESS OF LORD FITZKARDINGE.—His Lordship, we regret to hear, is gradually sinking, owing to the inability of the stomach to perform its functions.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Thursday, June 4th.

THE two Houses reassembled after their Whitsuntide recess on Thursday.

LAW OF LIBEL.

In the Upper House, Lord CAMPBELL presented a petition from the proprietor of the *Durham County Advertiser*, setting forth the result of the action brought against him by Mr. Davison for libel, and praying that *bona fide* reports of proceedings at public meetings should be protected by law. His Lordship moved that the petition should be referred to the committee appointed on the subject.—Agreed to.

SEA BATHING.

The Marquis of WESTMEATH brought in a bill for the purpose of suppressing practices contrary to good morals which have taken place for several summers at Ramsgate and other watering places on the coast of Kent. The bill was read a first time.

SALE OF POISONS.

Earl GRANVILLE moved that the House go into committee on this bill, which provides that poison can only be sold, in the presence of witnesses known to the parties, to persons of full age (thus guarding against the danger of children being employed by strangers to effect the purchase of deadly drugs), and on the production of a certificate to be signed by a medical practitioner, clergyman, justice of the peace, or two resident householders. The measure also directs that the vendor shall make an entry of the name and residence of the person to whom the poison is sold, the quantity sold, and the date; that the shape of the bottles shall be peculiar; and that colourless poisons shall be tinted.—Lord CAMPBELL rejoiced that the Government had at length brought forward this measure, to which he would give his hearty assent. While Ministers were seeking to regulate the sale of physical poisons, however, he thought they ought to consider that there are other poisons, such as immoral publications, which debauch and destroy the mind. These publications are greatly on the increase, and steps should be taken to prevent the circulation of them.—After a few brief observations from various noble Lords, the bill, at the suggestion of Lord REDESDALE, was referred to a select committee.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES BILL.

On the report of amendments to this bill, Lord BROUGHAM declared that in the whole course of their legislation no word had been so much misapplied as the word 'amendment' in reference to a portion of this measure. He complained that the bill invented a new species of divorce, which partook of the evils of both divorce and separation, and had not the advantage possessed by either. The divorce left the husband free, while the wife was not altogether free nor altogether unfettered, so that in many cases she might be driven either to starvation or prostitution. (*Hear, hear.*)—Lords REDESDALE and DONOUGHMORE spoke in favour of the amendments, which were then agreed to.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS TO WITNESSES.

On the report from the select committee being brought up, Lord CAMPBELL moved, "That select committees in future shall examine witnesses without their having been previously sworn, except in cases in which it may be otherwise ordered by the House; and that all committees on private bills shall examine witnesses on oath, except in cases in which it may be otherwise ordered by the House."—The motion was agreed to.

Their Lordships adjourned at half-past six.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, the SPEAKER announced the receipt of a communication from Mr. Coppock, stating that it was not intended to proceed with the petition against the election for Newcastle-under-Lyne, and a similar communication in the case of the petition against the North Staffordshire election.—A communication from Mr. Richardson, stating that it was not his intention to defend his return for Lisburn, was read by the Clerk at the table.

THE OATHS BILL.

Sir FREDERICK THESIGER gave notice that it was not his intention to oppose the second reading of the Oaths Bill, which stands for Monday, but that, in committee, he should propose certain words to preserve the Christian character of the substituted oath, which would raise the question whether the House is prepared to admit persons who are not Christians to a seat in that House.

THE MARYLEBONE PAUPER LUNATICS.

In answer to some questions by Mr. KINNAIRD, Mr. BOUVENNE said that he had directed an inspector of the metropolitan district to attend a meeting of the guardians of Marylebone, and consult with them as to the best remedy for the recent state of things with respect to the pauper lunatics. The guardians denied the right of that gentleman to be present; and he withdrew. The question is now before the Court of Queen's Bench, for the decision of the Judges. Some papers, over and above those already presented to Parliament in connexion with this matter, will be laid on the table. With respect to the present state of the pauper lunatics of the parish, an inspector had reported that, as far as the accommodation of the house would admit, every step has been taken to remedy the evil which formerly existed.

CHURCH RATES.

Sir JOHN TRELAWNEY inquired whether the Government intended to bring in a bill on the subject of church-rates in the present session.—Lord PALMERSTON replied that a bill was in preparation; and he trusted to be able before long to submit it to the consideration of the House.—Sir JOHN TRELAWNEY said he was afraid, under the circumstances, he should be obliged to bring forward his motion that night.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON inquired whether 'before long' referred to the present or to the next session. (*Hear, hear.*)—Lord PALMERSTON: "The next session would be 'very long.' (*Laughter.*) I mean this session."—Sir JOHN TRELAWNEY then withdrew his motion.

VOTING BY PAPERS.

Lord ROBERT CECIL moved for a select committee to inquire into the expediency of collecting the votes at elections in counties and universities by means of voting papers. By such a plan, the riotous proceedings which often take place at polling booths would be prevented, and many might be induced to vote who now avoid the trouble and loss of time by not voting at all. The system had already prospered in parochial matters. He did not ask for legislation on the subject; he only sought inquiry.—Mr. M'CULLAGH opposed the motion. The plan was open to many objections. Several gross irregularities had taken place in the different parochial unions at the elections of guardians of the poor. Papers had been withheld from the rate-payers, or had been tampered with when delivered, and the names of voters had been forged.—Lord EBRINGTON, in supporting the motion, said that the cases mentioned by Mr. M'Cullagh only proved the inefficiency of the machinery employed.—Lord STANLEY thought that voting by papers would afford facilities for bribery and personation; but he might, perhaps, have been inclined to try the plan in the elections for Universities, though not for counties.—Sir FRZROY KELLY argued that, with a more perfect machinery than that of parishes, the system proposed would be of immense service.—Sir GEORGE GREY conceived that the question was one which the House ought to decide for itself, and not delegate to a special committee. He must oppose the motion.—Mr. HENRY BERKELEY remarked that hon. gentlemen opposite were like timorous bathers just dipping one foot into reform; but they would have to plunge boldly, not into the puddle suggested by the noble lord, but into the wholesome sea.—Lord JOHN MANNERS hoped that in the present state of public business the noble lord would withdraw his motion.—Lord ROBERT CECIL consented, hoping on some future occasion to introduce a bill on the subject.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Mr. HORSFALL moved for a select committee to inquire into the origin, the past and present constitution, and the powers and duties, of the Board of Trade, with a view to its better adaptation to the requirements of the country. The duties were too multifarious and complicated, and the Board often exercised legal powers which it ought not to possess, and grasped at powers which it did not possess, thus interfering with local self-government and instituting very inquisitorial proceedings, more especially with reference to shipping, railways, and public works. The statistical returns published under the authority of the Board—the corn averages, in particular—have been proved to be altogether untrustworthy.—Mr. BASS seconded the motion.

Mr. LABOUCHERE submitted that no charge of magnitude had been substantiated against the Board of Trade. That department had fulfilled very important functions, and had aided in accomplishing the great changes in our commercial system by which the prosperity of the country had been vastly enhanced. The only foundation for the present complaint consisted of local grievances and trifling controversies with the Board, chiefly urged by persons connected with trade in Liverpool. If those allegations, indeed, were true (which he denied), they only showed that the Board was wrong in those particular cases, not that the department should be opposed *in toto*. The accusations were quite beside the question. He could not agree with an opinion expressed by Mr. Horsfall, that a peer and a lawyer should not be placed at the head of the Board, but that the management should be in the hands of commercial men. On the contrary, he thought that, though the department should be accessible to the trade of the country, the Board should be free from any personal participation in trade. If there was to be an inquiry at all, it should be conducted by that House itself.—Sir JAMES GRAY defended the constitution of the Board, speaking from his observation of its working during forty years. Successive functionaries—including Huskisson and Ashburton—had exhibited the most admirable talent in the administration of the department; and the Board had done much towards the ultimate triumph of free trade and other commercial and economical reforms. The information collected by the Board was invaluable; and for these reasons he must strongly oppose the motion.—Mr. LOWE remarked that the attack on the Board in no way implied its constitution, but consisted merely of a mass of minute complaints, many of which it was impossible to answer without previous notice. All the functions which the Board exercised were assigned to it by acts of Parliament, and the frequency with which new duties were

allotted to the department showed the confidence its administration had inspired in the Legislature.

Mr. BASS regretted that the Board of Trade was not empowered to collect statistical returns respecting agricultural produce.—Mr. BENTINCK, Sir GEORGE PEACHELL, Mr. BAXTER, and Mr. EWART, supported the motion, which was opposed by Mr. HADFIELD.—Mr. HORSFALL having briefly replied, the motion was negatived without a division.

THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Mr. SLANEY, in moving for the appointment of a standing committee, or unpaid commission, to consider and report from time to time on practical suggestions to give facilities for the improvement in the social condition of the working classes, referred to the changes which had recently taken place in the circumstances of those classes, as laying a foundation for the motion. These changes he attributed to three causes:—first, the subdivision of trades and of labour; secondly, the application of steam power to all our great manufactures; and thirdly, the railway system.—Sir GEORGE GREY, while warmly recognising the benevolent intentions of Mr. Slaney, thought his suggestion would lead to no practical result.—The motion was then withdrawn.

THE BEER ACTS.

The House having resolved itself into a committee on the various Beer Acts, Mr. ATIERTON moved that the Chairman be instructed to move for leave to bring in a bill to explain and amend the Act to regulate the granting of licenses to keepers of inns, alehouses, and victualling houses in England. The object was to make it plain that, in boroughs in England having separate Commissions of the Peace and not separate Courts of Quarter Sessions, the borough justices are to have the licensing authority.—Leave was given.

WIVES' REVERSIONARY INTERESTS.

Mr. MALINS moved for leave to bring in a bill to enable married women to dispose of reversionary interests in personal estate, as they are now enabled to do with regard to reversionary interests in freehold estate.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that the bill was intended to remove an anomaly which had been introduced into the law by a decision of the courts.—Leave was given.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER.

Mr. CONINGHAM moved for a select committee to inquire into the statements set forth in a petition from Mr. F. R. Bertolacci, praying for an inquiry into the proceedings of certain functionaries of the Duchy of Lancaster, in preventing him from exercising the rights, powers, and privileges of the office of auditor of the duchy, and in superseding him by a near connexion of the Receiver-General in auditing that officer's accounts, such committee to consist of five members to be appointed by the General Committee of Elections.—Lord CAVENDISH seconded the motion, because he was convinced the investigation would prove the falsity of the charges in the petition against four individuals, one of whom (Earl Granville) was his relative.—The motion was agreed to.

The PRINCESS ROYAL'S ANNUITY BILL, and the MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND) BILL, were respectively read a third time, and passed.

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

THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER.

How MR. BERTOLACCI GOT THE APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR OF THE DUCHY.

WE reproduce the subjoined from the *Times*' report of a conversation in the House of Commons on the 15th of December, 1854:—

Mr. WISE, seeing the right hon. gentleman the member for Nottingham in his place, would venture to put a question to him with reference to an appointment to what had hitherto been considered a sinecure office. He wished to know what were the circumstances under which the appointment of Mr. Bertolacci to the Office of Auditor of the Duchy of Lancaster took place?

Mr. STRUTT said he was very glad to be able to give the hon. member the information he desired, the more especially, as there had been an erroneous impression that the appointment was altogether of a sinecure character. When he held the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, his attention was directed to the state of the accounts of the Duchy, which, although kept with perfect accuracy, were not kept in accordance with a system which afforded that clear, intelligible, and full information which such accounts ought to give when laid before Parliament. Being, therefore, most anxious that those accounts should be placed before the country in an improved condition, the gentleman to whom he most naturally looked to effect this object was the person who held the office of Auditor of the Duchy, which at that time was held by the late Mr. Lockhart. Nothing could be further from his (Mr. Strutt's) intention than to disparage the memory of that gentleman, who was a man distinguished in literature, being originally appointed in consequence of his literary omniscience, and who performed his duties with punctuality and ability; but it would be perfectly obvious that a gentleman who, throughout the whole of his life, was devoted to the pursuit of literature could not be expected to be perfectly conversant with public accounts, and it would be unfair to consider him to be so. When Mr.

Lockhart resigned the office, he determined to take the opportunity of carrying out his views of reforming the manner in which the accounts were kept, and it appeared to him that the duty of this office, not laborious in itself, might be performed by some gentleman holding another official appointment, and that he could not do better than follow the example set with great advantage in the Duchy of Cornwall, where a gentleman had been appointed Auditor who had great experience in public accounts, and who held another office in the Service. He therefore applied to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to recommend him some gentleman well qualified for the appointment, then filling some public office, whose vocations would allow him to undertake the duties of this also; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, after making inquiries, recommended Mr. Bertolacci, a gentleman filling a position under the Board of Ordnance, as a person well qualified in every respect for the appointment. The right honourable gentleman had informed him that Mr. Bertolacci had had great experience in the public accounts, and had already done much service in disentangling them, and was a gentleman of strict integrity and the highest character. He had also consulted those gentlemen under whom Mr. Bertolacci had more immediately served in Government departments, and they all concurred in giving him the highest character, and testifying as to his fitness for the vacant office. (*Hear, hear.*) Under those circumstances he made the appointment, not, however, at the previous salary of 400*l.* a year, but at the reduced stipend of 200*l.*, which he considered a fair remuneration for the services performed. (*Hear, hear.*) He would only add that he had no personal acquaintance with Mr. Bertolacci whatever, and he believed it was not until he was recommended to him by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he had ever heard his name. (*Cheers.*) His only object in making the appointment was to secure efficiency and economy in the conduct of that department of the service. (*Cheers.*)

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

EARLY on the morning of last Saturday, several persons supposed to be not less than fourteen in number, lost their lives on the sands near Ulverstone, Lancashire, by being carried away by the rising tide, while in a state of intoxication. On the previous night, a number of young men, living at various places at the Ulverstone end of the sands, left Kent's Bank for the purpose of being present at the Whitsuntide hirings at Lancaster on Saturday. Previous to starting, they spent some time drinking at the Kent's Bank Hotel, and afterwards set out for their place of destination in two light one-horse carts. They were then all more or less intoxicated. In the morning, some men walking on the sands that skirt Morecambe Bay, observed at Hest Bank, about three miles from Lancaster, several hats, boxes, and other articles, floating on the sea. This circumstance exciting apprehension, they immediately put off in boats, and recovered the things which they had seen in the water. They then went a little further out to sea, and presently discovered the lifeless bodies of eight men floating on the surface closely together. They were brought on shore, and in the course of the day were recognised by their relatives and friends. One of the carts in which the party had started on the previous night, with the horse harnessed to it, quite dead, was likewise discovered simultaneously with the bodies of the men. Two more bodies have since been washed ashore. The accident is thought to have resulted from an attempt to make a short cut across the sands, which the party in their drunken state could not effect.

Three miners at New Backworth, Northumberland, met with a fearful death on the morning of Wednesday week. They were coming up the shaft in a corf with another workman, who, on reaching the pit's mouth, stepped out. Immediately afterwards, the hook of the corf, which had not been properly fastened to the rope, slipped, and the three who remained in the basket were thrown to the bottom and dashed to pieces. Their ages were, respectively, sixteen, eighteen, and twenty.

A verdict of 'Chance Medley' (says the *Liverpool Albion*) was returned, at an inquest held on Thursday week, before the Borough coroner, on the body of Edward James Smethurst, aged sixteen months, who had died at its parents' house, Circus-street, in consequence of an overdose of an opiate popularly known as 'quietness,' incautiously administered by its mother. She has had six children, all of whom have died before attaining the age of the deceased, and she had been in the habit of giving the deceased the same medicine since its birth.

Philip Page, a guard on one of the trains from Hounslow to London on the South-Western Railway, fell on to the line last Sunday evening while in the act, as it is supposed, of mounting on to the roof of the carriages to close one of the doors. The train must have passed over him, as his dead body was found some time afterwards on the line.—On the same evening, a fatal accident occurred at the Shore-ditch terminus of the Eastern Counties station. Before a train which was running into the station had quite stopped, a young man stepped from one of the carriages, slipped, and fell between the train and the platform, against which he was so severely crushed that he died on Monday morning.

A fire broke out in the house, No. 18, Upper Mansfield-place, Kentish-town, on Tuesday evening. A poor

woman named Warner, who works at an adjacent laundry, had left her youngest child in bed in a room on the ground floor. The eldest boy, who was entrusted with the care of the rest, went with them into the fields; and it is probable that the child got out of bed and began to play with some lucifer matches. When the fire was discovered the poor child was burnt to a cinder. Nothing but the walls were left standing, and great damage was done to the surrounding property.

An adder entered the house of Charles Beviss, game-keeper to G. F. W. Miles, Esq., of Ford Abbey, near Chard, a few days ago, when his child, about fourteen months old, on seeing it, attempted to take it as a plaything. The creature bit the child's hand and arm in two places, and the little sufferer, after enduring great agony, died on the following morning. The adder was killed by the child's father.

Mr. H. G. Bohn, the publisher, was being driven in a cab one day last week over Waterloo-bridge, when the vehicle came into collision with another cab going in the same direction. The driver of the latter was thrown off his seat, and was so much hurt that he was taken to the hospital, where he died. Mr. Bohn attributed the accident to one of the toll-gates being closed.

An inquest was held on Monday at Ince on the bodies of seven of the men killed by the late pit accident there. The jury, after deliberating for about half an hour, arrived at the unanimous verdict, "That the deceased met their deaths accidentally in a coal mine by an explosion of gas, but how that explosion originated there was not evidence to show;" and they recommended the use of safety-lamps in place of candles in the Hindley mine in future.

An infant at Worcester has met with a fearful death. The mother was in the habit of making, in the case of her children, an external application of white lead, in the shape of a powder. Some days ago, she sent for a quantity of this powder to the shop of a druggist named Stringer, and applied it to the child's body. Excessive irritation of the skin resulted. Some more was sent for, Mr. Stringer himself this time supplying it from the same drawer from which the previous quantity was taken by an apprentice. The irritating effects continued to increase; a wound formed, and the child who was about six weeks old, died in dreadful pain. It was afterwards discovered that the powder was arsenic, which, externally applied, has a corroding effect. The poor infant had in fact died of a slow burning, and must have suffered fearfully. The drawer had been filled for some weeks with the irritant poison. Mr. Stringer keeps his drugs in a cellar, to which his apprentices have access. The arsenic in bulk and the white lead were kept in barrels of somewhat similar appearance. Some weeks ago, Mr. Stringer's youngest apprentice, who had not been in the business four months, seeing the white lead drawer empty, filled it with arsenic from the barrel in the cellar, mistaking it for white lead. The boy states that there was no label 'Arsenic' on the barrel, but this Mr. Stringer contradicts. The coroner, in summing up, said that no legal blame could attach to Mr. Stringer, and the jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental death,' but at the same time added an expression of their opinion that due care had not been exercised in the management of Mr. Stringer's shop.

A workman, named Lewis, went under a platform at the Woolwich railway station, and lighted a fire for the purpose of cooking some meat in a frying-pan, which required cleaning. To effect this, he poured into it the contents of a bottle supposed to contain water, but which proved to be turpentine. The flames soon reached other materials, and terribly injured the poor fellow.

GREAT HANDEL FESTIVAL.

CRYSTAL PALACE, 1857.—This, the greatest musical congress ever assembled, owes its existence to the anxiety of the Sacred Harmonic Society to promote by their example the commemoration, in 1859, of the Centenary of Handel's death in such a manner as would be alike worthy of the great master, and of the widely diffused musical knowledge of the present day. In carrying out this object, it was found that the central transept of the Crystal Palace offered a local for this display far beyond any other existing building. The space appropriated to the orchestra alone occupies a clear area of 168 feet width by 90 depth. This extent exceeds the entire capacity of any other music-hall in this country, and has the additional advantage of great height and of ample means of approach and for general arrangements. The orchestra, which has been constructed in a somewhat flattened curve, rises from the floor at a front elevation of 8 feet, and is from thence continued in a series of semicircular steps varying from 10 to 15 inches each to a total height of 47 feet. These rises are 84 in number, of which 11 are appropriated to the band, and the remaining 23 to the chorus. Ample space has been given to the orchestra, the violins having 15 square feet, and the double basses and violoncellos 24 square feet for each desk. The chorus are all placed on raised benches, each individual having 21 inches in width, by 30 inches in depth. When it is remembered that the usual allowance in churches is only 16 inches for each person, it will be seen that the convenience of the performers has been well attended to. The balance and disposition of the instrumentalists has received much attention from Mr. Costa. The band

consists of—76 first violins, 74 second violins, 50 violas, 50 violoncellos, 50 double basses, 8 flutes, 8 oboes, 8 clarionets, 8 bassoons, 12 horns, 6 trumpets, 6 cornets, 3 ophicleides, 8 serpents, 9 trombones, 2 pair of kettle-drums, 1 large long drum, 6 side drums; 385 performers in all, who are arranged at 202 desks. The chorus, originally intended to consist of 2000 voices, slightly exceeds that number. The entire orchestra, therefore, is, as near as possible, 2500. In the centre, between the organ and the band, the large drum made by Mr. Distin for the festival will be a conspicuous object. It is between six and seven feet in diameter, and when gently struck, produces a tone resembling the booming of a deep pedal-pipe. The chorus comprises about 1000 metropolitan amateurs, 200 professional chorus, and nearly 850 choristers carefully selected and rehearsed, from the great provincial choral societies and the cathedral choirs. These latter will arrive in London on the afternoon of Friday, the 12th of June, and the final choral rehearsal will be held in Exeter Hall at half-past six o'clock the same evening. With the exception of a very few seats reserved for distinguished visitors, the entire area, gallery, and platform will, on that occasion, be occupied by the chorus, who will be arranged in double choir. *Israel in Egypt* will, probably, be the principal feature of this rehearsal, and it is expected that the 2000 voices thus assembled will produce an effect far beyond anything ever before witnessed. The preparations are gradually but rapidly progressing towards completion, and thus far every arrangement has been most satisfactorily carried out for the Festival. In order to record more fully the notabilities of the Festival a large number of the provincial press have signified their desire to send special musical reporters, and nearly 300 seats will be reserved for the gentlemen who will attend for this purpose. In order to accommodate parties visiting London at the time of the Handel Festival, the principal railway companies have agreed to issue return tickets, available for that week, at reduced fares. Many persons who would otherwise have been excluded from attending the Festival will thus be enabled to attend at a moderate expense. To musical amateurs the Festival week will present several attractions: the Benevolent Choir Fund will have a grand choral service at Westminster Abbey, and, in connexion with the Madrigal Society, have their annual dinner at Freemasons' Hall. After dinner, madrigals, &c., will be sung by about 200 voices. The Sacred Harmonic Society have also arranged to have a performance of Mr. Costa's oratorio, *Eli*, at Exeter Hall, on the evening of Wednesday, the 17th of June, to which it is intended to invite all who attend from the country to take part in the Festival.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade reports for the week ending last Saturday show continued inactivity at Manchester and the surrounding towns, prices exhibiting a degree of weakness likely to lead to an extended adoption of the short time movement. The Birmingham accounts describe steadiness in the iron-market, and an average home and foreign business in the other manufactures of the place. In the woollen districts, the increased firmness observable last week has been maintained, and the Irish linen-markets are without alteration.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been considerable activity. The number of ships reported inward was 241, being 62 below the large total in the previous account. Those included 65 with cargoes of wheat, rice, oats, &c.; 25 with cargoes of sugar, and one cargo of tea and silk. The number of vessels cleared outward was 125, including 15 in ballast, showing an increase of 22.—*Idem*.

In consequence of a notice from the masters of a reduction of wages from 6s. to 4s. 6d. per day—the fortnight's notice having expired on Friday week—the shipwrights of the Tyne and Wear turned out last Saturday, and remain on strike. The men offer to go to work for 5s. per day, but there are no immediate prospects of a settlement. The shipbuilding trade is dull in the Wear. There will be near 8000 men out of employment on those rivers. The shipjoiners have also turned out.

The daily papers announce the suspension of Messrs. William Macintosh and Co., of Manchester, with liabilities supposed to amount to 100,000*l.*, of which about 40,000*l.* fall on London.

IRELAND.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS OF IRISHMEN.—Mr. Henry Arthur Herbert, member for Kerry, has accepted the post of Chief Secretary for Ireland, in the room of Mr. Horsman, resigned. Mr. Chichester Fortescue, has been appointed Under-Secretary for the Colonies.

THE ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.—The Westmeath estates of Peter Fitzgerald, Knight of Kerry, who was the petitioner for the sale, were disposed of on Friday week in eight lots, the gross produce of which amounted to 24,895*l.*

DEATH OF LORD LISMORE.—Viscount Lismore expired on Sunday morning at Shanbally Castle, in the county of Tipperary. He had been for a long time in extremely bad health. He is succeeded in his title and estates by his son, the Hon. George Ponsonby O'Callaghan.

AMERICA.

CENTRAL American affairs still occupy attention in the United States. We now learn that the treaty of commerce between Great Britain and Honduras, together with the additional article guaranteeing the neutrality of the inter-oceanic railroad through the Republic of Honduras from Porto Cabello on the Atlantic to the Bay of Fonseca on the Pacific, has been ratified by the Honduras Government; but that the two conventions relative to the Bay Islands and to Mosquito, which were signed at the same time by Senor Don Victor Herran on the part of Honduras, and by Lord Clarendon on the part of Great Britain, have not been ratified. Some intelligence with respect to the policy of the United States in connexion with the Chinese war is communicated by the Washington correspondent of the *New York Times*, who writes on the 17th ult.:—"Despatches have been received from England stating that the position of our Government, as laid down in the reply of General Cass to Lord Napier relative to the Chinese affair, is entirely satisfactory to the British Cabinet. Joint armed intervention was asked for and decidedly declined; but our Government agreed to co-operate by representation and joint remonstrance." Lord Napier has again called the attention of the Washington Cabinet to the claims of certain English subjects for indemnity on account of losses at Greytown.

A storm appears to be gathering over Utah. Major M'Culloch is said to have declined the Governorship of that state, and it is believed that it will be found necessary to send troops there in large numbers, the command of whom will probably be given to General Harney. Governor Drummond has arrived at Washington, bringing with him accounts of the utter demoralisation of the people.

From Mexico we learn that Crabbe's California Filibustering party has been attacked at Corborea by the Mexican troops, and forced to surrender at discretion. The Filibusters, including their leader, were shot.

A fearful riot (say the American journals) occurred at Louisville on the 14th ult. The negroes accused of murdering the Joyce family some months since were acquitted. One of them turned States' evidence, but his testimony was not legal or corroborated. There was considerable excitement about the court-house during the trial, and about dark a mob broke into the cannon-house and got a cannon, which they placed in front of the gaol. Several shots were fired by the mob and returned from the gaol. The gaoler, fearing the escape of the prisoners, formally surrendered two of them, who were hung by the mob; the third cut his throat with a razor, but the negro who turned States' evidence was unmolested. The remaining negro implicated in the Joyce murder was hung by the mob next night, making three hanged and one suicide.

The Supreme Court of Ohio has decided a slave case in direct opposition to the decision of the United States Supreme Court, in the Dred Scott case.

There has been a great discovery of gold at Upata, in the province of Venezuela. The metal is exceedingly pure, and has been found in very large quantities.

A bill has been introduced into the Californian Legislature to provide for the payment of the interest on the public debt due next July and January; also another bill 'to provide for paying certain equitable claims against the State of California, and to contract a funded debt for that purpose.' The latter bill had passed the Senate and was before the Assembly at the last dates.

A member of Congress, from Pennsylvania, has fallen a victim to 'the National Hotel disease,' the result, it would seem, of foul air.

"The proprietors of the *Daily Times*," says the *Times* New York correspondent, "offer 5000 dollars reward to whoever will discover evidence to convict the murderer of Dr. Burdell. Some of the other journals who do not make an offer make fun of the proposition. The *Evening Post* offers 5000 peanuts, and the *Herald* throws dollars to the winds in gratuities for the discovery of all the undiscovered murderers for the past twenty years. Mrs. Cunningham goes abroad an acquitted woman, and Eckel is discharged on his own recognizance, his counsel grumbling because the Government prefer to bring him to trial six months hence."

The news from the South is said to be unfavourable as regards the cotton crop for this year. That of last year was also bad.

The allied forces of Central America (according to despatches from head quarters, dated April 22nd) continued pressing Walker severely. Deserters were continually coming in daily to the allies. Walker's party were living on hides. The allied fire was suspended for a time from want of ammunition, but a supply of twenty quintals of powder reached the allies, and the fire again reopened. Walker's party was reduced to three hundred and twenty men. The allied forces mustered 2500 men, which number was daily increasing.

The River San Juan is open to traffic by passports from Greytown and Fort St. Carlos. The American steamers have discontinued visiting Greytown, now that the transit is in the hands of the allies.

Vivanco has been repulsed at Callao (Peru), and Castello has embarked at Paeta, for Callao.

The Finance Minister of Venezuela has announced that his Government declines to assent to the agreement effected last January by their own Commissioners with

the London committee of Spanish American bondholders. He adds that the Government intends to issue a decree for the settlement of the debt according to its own views.

The New York money-market is easier. In the stock-market there has been a slight improvement.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

THE disaffection among the native soldiers seems to be lessening, but had not quite disappeared when the last mails left India. Symptoms of an outbreak have manifested themselves at Umballa. The empty European barracks have been burnt down, and the Native Infantry hospital shared the same fate a few hours afterwards. After the sepoy of the 34th, who wounded Lieutenant Baugh, had been hanged, the Jemadar of the guard was similarly punished. The charges against the latter were as follows:—"For having, when officer in command of the quarter guard of the 34th N.I., on the day on which Mungul Pandey attacked the adjutant and quartermaster, told the men of the guard, when they evinced a desire to go out and aid the adjutant and sergeant-major in resisting the murderous attack made upon them, 'If a man leaves this guard, or attempts to do so, I will have him hanged for disobedience of orders.' Further, with having, in the lines of the 34th regiment N.I., endeavoured to spread sedition by telling the men of that corps that if any of them brought him one of the new cartridges he would cut his head off; also, for having warned the men of the 34th N.I. to hold themselves in readiness for a general revolt on the night of Hoolee. Lastly, with having held a punchaet in his own quarters for the purpose of organising a general rising of the sepoys against government; at which punchaet two pay havildars, a naick, and a lance-naick from the 34th N.I. were present." On being brought to the scaffold, the Jemadar, who up to that moment had hoped for mercy, made a speech to his comrades, in which he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, said he had rebelled against a good government, and exhorted his fellow-countrymen to obey their officers. Everything passed off quietly, owing partly, perhaps, to preparations having been made to overawe any hostile demonstrations.

A suttee has occurred in the village of Vung, in Kutch. A woman, sixty-five years of age, immolated herself on the funeral pile of her son, a young man of five-and-twenty. The bystanders attempted to dissuade her; but, finding her resolution firm, they ceased to oppose her wishes. The Rao, on learning what had been done, took the advice of Captain Raikes, our political agent, and sentenced some of the leading men in the affair to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour, inflicting fines on others.

Another great fire in Pegu has completely destroyed the rising town of Bassein. Coal has been found in the Siwan district of Scinde. Trade is in rather an inactive state.

PERSIA.

The *Constitutionnel*, of Paris, publishes a private letter from the Persian Gulf, received through Bagdad, which announces that on the 21st of April the English troops evacuated the town of Mohammerah. The steamships Comet, Planet, and Assyria brought them back to Bushire. General Outram continued to evacuate the Persian Gulf. The troops were beginning to experience rather severe losses by disease. The Persian army on the frontiers of Afghanistan was evacuating the districts occupied by it. It had already quitted Furrak, and would soon evacuate Herat.

CHINA.

The war—if war it can be called—goes on but languidly. Some successful attacks have been made by our vessels on Chinese war junks, and several of them have been destroyed. In these enterprises, a few of our own men have been wounded, more or less seriously.

A fight has taken place at Ningpo between some Frenchmen engaged in conveying junks and the Portuguese lorchamen, who claim a monopoly of the convoy trade. The French boat was captured; but the affair has been brought before the notice of his Excellency M. Bourboulon.

The traffic, both import and export, at Shanghai is threatened by the successes of the rebels and the contemplated desertion of the Imperialists unless their wages are paid.

The Mandarin's son who, having gained admission as a coolie on board the *Gulnare*, induced the emigrants to attempt to murder her officers and crew, and take possession of her, has suffered the last penalty of the law. His seventeen adherents, who are to be transported for life, begged that they might die with him.

Mr. Markwich, an old and highly respected member of the English mercantile community at Hong-Kong, has been murdered with more than ordinary ferocity. His throat was literally torn away by the assassin's hand. The object was plunder; but the miscreants, apparently dreading a surprise, fled before they could secure anything. They were Mr. Markwich's own servants. A reward had been specially offered to domestics by the Chinese for the heads of their English employers.

A European and his Chinese accomplice have been tried and convicted of some very cruel treatment of a large body of Chinese coolies, whom after deluding into

a promise to go to Cuba, they confined for some weeks in a filthy tenement. An attempt has been made by the Chinese to blow up the stores and magazines at the Gun-yard, Hong-Kong.

The commercial intelligence indicates no great change in the usual state of the markets.

COUNT CAVOUR ON SIR ROBERT PEEL.

In the sitting of the Sardinian Senate of the 26th ult., Count Cavour made some striking observations respecting the policy of the late Sir Robert Peel. The example of England having been quoted for the gradual introduction of free-trade measures, Count Cavour said:—

"Before concluding, I must reply to an observation made yesterday by Signors Sclopis and Gallina. They quoted the example of England and the authority of Sir Robert Peel. Signor Sclopis expressed astonishment that I had not followed the example of the illustrious statesman of whom I have often spoken with great respect, when I declared that I entertained the highest opinion of English institutions, of the example given to us by the English people in political and economical reforms. In fact, I more than once mentioned Sir Robert Peel as one of the greatest and most illustrious reformers of our century. I have no wish to retract the principles I have often professed before you; but, while I consider it advisable for the statesmen of every country, especially for the statesmen of Piedmont, to study the institutions of England, it is because I think they may learn much to profit by, and also how to avoid, many errors committed by Englishmen. England was the first to advance in the path of economical reforms, and for that very reason she was obliged to advance cautiously. But, gentlemen, when the reform was accomplished, do you think that those who opposed it declared that it was well to have advanced cautiously? No, gentlemen; and Sir Robert Peel himself, when he said free trade had calmed the crisis of 1847, expressed his regret that he had not had the courage to propose it twenty years earlier to prevent the crisis of 1824. I therefore think it would be a folly not only to follow the example of England in the reforms realized, but also in the manner of accomplishing them. Let us learn by the experience of others, let us be warned by the errors of other nations, not to commit similar errors ourselves, and when we behold those nations who have attained great prosperity proclaim certain principles in an absolute manner, let us adopt them, and apply them to as full an extent as it is in our power to do. Many of the reforms which we have boldly adopted were only accomplished gradually in England. The Corn-law Bill only passed after a struggle of twenty-five or thirty years. The struggle commenced in 1817, and lasted till 1846, when Sir Robert Peel caused the bill to pass. And here, while following in the steps of England, we have yet adopted free trade at once; we have even gone ahead of England, for she maintains still a duty—slight, it is true—while we have abolished it altogether. And now I must reply to the quotation of Sir Robert Peel as an authority. I repeat it, I entertain the highest admiration for that statesman; I believe that few men have rendered greater services to mankind than he has. Yet I do not believe that Sir Robert Peel was always infallible in his political career. It is my opinion that Sir Robert Peel would have left a much more illustrious name behind him if, instead of having been compelled by circumstances to introduce reforms, he himself had originated them. I think that Sir Robert Peel would have left behind him a fame unequalled in history if, instead of proposing the emancipation of the Catholics in 1829, he had proposed it in 1825. I think that his name would have eclipsed all those of ancient and modern statesmen if the reform of the corn laws had been initiated in 1840—a good harvest year—instead of being passed in consequence of the famine which desolated Ireland, and instead of being in some measure a consequence of the potato disease. In fact, if Sir Robert Peel had been the originator of reforms, he would at his death have left to his friends a political inheritance far different from that which he bequeathed to them. If Sir Robert Peel had associated his name and his whole career with successive reforms, there would be no need of recording at the present time a strange fact which has taken place in England—namely, that a party consisting of eminent men, including the most eloquent speaker in Parliament, and the most able legislators, has been completely routed at the late elections. And this, gentlemen, is the fate of parties who allow themselves to be led by public opinion, and who wait to the last moment to carry out reforms which they have not the courage to introduce. I trust that the Senate, convinced of this truth, will give its support to the present Government, which, while following the example of Sir Robert Peel, nevertheless deviates from the course he adopted by making itself the originator of reforms, not wishing to grant them to any popular pressure, nor to the pressure of unforeseen circumstances."

DISTURBANCES IN BELGIUM.

Some popular disturbances, which at one time looked rather threatening, broke out at Brussels on the after-

noon of Wednesday week. A debate had taken place in the Chamber of Representatives on the subject of charitable institutions. M. Frere, a member of the Opposition, characterized the guarantee offered by Government for the production of the accounts of monastic institutions as an insulting farce. He was requested by the President to retract his words, when he replied, in a very loud voice, "Some days ago, I denounced the conduct observed towards some young girls, lace-workers in a religious institution; and a voice in this chamber taunted me as an *infâme*." The strangers in the gallery loudly applauded this speech, and began hooting and yelling at the Government. The President then gave orders to the huissiers to clear the gallery, which was done. Very shortly afterwards, however, some men forced their way into the galleries, and it was found necessary to have recourse to the troops on guard to clear the Chamber. Orders were also given to strengthen the military posts outside, and, after a further delay of half an hour, the discussion was resumed. In the meanwhile, a crowd collected in the street, to await the termination of the sitting; and, as the various members of the Government presented themselves on issuing forth, they were loudly hissed. Owing to a momentary mistake on the part of the mob, the Papal Nuncio was menaced as he was about to leave the building; but, immediately on discovering that he was not the person they supposed him to be, the people exhibited great respect towards him, several taking off their hats as he passed to his carriage. The populace then performed an ovation under the windows of MM. Frere's and Verhaegen's residences, and finally dispersed in the utmost order. During this time, the troops were directed to remain in barracks, to be in readiness should they be required.

At the commencement of the sitting of the Chamber on Thursday, the 28th ult., Vicomte Vilain XIV., Minister of Foreign Affairs, rose, and thus alluded to the events of the preceding day:—"Gentlemen, a circumstance to be regretted occurred yesterday. The Apostolic Nuncio to the Court of Brussels was seriously insulted. This incident took place yesterday at five o'clock, and at half-past five I proceeded in uniform to the residence of his Excellency and offered excuses to him in the name of the Government, which the Nuncio would have been justified in demanding had he had time to draw up his representations. From the residence of the Nuncio, I proceeded to the Château de Laecken, where I rendered an account of my conduct to the King. The King approved it, and has charged the Grand Marshal to express this morning to the Papal Nuncio the regrets of his Majesty. I consider that the incident is terminated." This brief speech was received by the Chamber with general approbation. After the sitting, the Cabinet Ministers proceeded to Laecken, where a Council, presided over by the King, took place.

In various parts of the city the disturbances were resumed; but great loyalty towards the King and royal family was manifested. "In the evening," says the *Indépendance Belge*, "their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess de Brabant attended the Opera. Their carriage was greeted as it passed with cries of 'Vive le Roi!' 'Vive le Duc de Brabant!' They were also cheered on entering the theatre. The pit then loudly demanded the 'Brabançonne,' and the national air was performed by the orchestra, and followed by loud cheering. The opera was *William Tell*, and the patriotic passages were loudly cheered. Their Royal Highnesses did not leave till the performance was over. The crowd outside the theatre is estimated to have been about 5000. This body split into two parties. One took the direction of the Grande Place, singing the 'Brabançonne' in chorus; the other proceeded to the *Emancipation* office. They broke it open, smashed the windows, and destroyed a portion of the type. The first party halted in the Grande Place, where the national air was sung in loud chorus. Most of the shops were shut. Smaller bands traversed the city during the night." Cries of "Vive le Roi!" alternated with "A bas les Couvents!" It is also said that there were shouts of "Down with the priests!" "Down with the Catholics!" "Let us drown the President!" The mob broke the windows of the Jesuit College and of the Capucin Monastery, and committed various other acts of spoliation. On Friday, the 29th ult., the Civic Guard was called out, and squadrons of Lancers, Cuirassiers, and other troops, arrived at Brussels. A Cabinet Council sat on the same day, to consider the state of affairs. The Burgomasters also issued a proclamation forbidding more than five persons to assemble in the streets, and the mounted gendarmes dispersed those who endeavoured to set this edict at defiance. The Senate has been prorogued by a decree of the King.

Riots likewise broken out at Mons, Antwerp, Ghent, and Liege. The mobs complain of priestly domination, and the burghers appear to be equally bent on resisting that excess of power.

At the adjournment of the Chambers last Saturday, the President, after reading the decree for the adjournment, proposed three cheers for the King. The members of the Left (the Government side) rose and cheered; the members of the Right (the Oppositionists) did not respond to the appeal.

Seventy persons were arrested by the troops; but

the greater part have since been set at liberty. The Bishop of Bruges, M. Malou, one of the authors of the obnoxious measure on charitable bequests, has been forced to abandon his palace, and take refuge in a convent. The bill, in all probability, will never again be introduced.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* announces the dissolution of the Legislative Body. The new elections are to commence on the 21st of June, and will last two days. The number of the deputies for the new Chamber is fixed at 267.

The *Moniteur* of Sunday contains a circular from M. Billault, the Minister of the Interior, to the Prefects, dated the day before, and having reference to the elections. It commences:—"Monsieur le Préfet,—By the terms of the Constitution and the decree of May 29, the Legislative Corps nominated in 1852 has finished its mission. The country is now about to elect its deputies anew. The Emperor calls to the ballot-box nine millions of electors, and demands from them a free and loyal vote. In this case, for the guidance of yourself and others, it is necessary that you should well know what the attitude of the Government will be, and what principles will direct its conduct. A strong and popular Government says clearly what it thinks and what it wishes. As for the elections, what the Emperor desires is the free and sincere practice of universal suffrage. The electoral lists have been drawn up largely and liberally. Every one having the right has been able to get himself admitted upon them: 9,521,220 citizens have been registered in them. On the day of election, the vote will be secret, and the ballot-boxes will be opened in the sight of all. The truthfulness and independence of the vote are therefore guaranteed. In presence of this liberty assured to everybody, and when candidates and electors can all proclaim their preference, the Government cannot alone remain mute and indifferent. It will clearly tell the country what names have its confidence and what seem to deserve the confidence of the people; as it proposes the laws to the deputies, it will propose the candidates to the electors, and these will make their choice." Referring to the expiring body, M. Billault says:—"Having some exceptions commanded by special necessities, the Government has deemed it just and politic to present for re-election all the members of an assembly which has so ably seconded the Emperor and served the country. In the face of these candidacies openly acknowledged and resolutely sustained, the opponent candidates hips may freely come forward. Our legislation respecting the distribution of the voting tickets has lately been calumniated; nevertheless, the rules upon that subject are simple and liberal. During the twenty days preceding the election, every candidate who shall have submitted to the formality of legally depositing a copy, signed by himself, of his circulars, profession of faith, or voting tickets, will be able, without the need of any other authorization, to have them advertised and distributed in perfect liberty; every elector who, not satisfied with writing his vote, or causing his vote to be written, and thus exercising his individual right, shall be desirous of making a candidacieship known, may freely distribute the voting tickets for it, if upon one of these tickets, legally deposited, the signature of the candidate records his assent. Assuredly with these conditions, it may be said, that the party proposing to be elected, and the elector, will have complete freedom, the one to come forward, the other to express his choice, and propose him to his fellow-citizens. If, nevertheless, the enemies of the public peace should think to find in this latitude an opportunity of making a malicious protest against our institutions—if they should attempt to convert it into an instrument of disorder or scandal—you know your duties, Monsieur le Préfet, and justice would also know how not less severely to perform hers."

"The Paris papers," says the *Times* correspondent, "have been 'recommended' by the authorities not to make any allusion to the visit paid yesterday morning by the Emperor and King of Bavaria to the Museum of Artillery. This, of course, has excited a good deal of curiosity, and people are trying to account for such precaution. Some suspect that an unpleasant incident, a political manifestation, for instance, took place in the establishment. The truth of the matter seems to be that the Grand Duke Constantine was not taken to the Musée while he was inspecting the curiosities of Paris, as experiments are made in the Museum with the inventions of the Emperor, which could not well be shown to a visitor who was, when too late, found to be over-inquisitive in his researches, and too accurate in noting them down. The experiments were kept from the knowledge of the Russian 'Paul Pry,' but there could not be much harm in showing them to a pacific prince like the King of Bavaria. It was thought as well, however, not to let the Grand Duke know that there were things which he did not see."

The Emperor, the Empress, and their child, quitted Paris on Thursday week for St. Cloud, where they mean to fix their summer residence.

Baron Hyde de Neuville, former Minister of Marine, died at Paris on the 28th ult.

The recent storms of thunder, lightning, and rain, have caused immense damage to the crops in several of the departments of France. Besides the violence of the hail and wind, the rivers in many places overflowed, causing a large number of vines to be swept away, and even throwing down massive buildings.

A lamentable event has happened in the roads of Belle Isle. The English galiot John Edward, Captain Evans, was lying at anchor, when the French war cutter Amaranthe, which was on guard, fired a shot, to make the Englishman show its colours. This was not attended to; and a second musket, loaded with ball, was discharged at the vessel. The result was that John Williams, a seaman, was instantly shot dead.

The trial of the conspirators called the Francs-Juges has been concluded before the Court of Correctional Police. It was proved that they met by night to enrol members outside the walls of Paris; that they wore masks, and were otherwise disguised. Their object was the establishment of a democratic and social republic, and their pass-words were 'Courage,' 'Vengeance,' 'Alibaud,' 'Pianori,' 'Milano.' Of the forty-five arrested six were acquitted. Ravet, Desmoulins, Aucaigne, François, and Joseph, proved to have been the chiefs of the secret society, were sentenced to periods of imprisonment varying from four years to eighteen months, and to pay fines varying from 500fr. to 200fr. The remainder were sentenced to imprisonment for periods varying from two years to six months, and to fines varying from 300fr. to 100fr. It is not generally known that all members of a secret society are subject, by an Imperial decree, to be transported to a penal colony after the expiration of the sentence of the court.—*Times Paris Correspondent.*

Perukh Khan, the Persian Ambassador at Paris, has received the official news of the ratification at Teheran of the treaty of peace with England.

Marshal de Castellane has been sent by the Emperor from Lyons to Geneva, to compliment the Dowager-Empress of Austria.

A new kind of manure has been invented by M. Bichès, a gentleman of some note in the agricultural world. It is a chemical composition, the nature of which is still kept secret by the inventor; but its mode of application is rather curious, the grain intended to be sown being mechanically coated with the compound previously to its being consigned to the earth. The rich principle being thus in immediate contact with the seed to be developed, the soil needs no other kind of manure. Four pounds of the compound are sufficient for an acre of land. According to M. Bichès's experiments, the application of his manure would raise the present yield of France from 82,000,000 hectolitres of wheat to 410,000,000. Dr. Stockhard, Professor at the Academy of Tharand, in Saxony, has lately pronounced in favour of this system.—*Times Paris Correspondent.*

A Signor Sirtori, an Italian patriot, residing in France, and a noted opponent of Murat, suddenly disappeared about the middle of last May, after having had an altercation with three other Italians, who advocate the cause of Murat. For some time his friends could not find him; at length, they discovered the missing patriot shut up in a lunatic asylum at Bicêtre, where it was impossible for him to communicate with any one. The friends addressed themselves to the authorities, and he was at once restored to liberty. There was nothing whatever the matter with him; but it is said that he was subjected to the restraint of a strait-waistcoat for three days. The explanation is to the effect that a mistake on the part of a sergent-de-ville led to his confinement.

The second portion of the report of the Minister of War on the present state of Algeria has been published by the *Moniteur*. The Minister, in his recapitulation at the end, says:—"In whatever way I consider Algeria, as regards its native population, I have nothing but improvement to announce to your Majesty. The country in a state of tranquillity, roads in course of construction, increase of cultivation, public works in progress, crimes and transgressions diminishing, the Arab population more inclined to obedience—every day, I may say, rewards our efforts with fresh success. Our moral influence even extends beyond our sphere of action."

AUSTRIA.

The little Archduchess Sophia died at Buda on the evening of Friday week.

The Emperor has continued his progress through Hungary, receiving from the loyally-disposed various demonstrations of homage in accordance with the old, picturesque, and somewhat wild customs of the Magyars. In consequence of the death of their infant daughter, the Emperor and Empress returned to Vienna.

Bertex, the cashier who embezzled the 850,000 florins from the Bank of Vienna, has made a full confession of his guilt. He lost the greater part of that sum in the lottery, to win in which he believed he had an infallible calculation. He also lost money in gambling in the public funds.

ITALY.

The Empress Dowager of Russia left Turin by railway to Susa, en route for Geneva and Germany, on the morning of the 25th ult. The Sardinian monarch, the Princess Clotilde, and the Prince Carignano, accompa-

nied the Empress as far as Susa. On the previous day, the King of Saxony and his daughter, the Duchess of Genoa, arrived at the royal palace; but they also departed on the 25th.

During her stay in the Sardinian dominions, the Russian Empress scattered about with a free hand, not only money to the poor, but stars and crosses to the nobility and officials, from the highest almost to the humblest. There was one exception, however, which has led to much comment: Signor Rattazzi, the Minister of the Interior, received no adornment.

The harvest in Piedmont promises to be excellent.

A Papal notification, dated Ancona, May 19, announces the cessation of the state of siege in the Romagna, Ancona, and part of the province of Pesaro, being the only territories where it was still in force. All the prisoners under trial by court-martial are to be delivered up to the civil authorities. Nevertheless, cases of resistance to the armed force and of offences against the Austrian military are still to be under the cognizance of the Austrian courts-martial.

The city of Genoa has just escaped a grave danger. The nine hundred prisoners of the bagné had planned an attempt at escape, but fortunately the plot was discovered in time. The city was plunged into great consternation by the bare announcement that the prisoners intended making the attempt.

Great excitement has been caused in the city of Naples in consequence of the robbery of the most celebrated diamonds of Sicily, those of the Duchess de Savigliano, daughter of General Filangieri. The robbers are said to have left nothing but the cases. The value is about 225,000 fr.

RUSSIA.

A company has been formed, and has received the Government concession, for a line of railway in Finland, which is to run from St. Petersburg to Tawastehus, and subsequently to Abo. Advices from Russia state positively that all the necessary preparations have been made by the Government for the commencement of the St. Petersburg-Warsaw line with its branch to the Prussian frontier. The works have indeed commenced at several points.

Several of the clergy started in the early part of May for Peking, to relieve their countrymen who have completed their ten years of service in watching over the Russian settlers and Russian churches in the Chinese capital. The Muscovites in China are said to suffer less from persecution than any other Christian sects; and this is attributed to their not endeavouring to make proselytes.

The two Americans, Messrs. Collins and Payton, who have lately passed up the Amoor, in order to open commercial relations with the adjacent regions, have had a very warm and flattering reception. At a banquet given in their honour, they alluded to the cordial friendship existing between their countrymen and Russia, and referred more especially to the conduct of the Americans during the late war.

As a reward for his fidelity to the throne, the Emperor has made M. Anthony Frenkel, a Jew banker residing at Warsaw, a Baron of the Empire.

PRUSSIA.

About forty families of the Neufchâtel royalists have emigrated from the Swiss canton to Prussia. They are watchwork-makers.

SWITZERLAND.

A terrible accident happened on Thursday week in the excavation of the railway tunnel, at Hauenstein. The tunnel suddenly fell in, and almost the whole of the labourers who were at that moment at work were either crushed to death or stifled. About fifty are believed to have perished.

GERMANY.

The common Diet of the duchies of Gotha and Coburg (says a letter in the *New Prussian Gazette*) has pronounced in favour of the complete union of the two duchies. The only modification introduced into the Government bill is the insertion of the two articles of the constitution which lay down that the Duke, or in default the regent, shall give written oaths of obedience to the constitution, before any other governmental act. After this vote the Diet was prorogued for an indefinite period by the Minister of State, M. von Seebach.

Luther's marriage-ring has just been found. It is of plain gold, with a cross in rubies, and bears inside the inscription "D. Martino Luthero—Catharina Bora." The authenticity of the ring, however, is questioned. A description of the real one was given in a work published in 1741, and in a catalogue in 1817.

Five respectable inhabitants of Mecklenburg-Schwerin—M.M. Turek and Wiggers, professors of the Rostock University; Schwartz and Bluhme, merchants; and a lawyer named Utterhard, of the same town, were recently condemned to five years' imprisonment for having concealed munitions of war. They had already been submitted to a preventive imprisonment of nearly six years. The Grand Duke has now ordered the release of these gentlemen without any petition for grace having been sent in on their part.

PORTUGAL.

The contract for the railway between Lisbon and Oporto lately entered into with Sir Morton Peto has been definitively approved by the Legislature, the

measure having passed the Chamber of Peers. An arrangement has also been made for a settlement of the claims of Messrs. Shaw and Waring in connexion with the works already constructed on the portion of the line between Lisbon and Santarem.

SPAIN.

Robberies of churches have been very frequent of late in Spain—a fact which would seem to indicate that Spaniards are not so entirely, or at any rate not so disinterestedly, devoted to the Church as they used to be.

Some youths of Granada have been concerned in a bread riot. The disturbance was soon suppressed by the troops; but the city was declared in a state of siege, and several persons were arrested, while others were expelled from the town.

BELGIUM.

The Grand Duke Constantine, on his journey home from France, has visited the King of Belgium at Brussels.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

CAPTURE OF A FORGER.

JOHN THANG HARRADINE, who has lately made himself notorious throughout Huntingdonshire, by committing several bill forgeries, has been examined on a charge of stealing a horse from the stables of a gentleman living at Bromham, in Bedfordshire, of whom he formerly rented a farm at Radwell. For some time past a large reward had been offered for the apprehension of Harradine on various charges of forgery, but without success, and it was generally supposed that he had left England. He had, however, after going through a series of strange adventures in different parts of the country, resided for several months in Bedfordshire, where the long beard which he wore, and other disguises, had prevented him from being recognised. After he had effected the robbery of the horse, he rode up to London, where he was seen by a policeman on the 22nd of last month, riding through Whetstone. A few days afterwards, an advertisement appeared, stating that a cob had been stolen at Bromham, the description of which exactly corresponded with the appearance of the horse on which Harradine had been seen riding at Whetstone. Having seen this advertisement, the policeman succeeded, after a time, in tracing the horse to Redan Cottages, Upper Holloway. He took it to Bedfordshire, where it was identified by the right owner. Harradine was apprehended in the neighbourhood of the Redan Cottages by another policeman, on the night of the day on which the horse was found. He was then taken to Bedford, and was recognised by the police superintendent there. He then made a statement, to the effect that he never meant to steal the horse, and that he came to Bedford for the sole purpose of giving himself up to justice. When before the magistrates, he repeated this statement, adding that he had for a long time intended to give himself up, as he was tired of his mode of life, and was very unhappy, his wife and family appearing to be more against him than anybody else. He was committed for trial.

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER IN SOUTHWARK.—James Buckley, the man charged last week at Lambeth (as related in this paper) with nearly murdering a servant girl, by striking her on the head with a hammer three times, was again examined on Tuesday. Mrs. Davis, the mistress, who had jumped out of window in her fright, appeared, and said she had known the man for many years, and had declined an offer of marriage from him. She had not given any orders to her servant to deny him admittance. The young woman stated that she gave no provocation; and Baker, in reply to the charge, said that he had been in the Crimean Land Transport Corps, had suffered greatly in health, and on the day before the attack had drunk some spirits, which appeared to make him mad. He expressed great sorrow, and begged for mercy. Mr. Norton sent him to the House of Correction for four months, with hard labour.

FALKIRK BANK EMBEZZLEMENT.—Henry Salmon, the defaulting bank agent, who recently absconded from Falkirk, committed suicide on Sunday forenoon, by hanging himself in the stable of the Harp Inn, Conway, North Wales. Mr. Salmon, as manager of the Falkirk branch of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, which situation he had filled for a long series of years, was a defaulter to the extent of about 26,000l. The discovery was made by a clerk from the head-office, when Salmon was absent at Stirling, and sitting on the bench as justice of the peace.

THE ATTEMPTED WIFE MURDER IN LITTLE RUSSELL-STREET.—James Geary, the young man who stands charged at Bow-street with having attempted to murder his wife by cutting her throat, in Little Russell-street, was brought up on Monday, and again formally remanded for a week. It was stated that the wife had progressed very favourably within the last few days, although unable to leave the hospital at present; and there is now every hope of her ultimate recovery.

A DRUNKEN CORRECTOR OF DRUNKENNESS.—John Symonds, a wood-sawyer, was charged at Clerkenwell on Monday, with a violent assault on a woman with whom he cohabited. He is a married man, and, until he was taken into custody, lived with his wife, who is

be incapable of working; but in the same habit with the woman whose face he had had to a shapeless mass by his brutal violence. Two children by each of these women. The expressed great horror at this state of things; and his paramour seemed to regard it as a matter of course. The man said he had beaten because she got drunk and spent his money; and that he himself was the worse for a time he thus virtuously corrected his partner. He was sent to prison for six months, about.

ROBBERY BY MORMONS.—A number of recently left Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, for a route for Utah. Among them was a man named Wright, who was one of the executive of an Odd Fellows' lodge held at the Angel Inn, of which were kept in a strong-box locked locks, each key being in the possession of a member, one of whom was Wright. Among and money was a cheque for 218*l.*, ready signed. This had been appropriated by several weeks previously. He has been arrested on of the money upon him, and is under re-
effield.

SMILEY HURST MURDER.—George Jackson, a man concerned in the murder of Mr. Charles-
mer, on the high road at night, has made a
in which he says that, being excessively in-
and not fully knowing what he was about, he
quarrel with Mr. Charlesworth, was struck
then knocked him down with a hedgestake;
immediately after, he felt very sorry for what he
had done; and that he has no clear idea
of the murder, except that he was led away by the
Brown confesses to the robbery, but denies
any hand in the death.

DEATHS OF THE RACES.—Several persons were
at the Southwark police-courts last Satur-
day with theft on the Epsom course during the
last week. They have been variously sen-
tenced. One named Travers, a man of colour,
was on the same day with backing up, on the
same men who were fighting while several
were pursuing their work, and with violently
a policeman who interfered. He was fined
5*s.* Another man was charged with throw-
ing at another officer who had been concerned in
the previous disturbance. The missile, how-
ever, did not hit its mark. The man was fined ten
a beer-shop keeper was brought up under a
charge of being over and injuring a child in Newing-
ton, when returning intoxicated from Epsom.
He was fined 5*s.* and, on being again placed at the
bar, charged, the parents not appearing against

TO BLOW UP A MANUFACTORY.—An at-
tempt was made to blow up the sickle manufactory
of Messrs. Booth and Son, at Conisbrough. A quantity
of gunpowder was placed in the drum of a machine in
the building, and a long fuse passed through
the premises, and under the door. Here the
fuse was cut; but, beyond a slight injury to the drum
and building, no harm was done. About a year and
a half an attempt was made to blow up Mr. Booth's
factory, and on that occasion the building was
blown up.

ROBBERIES.—A sudden attack was made
yesterday evening, in Ratcliffe-highway, opposite
to a Mr. Delay, a bootmaker. William
a young man well known to the police, ac-
cidentally afterwards struck him a blow,
and was staggering, snatched his watch from
his pocket, and fled. He was subsequently
arrested by a policeman, having previously passed the
girl, who gave it up, and, on Shannon being
sent to the Thames magistrate, appeared against
him as committed for trial.—An elderly woman,
Stepney-causeway, Commercial-road, was
at the railway station, Stepney, on Tuesday
by a ruffianly fellow, named Bennett, who
made a snatch at a purse she held in her
hand, containing five or six shillings. He dragged her
one way by the purse, and then gave her a
blow on the head, which caused her to stagger.
He secured his booty, and made off. A
few days afterwards, the old woman again met him,
and he seized her, but he struck her a blow on
the head, and made her insensible. A servant girl then
came, but he knocked her down, and she was
left. A young man then took up the chase,
and a policeman, ultimately secured him, after a
struggle. He is an old offender, and the Thames magis-
trate committed him for trial.

—The dwelling-house of Miss Crow,
Walworth-road, was broken open a few
days ago, and several shawls and other valuable
articles stolen from the shop. The thief or thieves
gained an entrance by removing a por-
tion of the wall over the shop, and then descending
the goods had probably been removed the
day before. A man, named Cornelius Haggerty, was
seen at the scene while carrying, early on the morning
of the 1st inst., a bundle containing some of the

stolen property; and he is now under remand at
Lambeth.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.—A youth of twenty-one,
named George Parker, has been examined before the
Rochester magistrates, charged with attempting to
murder a young woman living at Northfleet, named
Mary Ann Taylor. The girl had been courted for about
nine months by Parker, who was a hawker, and who
likewise kept a refreshment stall at the Rosherville
Gardens, Gravesend, where the girl assisted. A dif-
ference having arisen between them, the girl determined
to quit Parker altogether, and she therefore went one
night to Rosherville for the purpose of bringing away
some articles of clothing which she had left there.
Meeting the man at his stall, she told him of her in-
tention of leaving him after the treatment she had ex-
perienced at his hands a day or two previously, when
he had struck her. As she was proceeding up-stairs to
get the things she wanted, Parker, who had followed
her all the way, suddenly drew a pistol from his pocket
and snapped it, saying, "You shall have the contents of
this." Being frightened, the girl ran out into the street,
but was pursued by the man, who came close behind her
and stabbed her in the right side with a large clasp-
knife. The affair having been witnessed by several
people, Parker was at once captured, while the young
woman was taken home in a cab. From the statement
of the latter to the magistrates, it appeared that the
man had been courting her for some time past, and had
partly furnished a house with the view of marrying her.
The young man merely stated in his defence that he had
seen the girl walking with another man, and that, when
he reproached her for so doing, she replied that she
would walk with whom she pleased. Parker was com-
mitted for trial.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT MID-DAY.—A garotte rob-
bery of a most daring character has lately taken place
in one of the most populous suburbs of London, at a
time and under circumstances which throw a doubt on
the efficiency of the police. Between two and three
o'clock one afternoon, about a week ago, as an elderly
widow lady named Weston was walking through one of
the main thoroughfares at Hoxton, she was stopped
close to the police station by two very genteelly dressed
persons, a man and a woman, the latter of whom in-
quired the way to Islington. Mrs. Weston gave her the
necessary information, which she afterwards repeated at
the request of the woman, who did not seem to under-
stand the direction. While she was explaining the way
to her the second time, Mrs. Weston felt a pressure
against her side, and afterwards discovered that her
watch had been detached from the guard and stolen
from beneath her shawl. She instantly seized the man,
but, after a brief struggle, he succeeded in disengaging
himself from her and escaped down one of the neigh-
bouring streets. The woman also ran away, but was
pursued by the bystanders, who, after a smart chase,
tracked her to a respectable house, into which she had
fled for refuge, and where the landlady admitted her on
the plea that she had come to seek shelter from the
violence of her husband outside, who had threatened to
take her life. A detective police officer afterwards went
to the house and took the woman into custody, when
she indignantly denied all knowledge of the robbery.
She was brought before the worship-street magistrate
the following day, and remanded.

EXECUTION OF GEORGE BAVE.—This criminal, who,
while serving as a sailor in the Slaney gunboat, mur-
dered a marine on board that vessel, out of a feeling of
revenge, was hung at Maidstone on Thursday. On Wed-
nesday evening he was seen for the last time by two
sisters, who were painfully affected. The culprit viewed
his approaching end with great composure, and died very
calmly. He attributed his crime to a fit of intoxication
aggravating a sense of injury. He had always borne
the character of a first-rate seaman.

ASSAULT IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—Mr. James
Algernon Stuart Austen, a middle-aged man, of Headley,
Surrey, stated to be a merchant in the City, son of a
baronet, and brother to a county magistrate, was ex-
amined before a bench of justices at Reigate on Tuesday,
on a charge of committing an indecent assault upon
Miss Emily Burley, lady's-maid to the wife of the Rev.
Lord Charles Hervey, in a railway carriage during its
passage through a tunnel, in the course of last month.
He was sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment.

CONVICTION OF A TRADESMAN FOR FELONY.—At a
Petty Sessions held at Lawford's Gatehouse of Correc-
tion, Bristol, on Thursday, Mr. John Browning, a
respectable tradesman, who has carried on business in
that city as a painter and plasterer for the last thirty
years, was charged with stealing nine pounds and a half
of lead from the roof of a house occupied by a Mrs.
Clarke at Shirehampton. He was repairing the roofs
of some neighbouring houses, and, wanting some lead,
he helped himself in the way indicated. He urged
that he was under the impression that the house from
which he took the lead belonged to the same landlord
as those he was repairing. He was sent to prison for
three months.

ILL-USAGE OF WOMEN.—Joseph Williams, a soldier
belonging to the 14th Light Dragoons, stationed at
Maidstone, has been sentenced by the Thames magis-
trate to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour,

for an aggravated assault on a young woman.—Henry
Ward Bishop, a bricklayer, has been committed for trial
from the Clerkenwell police-court on a charge of wound-
ing his wife.

MANSLAUGHTER.—The inquest on the body of Thomas
Hudson, who died from wounds received in a scuffle with
Mr. Kendall, in Agar-street, in the Strand, was resumed
on Thursday. Several witnesses said they saw Hudson
and Kendall fighting, and that they fell together, the
latter being uppermost. The jury returned a verdict that
the deceased was killed by Richard Kendall, who was
then taken into custody. He had appeared at the inquest
on his own recognizance to attend.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

A CASE was stated last Saturday for the opinion of the
Court of Queen's Bench, which raised the question
whether 'pregnancy' is 'sickness' within the meaning of
the 9th and 10th of Victoria, cap. 66, which enacts that
no warrant shall be granted for the removal of any
person becoming chargeable in respect of relief made
necessary by sickness or accident, unless the justices
granting the warrant shall state in such warrant that
they are satisfied that the sickness or accident will pro-
duce permanent disability. The pauper, a young woman
aged eighteen, was in service, and was discharged on its
being discovered that she was pregnant. Being unable
to take a situation, she was admitted into the Hudders-
field Union workhouse on the 21st of April, and was re-
lieved as an able-bodied pauper. On the 10th of May,
an order was made for her removal, but, on appeal to the
sessions, the sessions held that pregnancy is sickness,
and quashed the order, subject to the opinion of the
Court of Queen's Bench on the question whether the
pauper, being pregnant, though an able-bodied woman,
was liable to be removed. She was not delivered till the
27th of July. Lord Campbell and the other Judges de-
cided that pregnancy is *not* sickness; that the woman
was able-bodied and capable of working; and that she
might have been removed.

In the Court for the Consideration of Crown Cases
Reserved, last Saturday, Lord Campbell delivered judg-
ment in the case of one Lister and another, who were
the owners of a warehouse in the City containing a
large quantity of wood naphtha. The question was,
whether this was to be considered so dangerous a
nuisance as to warrant its suppression. The defendants
had been found guilty, by one of the lower courts, of a
misdemeanour in keeping the naphtha where it was; but
an appeal was made to the present court, where the case
was argued before the five Judges. Those Judges not
being able to agree, they ordered it to be argued before
the fifteen Judges, and last term the matter was brought
before twelve of the fifteen Judges, when time was taken
for consideration. The judgment delivered last Saturday
was to the effect that the conviction must be affirmed,
naphtha being so inflammable that it is almost impossible
to put it out. From this ruling, however, Baron Bram-
well dissented. He thought there ought not to be any
judgment, but that another indictment should be pre-
ferred.

Baron Bramwell also expressed some dissent in an-
other case argued before the same court. The prisoner
had been indicted for having professed to act as an
officer of the County Court, and for endeavouring to ob-
tain 1*s.* 3*d.* for court fees. He had sent a letter to one
Roberts, his debtor, purporting to be a summons, and to
be signed by the clerk of the County Court; and, when
receiving the amount of the debt, he endeavoured to ob-
tain 1*s.* 3*d.* for the County Court fees. Lord Campbell
and Justices Erle, Williams, and Crowder, agreed in
confirming the conviction. Baron Bramwell said he
had no doubt he was wrong, but he could not read
the words of the statute as the other members of the
court did. He thought it unadvisable to create offences.
He had believed, but now he did not believe, that the
act was intended to affect those who forged documents
as of the County Court. The offence was the false colour
or pretence. If the money had been obtained, it would
have been a false pretence.

A difference of opinion among the judges of the Court
of Exchequer in a case argued before them on Tuesday,
showed strongly the lamentable vagueness of the law.
The prisoner concerned in the case, one Baker, was
brought up in custody of the gaoler of Stafford, to whom
the writ of *habeas corpus* was directed. Baker, who was
a man in humble life, had contracted to serve a certain
gentleman for a year. He absented himself without
leave, after some quarrel about wages; whereupon he was
summoned before a justice of the peace, convicted, and
sent to prison for a month. At the expiration of the
term of imprisonment so inflicted, Baker hired himself
to another master, and on being applied to, refused to
return to his former service. His first master then took
out another summons against him for absenting himself,
and the prisoner was again convicted and sentenced to a
second month's imprisonment. On these grounds, it
was insisted that the justice had no jurisdiction to con-
vict the prisoner on the second summons, as the statute
of the 4th George IV., cap. 34, sec. 3, under which the
conviction must have proceeded, though it did not so
allege, did not contemplate more than one offence and

one punishment, which might extend as far as three months, for a servant absenting himself from a service into which he had once entered. The judges, after consultation in their private room, found they could not agree in their interpretation of the law. Mr. Baron Watson said that, in his opinion, the contract remained if the justice did not dissolve it, and the refusal to return after the first conviction and imprisonment was a fresh absenting, for which the servant could be punished. Mr. Baron Bramwell, Mr. Baron Martin, and the Chief Baron, thought differently; and Baker was accordingly set at liberty.

Two cases of great interest to shareholders in the Royal British Bank were brought forward for judgment before Vice-Chancellor Kindersley last Saturday. The first case to be decided was, whether the executors of the late Charles Walton were liable to be placed upon the list of contributories of the company. Mr. Walton died on the 16th of April, 1856, possessing certain shares in the Royal British Bank, which shares, on the 19th of August, 1856, the executors instructed a broker to sell. On the 21st of August, the shares were sold on the Stock Exchange. A few days afterwards, a clerk of the broker acting for Walton's executors, went to the office of the Royal British Bank, and desired that instructions might be given for the preparation of the deed of transfer. The clerk handed him two blank printed forms of transfer, which were to be filled up and signed by the parties transferring the shares. This was done—the transfer deeds, when so filled up, bearing date 30th of August, 1856; and they were subsequently handed to the brokers for the purchasers. On the 3rd of September, the bank stopped payment, and on the 15th of September an application was made to its officers to register the transfer from Walton's executors; but, as business was at an end, that could not be done. Under these circumstances, it was contended by the official manager that the transfers were not made according to the rules legally imposed upon the bank, and that, therefore, Mr. Walton's executors still remained primarily liable to be placed on the list of contributories. The facts in the other case (that of a Mrs. Hue) were substantially the same as the foregoing. The Vice-Chancellor ruled that Mrs. Hue and the executors of Mr. Walton are still liable to be placed in the list of contributories. As the point involved was one of some difficulty, he directed the costs of the official manager to come out of the estate, and that the other side in each case should pay its own costs.

Another British Bank case has been argued before the Court of Chancery, composed of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord's Justices of Appeal, sitting in bankruptcy. John Peter M'Morland Greig, cabinetmaker, of Bartlett's-buildings, Holborn, was at the time of his bankruptcy a holder of sixteen shares in the Royal British Bank. A proof was tendered against his estate by Mr. Harding, the official manager of the bank, for a sum of 1200*l.*, being the amount of the call of 75*l.* per share made on the 10th of last January on the shares held by the bankrupt, who had been placed on the list of contributories. The Commissioner, on the 2nd of May, rejected the proof on the ground that the bankrupt had never been legally put upon the list of contributories. It appeared that the list, in the first instance, had been made out by Mr. Pugh, the chief-clerk of Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, but afterwards signed by the Vice-Chancellor; and the Commissioner was of opinion that, under these circumstances, the list must be taken to have been settled by the chief-clerk, a ministerial act he was not competent to do under the statute appointing him (the 15th and 16th of Victoria, cap. 80). From this decision the official manager appealed. Their Lordships now decided that the proof must be admitted; the costs of all parties to come out of the bankrupt's estate.

Mr. Serjeant Byles and Mr. Skinner, in the Court of Queen's Bench, on Monday, showed cause why a mandamus should not issue commanding the Justices of Gloucestershire to order payment of certain fees to Mr. Gaisford, one of the coroners of the county. That official had held certain inquests which the justices regarded as unnecessary, and they therefore refused him his fees; but, as he had travelled a considerable distance to attend each inquiry, he was allowed his mileage and other disbursements. The court upheld the decision of the justices, Lord Campbell observing that Parliament had made them the judges of whether a coroner is to be paid his fees or not.

A criminal information has been granted by the Court of Queen's Bench against Sir Edward Conroy, Bart., one of the magistrates at the petty sessions at Wokingham, for using insulting language towards Mr. Barker, one of his brother magistrates in open court. The two had had some previous disagreement, and Sir Edward alleges that on a previous day he had himself been insulted in court by Mr. Barker. He (Sir Edward) now put in an affidavit, expressing regret for the words he had used; but it appeared that, previous to the scene in court, he had written an insulting letter to Mr. Barker, indirectly inciting him to a challenge.

Thomas Brooks, until recently a clerk in the employ of Messrs. Barton and Abbott, news agents of Upper Wellington-street, is under remand at Bow-street, charged with forging the name of Mr. Barton to several cheques, which he afterwards uttered to various trades-

men, obtaining in lieu of them goods and change in cash. After being discharged from Mr. Barton's, he had got one of his employer's cheque-books from the bank, and was thus enabled to pursue his design.

The case of — Ryder was brought before Mr. Commissioner Holroyd in the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday. It had been before the court since April, 1856. The main charges against the bankrupt were: reckless trading; the having improperly contracted a debt with the trade assignee, Mr. Warner; and speculations on the Stock Exchange, causing a loss of more than 20*l.* in one day. The Commissioner, in an elaborately written judgment, stated that he considered the charges had been proved; that the bankrupt, though he was not amenable to the first, had brought himself within the second branch of the penal section in the Bankruptcy Law Consolidation Act. He (Mr. Holroyd) was of opinion that the words of the section ought to be strictly construed, and that it would be mischievous and dangerous in the highest degree to restrict the meaning of the words 'gaming or wagering.' For these reasons he must refuse the certificate altogether; but he would stay certificate of execution for twenty-one days, so as to give the bankrupt an opportunity of appealing against his decision.

The idiotic and mischievous practice of scratching names upon the stone or woodwork of public buildings has got a young mason from the north of England into a scrape. He went to the British Museum on Tuesday, and there scratched a name upon the French-polished balustrade of the grand staircase. The name would seem to have been that of his sweetheart, and underneath were his own initials. He was brought to the Bow-street police-office, and fined one sovereign, or, in default, a week's imprisonment.

M. Theodore Dupuis, the French master of Queen Elizabeth's Free Grammar School, in the parish of St. Olave's, Southwark, has been summoned before the Southwark magistrate, and committed for trial, on a charge of cruelly beating one of the scholars, a lad twelve years old. The defence was that the boy had been impudent; and the head master, the Rev. Mr. Hayman, said that the mother ought to have applied to the authorities of the school, so that an investigation might have been had, instead of taking proceedings before a magistrate—a course which was likely to injure the school. Mr. Combe, the magistrate, said he could not agree with that remark. Bail was accepted for M. Dupuis.

Campbell's Divorce Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords on Thursday.

A bill case—Pace and Another v. Dear—was heard before the Court of Exchequer on Thursday. The plaintiff is an India merchant, carrying on business in Austinfriars, and the defendant is a furniture-dealer. The action was brought to recover the sum of 48*l.* odd, the difference between a bill of exchange for 251*l.* odd (which was discounted by the defendant for the plaintiff, and dishonoured), and another for 300*l.* The defendant's account of what had taken place was, that he had agreed to take the risk of the payment of the 300*l.* bill, and was to receive the difference between that and the dishonoured 251*l.* bill as a bonus for so doing. He also said that bills of Sadleir and George Hudson had been brought to him by the plaintiff for discount, and that he had refused to meddle with them. The statements of the plaintiff were entirely different, and he denied the assertion with respect to the bills of Sadleir and Hudson. Mr. Baron Channell, in summing up, said the jury must say whether they believed the account of the transaction given by the plaintiff, or that given by the defendant. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for 35*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, the amount of his claim, deducting interest for the bill.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

A WORTHY SOLDIER.—The whole of the officers and men of the Royal Marines at present stationed at headquarters at Chatham were a few days ago assembled on their parade-ground for the purpose of witnessing the presentation of a silver medal, together with a gratuity of 15*l.*, which had been awarded by the Lords of the Admiralty to Colour-Sergeant B. Matthews, of the Chatham division, for long service and meritorious conduct.

AN UNWORTHY SOLDIER.—Gunner John Cook, of the Horse Artillery at Woolwich, received fifty lashes on Monday morning as a punishment for stealing a pocket-handkerchief. Surely, the penalty was disproportioned to the offence.

OUR NORTHERN COASTS.—The seamen of the Tyne and Wear are signing a petition to Parliament wherein they state various facts with regard to the loss of life and property in the North Sea. They assert that—“Disasters at sea and loss of life and property are on the increase, more particularly along the coasts of Yorkshire, Durham, and Northumberland. . . . Your petitioners would direct the attention of your honourable House to what, in their judgment, gained from daily experience, are the causes to be reasonably assigned for this decrease of security of life and property at sea:—First, incompetent crews; second, vessels sailing undermanned; third, the increase of mixed crews speaking different languages; fourth, the increase of steamers,

and the collisions by steamers, frequently from no lookout being kept, or landsmen being at the helm; fifth, crews of ordinary seamen or landsmen navigating ships and being ignorant of the marks of the lead; sixth, sending vessels to sea in an unseaworthy state, either from defective hulls, leakage, bad ground tackle, or old and useless sails, worn-out rigging, or rotten spars. But, coming more directly to the losses on the north-east coast of England, your petitioners are fully persuaded that many lives might be saved by the erection of a harbour of refuge. . . . Your petitioners would further direct your attention to the bleak and dangerous nature of the coast between the river Humber and the Frith of Forth. . . . Out of the sum of 3,388,001*l.*, voted by Parliament for the construction of havens of refuge, not one penny has been laid out in providing a shelter for the shipping trading along the north-east coast, though its trading vessels outnumber those from the more southern ports as three to one. . . . Your petitioners, in connexion with the discussion of loss at sea of life and property, would direct the notice of your hon. House to the many crews that have been imprisoned for refusing to sail in unseaworthy ships; and for redress in such cases your petitioners have no remedy at law.”

THE ROYAL THAMES YACHT CLUB.—The annual race for two prizes given by the Royal Thames Yacht Club took place on Tuesday. The contest began at Erith, and extended to the Nore, which was the turning point. The vessels were divided into two classes. The first class, exceeding 35 tons, was composed of the Extravaganza, 49 tons, belonging to the port of Poole, and the property of Sir Percy F. Shelley, Bart.; the Cyclone, 43 tons, Bristol, the property of W. J. Patterson, Esq.; and the Mosquito, 59 tons, London, the property of Thomas Groves, Esq. The second class, between 20 and 35 tons, comprised the Silver Star, 25 tons, Colchester, the property of John Mann, Esq.; the Phantom, 27 tons, London, belonging to Samuel Lane, Esq.; the Thought, 29 tons, London, the property of F. O. Marshall, Esq.; the Emmet, 32 tons, Poole, E. Gibson, Esq.; and the Gance, 35 tons, Southampton, belonging to E. J. Bankes, Esq. After an exciting contest, the yachts came up in the following order, as stated in the daily papers:—“At thirty-three minutes past two, the Mosquito ran round the red-painted tub of a vessel, with a bulbous lantern at its masthead, which squats eternally at anchor under the name of the Nore light-ship. The Extravaganza got round forty-five seconds later, and the Emmet fifty seconds after the Extravaganza; then, but at a great distance behind, came the Thought, which passed the Nore precisely at thirty-nine and a half minutes past two, followed by the Cyclone, the Gance, and the Phantom; these lighter boats turned round with remarkable closeness and precision. The return up the river was, however, scarcely so exciting as the former part of the race had been. The Emmet gradually lost her place, and the Thought came up with very dexterous tacking. The Mosquito, which still asserted her superior power, arrived finally at the blue flag upon the buoy opposite Erith, the goal of the race, exactly at six o'clock. The Extravaganza arrived nine minutes and twenty seconds after six, and the Thought came up at eighteen minutes after six; but allowing ten minutes for the twenty tons difference in tonnage between her and the Extravaganza, the second prize was won by the Thought. The Emmet came in about five minutes later, and the Phantom, Gance, and Cyclone as soon as they could.”

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Grand Duke Constantine has paid a very brief visit to the Queen at Osborne. He arrived at Cherbourg on the morning of Friday week; and here he bade adieu to France. He was very well received, and in the evening he dined with the Prefect and with Captain Seymour, of the Admiralty yacht Osborne, which was lying in the port, ready to convey his Imperial Highness to the Isle of Wight. Soon after ten o'clock at night, the Grand Duke embarked on board the Osborne, which was brilliantly lighted, and a discharge of rockets was fired from the Reine Hortense. He slept on board that night, and the next morning (Saturday) the yacht started. After breakfast, the Grand Duke was introduced, at his own request, to the officers of the Osborne. One of them, the master of the yacht, Mr. G. H. K. Bower, was master of the Agamemnon under Admiral Lyons when she 'went in' at Sebastopol during the bombardment. The Grand Duke asked this officer if he did not find himself in 'a very hot berth.' The vessel arrived off Hurst Castle at half-past twelve o'clock, and was saluted by the garrison with the usual twenty-one guns. A look-out man was stationed at Hurst Castle, by whom the approach of the yacht was signalled to Osborne, and her Majesty was thus informed of the arrival of her visitor almost as soon as the Osborne came in sight. Near Cowes was lying the United States paddle-wheel frigate Susquehanna, recently arrived in order to assist in laying down the Atlantic submarine telegraph cable. This was the first vessel to salute the Grand Duke on his arrival in England. She ran up the Russian flag at the main, and

the band on deck played the Russian National Anthem. The Royal Yacht Squadron battery at Cowes also saluted as the Osborne passed, and, soon after, her Majesty's ship Eurydice, which was at anchor near Osborne, paid the same compliment. The yacht arrived off Osborne at five-and-twenty minutes past one, P.M. Captain the Hon. Joseph Denman put off in the Queen's barge, and landed his Highness on the beach, where a guard of honour of the 93rd Highlanders, under Captain Middleton, was drawn up. Carriages were ready on the beach to convey the party to Osborne House. The Queen, the Princesses, the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Earl of Clarendon, were waiting at the hall door to receive the visitor. Lord Palmerston was present at dinner. On Sunday, the royal yacht Victoria and Albert, with the Queen and Prince Albert and their visitor on board, together with the Duke of Cambridge, took a trip out to sea, passing and repassing Spithead. A stiff breeze prevented a sail round the Isle of Wight, and the yacht therefore returned to Osborne. In the evening, the Grand Duke and suite re-embarked, and slept on board. They departed on the following morning.—On Thursday, the Court returned to London.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE AT BIRMINGHAM.—The new park on the south side of Birmingham was inaugurated on Monday by the Duke of Cambridge. The ground has been munificently presented by Lord Calthorpe, from whom the park will be named. Monday was observed as a general holiday, and the town was decorated with streamers and various devices expressive of the good feeling of the people towards his Royal Highness. The Duke arrived about noon, and was received by the Mayor, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Calthorpe, Sir Harry Smith, the Bishop of Worcester, &c. He was escorted to the Town Hall, and was cordially greeted by the crowds which lined the way. On arriving at the building, the party lunched, and an address was presented to the Duke, to which he replied in the usual terms. Some other addresses—including one from the council of the Midland Institute, and another from the military arms trade of Birmingham—were then presented; the National Anthem was sung; and the Duke, together with the other noblemen and gentlemen, started for the park. The route was two miles in length; and the greatest enthusiasm was manifested all the way. Between sixty and seventy thousand persons had gathered in the grounds, where a salute was fired by a company of artillery as the Duke entered. The difficulty of finding a tangible ceremony by which to mark the inauguration was got over by his Royal Highness, Lord Calthorpe, and the Mayor, each planting a small tree. The Duke then announced that the park was opened for the use of the populace. His Royal Highness proceeded direct to Wydrington, the residence of the Mayor. In the evening, the Duke was entertained by the Mayor at a magnificent banquet at Dee's Hotel, where two hundred and twenty guests sat down to dinner. The Mayor also gave a free concert in the evening at the Town Hall, and a free ball took place at the Music Hall. The entire expenses of all these entertainments were defrayed by the Mayor himself.

INTERFERENCE OF PEERS AT ELECTIONS.—An important petition is to be presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Roebuck from certain electors of West Norfolk, praying for an inquiry into an alleged interference in the late election for the division by the Earl of Leicester, Lord-Lieutenant of the county, Lord Hastings, Lord Sondes, and Lord Walsingham.

THE PRESIDENCY OF MADRAS.—Papers relating to the revised survey and assessment of the Madras Presidency and on the Godavery and Kistna Annicuts were published last Saturday, on the motion of Mr. Seymour, M.P. The court of directors consider that the urgent necessity for a survey, with a view to the reassessment of the land revenue in the greater portion of the districts under the Madras Presidency, is established beyond all doubt; and they proceed to review the proposals of Lord Harris and to state their approval or disapproval hereof. In conclusion, they express their entire satisfaction with the liberal and enlightened spirit in which this important subject has been discussed, and with the able and lucid manner in which the conclusions and recommendations of Lord Harris have been placed before them. The second letter of the directors refers to the Kistna and Godavery Annicuts.—*Times*.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION.—The commissioners appointed to inquire into the operation of the Superannuation Act, and to consider the complaints of the civil servants of the Crown, have presented their report to the Treasury, and it was issued last Saturday in a blue-book for presentation to Parliament. They have come to these conclusions:—"That retiring allowances should be continued upon the same principle as heretofore. That the salaries of the civil servants should be really what they nominally purport to be, without abatement from that amount. That the deductions established by the Act of 1854 should therefore cease in all cases to which they have been applied, and that those salaries which have been subjected to deductions should be raised to their nominal amount. That the age at which retiring allowances may be granted shall commence at sixty instead of sixty-five, and that retirement from the service shall be compulsory at the latter age."

Mr. GEORGE HUDSON, M.P.—A requisition, signed

by upwards of one hundred tradesmen and others at Whitby, Yorkshire, was forwarded last week to Mr. George Hudson, M.P., inviting him to a dinner at the Royal Hotel at that town, "in consideration of the great services he had rendered to the town and trade of Whitby." Mr. Hudson replied, expressing his regret that he felt compelled to deny himself the great pleasure of accepting the invitation.

THE DISCOVERER OF THE COLLODION PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS.—The Queen having been informed that Mr. Scott Archer, the discoverer of the application of collodion to photography (a process which has superseded all others) had died, leaving a young family unprovided for, has headed a subscription by a gift of twenty guineas. The Photographic Society of London have followed with a grant of 50*l.*, and a very handsome testimonial is expected to be raised. The committee-room is at 226, Regent-street, and Sir William Newton, R.A., has undertaken the office of treasurer.

FIRE AT THE ATLANTIC CABLE FACTORY.—The portion of the Atlantic submarine cable waiting for shipment at the works of Messrs. Glass, Elliott, and Co., at East Greenwich, where it was manufactured, narrowly escaped destruction last Saturday morning through the outbreak of a fire in one of the bending sheds connected with the factory. It was occasioned by a boy dropping a piece of lighted yarn into the shed where he had gone to look after some lost article. The cable, which was in the docks, was not touched, though for some time it was in danger.

THE WEST INDIES.—Very little news is furnished by the last West India mails. The islands are generally healthy (though yellow fever has appeared at St. Thomas's) and the crops in excellent condition. Shocks of earthquake were felt on the 30th of April and the 10th of May at Grenada and Jamaica. Trade for the most part was active.

THE CRUMLIN VIADUCT was formally opened on Monday in the presence of several engineers and an immense assemblage of spectators from various parts of the country and from London, various special trains bringing a host of sight-seers. The viaduct, by far the largest in the world has been erected, (says the daily papers) for the purpose of extending the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford line to Taff Vale, thus opening means of communication between the rich mineral districts of Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire. Its height is 200 feet (that of the Monument in London, it will be remembered, is 204), and beneath runs the Western Valley line of the Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company. It is almost exclusively constructed of iron. The centre piers consist of an arrangement of 140 cast-iron columns, each 17 feet long and 12 inches in diameter, placed in tiers of fourteen columns each. The heads of the columns are retained in their positions by cast-iron girders, and the area of base is 60 feet by 30 feet, forming an irregular decagon, tapering upwards 24 feet by 16 feet, the whole being laterally and vertically strengthened by a complete system of cross-bracing. The first column was fixed in December, 1853, by Lady Isabella Fitzmaurice.

A CONSERVATIVE BANQUET.—The Duke of Cleveland presided at a Conservative dinner at Darlington on Monday, given by Mr. Farrer, the late member for South Durham. About four hundred and fifty electors were present. In the course of a speech which he delivered after dinner, the chairman said that having, during the forty-five years he had been a member of the Upper and Lower Houses, studied the parliamentary history of his country, he could state as the result of his experience, that, looking at counties (which even before the Reform Bill of 1832 were always large constituencies), it has almost invariably happened that, where different opinions have been nearly balanced, the constituents have acknowledged that one party should have one member and the other the other. If the minority, however, should be so small as only one-fifth, then I think the four-fifths have a right to return both members. The numbers, however, were very nearly balanced at the last election for this county, and I say that 2000 men are unrepresented at this moment. But one thing is quite certain—before another election we shall have a new Reform Bill. What I have not seen I can give no opinion about, but I shall be prepared in my place in Parliament, whenever that bill comes before us, to give it that serious attention which the subject will deserve, and to assist in making such corrections as the honourable members of the House of Commons now present will excuse me for saying are sometimes necessary in bills that come from that House. (*Hear, and laughter.*) He hoped that small constituencies, which are a disgrace to the country, will be done away with, and their members given to larger bodies of persons. He would enlarge the franchise in counties, giving it to persons having 50*l.* a year, no matter from what source, and to men of education. But he 'hoped to God' it would never be given to the renters of 10*l.* houses. "Rely upon my words, if that is once done, the landed interest in every county in England is extinguished for ever. Upon what principle, let me ask, is the journeyman mason or carpenter, who resides in one town in one county this year, and in another county next year—who has no permanent residence or stake in any county—upon what principle is he to claim a county vote?" His Grace then proceeded: "Lord John Russell, seeing the hardship of 8000 out of

6000 (for example) monopolizing the whole representation by split votes, indicated a way in which this could be obviated. The only way—and, though it was not his own proposition, he hoped it would be adopted—was to allow electors in counties returning three members to give only two votes. In Berks, Herts, and other counties, it had before now happened that, by coalescing, three agricultural candidates had kept out their opponent—call him Whig, Radical, or what you will." In some subsequent remarks, the Duke insisted that Conservatism is not dead, though old Toryism is; and Lord A. Vane Tempest and Mr. Mowbray, M.P., followed in the same strain, upbrading the Whigs for their lavish expenditure and their oligarchical rule.

THE LATE DOUBLE RETURN FOR HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—The petition presented by Mr. Edward Fellowes against the return of Mr. John Moyer Heathcote for Huntingdonshire, recites some singular facts. It alleges—1. That many persons voted in the election twice for Heathcote, and that both such votes were reckoned in casting up the poll. 2. That persons voted in the wrong booths. 3. That many votes recorded in favour of the petitioner were struck out by the returning officer or his deputy, and were omitted to be cast up with the petitioner's other votes. 4. That many voters were reckoned on the poll in favour of Mr. Heathcote who did not, in fact, vote for him, but who were personated and fraudulently represented by other persons; and that many persons who had no right to vote in the election personated other electors or deceased electors, such votes being reckoned in favour of Mr. Heathcote. 5. That the votes of many persons who were not upon (or who ought not to have been upon) the register of electors were reckoned in favour of Mr. Heathcote. 6. That many persons' votes were reckoned in favour of Mr. Heathcote, whereas they voted for the petitioner; and that others were reckoned as having voted for Mr. Rust and Mr. Heathcote, whereas, in fact, they voted for Mr. Rust and the petitioner. 7. That persons voted for Mr. Heathcote whose names were erroneously retained upon the register by the unintentional mistake of the revising barrister. 8. That many persons' votes were reckoned in favour of Mr. Heathcote whose names were upon the register, but who were disqualified by legal incapacity from voting at the election. 9. That many persons voted in favour of Mr. Heathcote in respect of property of which they were only mortgagees or trustees. 10. That many persons voted in favour of Mr. Heathcote in respect of qualifications not in the county of Huntingdon. 11. That several persons voted, and their votes were reckoned in favour of Mr. Heathcote, in respect of one and the same identical qualification. 12. That the petitioner had a majority of legal votes. A cross petition has been presented on behalf of Mr. Heathcote.

OPEN-AIR PREACHING has been commenced by the Rev. Francis Trench in the picturesque old village of Islip, near Oxford. A large assemblage now meets each Sunday evening under the 'Cross Tree.'

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK has just presented a contribution of 100*l.* to the Associate Institution for Improving and Enforcing the Laws for the Protection of Women.

THE POLICE IN LIVERPOOL.—The Liverpool Town Council has unanimously decided on an increase of the police force. Alderman Samuel Holme said it was proved by statistics that the immorality in Liverpool is greater in proportion to population than that of London.

FLOWER SHOWS.—The first flower and fruit show at the Crystal Palace this season took place last Saturday. The attendance was large and brilliant, and so were the flowers and fruit. Upwards of 900*l.* was distributed in prizes. Some 13,000 visitors were present; and over the glowing richness of the flowers and the ladies' dresses rolled the sonorous music of the bands of the Coldstream Guards and the Royal Artillery, and of the building itself, varied by a performance by Mr. Brownsmith on the organ now in course of erection in the transept for the coming Handel Festival. A display of the great fountains concluded the day.—The annual spring flower show of the Horticultural Society was held on Wednesday at Chiswick. Rank and fashion crowded the grounds, and formed, together with the bright and haunting buds round which they clustered like gigantic bees, a gorgeous picture. Unfortunately, the sky was clouded, and every now and then a little rain fell; but the show was very successful, and the gardens, with their masses of flowering trees, their soft turf, and the young summer green of their foliage, looked most beautiful. The bands of the Grenadier, Coldstream, and Life Guards were in attendance, and, towards the close of the day fraternized in one storm of harmony.

GUANO is thought to have been discovered on the southern coast of the island of Cuba.

A TRULY BEARISH CHILD.—Some huntsmen were following the chase, in the year 1661, in the forest of Lithunia, Poland, when they perceived a great many bears together, and in the midst of them two of small size, which exhibited some affinity to the human shape. The men followed closely, and at length captured one of these strange creatures, though it defended itself with its nails and teeth. It appeared to be about nine years old, and of course was taken before the king and queen, as a sight worthy of the royal gaze. The skin and hair were extremely white, the limbs well-proportioned and strong, the visage fair, and the eyes blue; but the

creature could not speak, and its inclinations, as we are informed by an old account, were altogether brutish. Yet this truly bearish child was christened by an archbishop in the name of Joseph Ursin; the Queen of Poland stood godmother, the French ambassador godfather, and attempts were made to tame him (for we may as well by this time adopt the masculine personal pronoun), and to teach him some principles of religion. These endeavours partially succeeded; for (if we may credit the account), at the sacred name he would learn to lift his hands and eyes to heaven. But he could not be taught to speak, though there was no apparent defect in his tongue. He was bestowed upon one of the lords about the court, who took him into his house as a servant. He could not be induced to throw aside his natural, or rather his acquired, fierceness; but he learnt to walk upright on his feet, and went wherever he was bidden. "He liked raw as well as boiled flesh," continues the account already alluded to; "could suffer no clothes on his back, nor ever wear shoes, nor anything upon his head. Sometimes he would steal to the woods, and there suck the sap of trees, when he had torn off the bark with his nails. It was observed that, he being in the wood one day when a bear had killed two men, that beast came to him, and, instead of doing him any harm, played and licked his face and body." It does not appear when or how this individual died, or what finally became of him.—*Household Words.*

MAJOR CALDER CAMPBELL.—Major Calder Campbell, an accomplished poet and essayist, for many years a frequent contributor to the chief magazines of London and Edinburgh, died on the 13th ult. at University-street, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. He was much respected as a kind friend and a true gentleman.

GAMBLING IN CHINA.—Strength rather than skill is displayed by the athletic, and they have few sports corresponding to the manly exercises of Europe. They hurl iron bars, and lift beams heavily weighted with stones, to prove their muscles. But such strenuous pastimes are not the most popular. Able-bodied gentlemen will spend half a day in kicking shuttlecocks with their heels, in flying kites, carrying birds on perches, rocking in boats, or simply sauntering hand-in-hand through their gardens. Gaming, however, is the "universal passion." A Chinese will stake his house, his family, his gown and petticoats, even his own personal freedom, everything except the graves of his fathers, on the hazard of the die. "Crabbed age and youth" are equally addicted to this vice. No place is sacred—no grade is free from it. The clergy gamble in the temple-porch; the soldiers gamble in their sentry-boxes; porters in the streets gamble for the chance of the next customer; and boys gamble for their cakes and toys with the shopman who vends them. Gaming-houses are, indeed, prohibited by the Government; but they afford the local authorities so fertile a source of revenue, that the prohibition is null, and justice is blind and enriched. These temples of fortune are often stained with violence and murder. Suicides are committed openly in them; and so cheap is life in this redundantly peopled empire, that nothing is more ordinary than for the corpse of a loser to lie unregarded amid an eager crowd of dicers and card-players. Even the ceremonies of this universally polite nation are laid aside in these receptacles of vice; and the gamesters of Nankin and Canton are as rude and reckless of good manners as if they carried bowie knives at their girdles, and did homage to Stars and Stripes instead of the Green Dragon.—*Westminster Review.*

CROMWELL'S BIRTHPLACE.—The house where Robert Cromwell dwelt, where his son Oliver and all his family were born, is still familiar to every inhabitant of Huntingdon; but it has been twice rebuilt since that date, and now bears no memorial whatever which even tradition can connect with him. It stands at the upper or northern extremity of the town, beyond the market-place, and on the left or river-ward side of the street. It is at present a solid yellow brick house, with a walled court-yard, occupied by some townsmen of the wealthier sort. The little brook of Hitchin, making its way to the Ouse which is not far off, still flows through the court-yard of the place,—offering a convenience for malting or brewing, among other things. Some vague but confident tradition as to brewing attaches itself to this locality; and traces of evidence, I understand, exist that before Robert Cromwell's time, it had been employed as a brewery: but of this or even of Robert Cromwell's own brewing, there is, at such a distance, in such an element of distracted calumny, exaggeration, and confusion, little or no certainty to be had.—*Carlyle's Cromwell's Letters.*

PECULATION DISCOVERED.—Soon after the commencement of the blockade of Kars it was ascertained, fortunately before it was too late to be irremediable, that the accounts of the provisions in store were totally false, and that fraud and peculation had been carried on to an enormous extent. The storekeeper, into whose charge the several magazines had been given, had either sold or otherwise made away with large quantities of flour and grain, thinking, no doubt, that he would only have to deal with those as corrupt as himself, and that he might thus escape detection; but a most searching examination was made, as far as possible, and the man's guilt was but too fully proved. It was quite out of the question attempting to measure all the flour when the storehouses

were tolerably full, but towards the end of the time it was found that large blocks of stone had been mixed with it in order to make it appear a greater quantity, and thus a double deceit had been practised. The culprit was confined in irons, but died before the surrender of the place.—*Lake's Defence of Kars.*

MR. HARDY'S BEER BILL.—A large public meeting of the beer-sellers of the metropolis was held on Tuesday afternoon at the London Tavern, for the purpose of taking measures to secure the rejection of Mr. Hardy's bill for the regulation of beer-houses, coffee-houses, and oyster shops.

RE-ELECTION OF THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL.—Mr. Keating, the new Solicitor-General, was on Tuesday re-elected for Reading without opposition.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN LONDON.—The returns from the metropolitan districts exhibit a further decrease in the weekly mortality. The deaths which in the two previous weeks were 1050 and 948, were in the week that ended last Saturday 915. Last week was so favourable to the health of London that the number of its inhabitants who died was less by 154 than that which would have been placed on the registers if the average rate of mortality had prevailed. During the last three weeks, the mean temperature of the air has been 58 degs., or nearly 14 degs. higher than it had been in the three weeks preceding. The deaths arising from diseases of the respiratory organs continue to decrease; the numbers returned in the last three weeks were 202, 167, and 139.—Last week, the births of 846 boys and 856 girls, in all 1702 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1436.—*From the Registrar General's Weekly Return.*

THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.—In a letter to Mr. S. R. Graves, the Chairman of the Liverpool Shipowners' Association, Captain M'Clintock thus maps out the course he intends to take in making the final search for Captain Franklin:—"I intend to sail about the end of June, from Aberdeen, and proceed to Barrow Strait,—ascertain that the provisions, stores, and boats left at Port Leopold and Beeching Island by the recent searching expeditions are in good order, in the event of my having to fall back upon them,—examine the state of the ice in Peel Strait, and, if practicable, proceed down it into the unknown area. Should I not succeed here, I intend to return to Port Leopold, and proceed down Prince Regent's Inlet to Bellot Strait, and there make another attempt to pass into and through the field of search to Victoria Land, where I shall winter, and in the ensuing spring, before the thaw sets in, complete the entire exploration and search by means of sledges drawn by men and by dogs. In endeavouring to reach Victoria Land, it is my intention to avoid, if possible, any risk of becoming involved in the ice; and, should I not succeed in reaching Victoria Land, I will return to Bellot Strait to pass the winter, as we know by experience that the retreat of the ship from there amounts almost to a certainty. From Victoria Land, the homeward voyage is equally certain, but by way of Behring Straits."

THE FALL OF HOUSES IN TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD.—The inquest by Mr. Brent respecting the six persons who lost their lives by the falling of houses in Tottenham-court-road was concluded on Thursday, after a further adjournment on Friday week. Fifteen of the sixteen jurors then agreed to the following verdict:—"That the deaths of Frederick Bury, Anne Driscoll, John Garnett, Richard Turner, James Revil, and Joseph Taylor, were caused by the falling of the houses Nos. 146, 147, and 148, Tottenham-court-road; that cutting the holes in the wall of 147 and 148 was the immediate cause of the accident, the party wall of 146 and 147 being very indifferent, requiring more than ordinary caution, which in this case was not observed; that the cutting away the party wall between 147 and 148 was done in an unskilful and improper manner; that the jury cannot separate without expressing their strong condemnation of the present conflicting state of the law as to the district and police surveyors, whose duties appear to be quite independent, and even antagonistic; and the jury sincerely hope that an immediate alteration will be made in the Building Act, as at present constituted." A considerable sum has already been received for the sufferers' widows and families.

RAILWAY SHAREHOLDERS.—A public meeting of railway shareholders was held on Wednesday at the London Tavern, for the purpose of taking into consideration a memorial to be presented to the Vice-President of the Board of Trade by numerous large proprietors. Mr. J. E. Vance having been called to the chair, explained the object for which the meeting had been convened, and said that the memorial had already been signed by persons representing not less than 4,000,000 of railway property, among whom were many directors. The memorialists sought to obtain redress of some of the most manifest grievances under which railway property laboured, and which was specifically detailed in language clear, precise, and temperate in the memorial. Those who had originated the memorial had been shareholders for a long period, and were proprietors of upwards of 200,000 of worth of railway property. Resolutions were passed in accordance with the objects of the meeting.

THE NEW BISHOP OF NORWICH.—The ceremony of confirming the election of the Hon. and Rev. John

Thomas Pelham, D.D., to the Bishopric of Norwich, took place on Thursday.—The memorial was presented to the Right Hon. Robert Lowe yesterday (Friday) by a deputation.

FIRE AT LIMEHOUSE.—About ten o'clock on Thursday night, a fire broke out in the extensive premises belonging to Messrs. Wilkes, wheelwrights, Love-lane, Limehouse, and extending into Glasshouse-fields. In spite of the exertions of the firemen, the flames were not subdued until the workshops and other adjoining premises belonging to Messrs. Wilkes were levelled with the ground. Some damage has been done to the property of Messrs. Ravenhill and Miller by hasty removal.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL HELP SOCIETY.—A meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, to establish and inaugurate this society. The Bishop of Oxford presided, and several distinguished gentlemen were present, including Mr. Gladstone, M.P., who was one of the speakers. The objects of the association may be gathered from the subjoined resolutions, which were unanimously carried:—"That in many parishes a population has grown up in hamlets and places remote from the parish church, and out of the reach of ministerial superintendence; and that a population so circumstanced is too commonly found to fall away into religious indifference and moral depravity. That the scanty endowments of many of our parochial churches are inadequate to meet this difficulty by the employment of an additional clergyman. That though, through the piety of liberal benefactors, much good has been effected by the erection of new churches and the formation of new parochial districts in this diocese, yet those districts, though often comprehending very large numbers of people, are scarcely ever sufficiently endowed to maintain one clergyman, much less to enable him to obtain the assistance of a curate where necessary. That it is highly desirable to provide for the supply of curates to assist the incumbents of parishes and districts where such aid is thus urgently required. That the pressing, though temporary, wants of our existing parochial system might be supplied, and the working power of the system might also be greatly increased, if duly qualified persons could be appointed to assist, under the sanction of the Bishop, such parochial clergymen as might desire their aid for special purposes or on special occasions."

FALL OF A CATHEDRAL.—The Roman Catholics have been building a new cathedral in Cecil-street, Plymouth. On Thursday afternoon, the roof of the nave and the wall and roof of the south arcade fell to the ground suddenly, several men working below having barely time to escape.

NAPOLÉON THE GREAT.—The founder of the French Empire was a Corsican mercenary, trained in the evil school, first of civil, then of foreign war. He had never seen—his colossal meanness was probably incapable of seeing—the beauty and grandeur of ordered freedom, or the moral privileges which belong only to the free. With a mind of surpassing genius for war and statecraft, he had a heart most full of all selfishness, fraud, and falsehood, most void of all noble thoughts, humanity, and God. Religion he had none, but that worship of his star which is the delirium of vanity in the heart of an atheist. He gloated with a pitiless heart over battlefields, writhing and putrescent with the victims of as vulgar a vanity as ever turned the brain of a Xerxes. He divorced the best of wives, the foundress of his fortunes, to marry a princess; and when his course of selfishness was run, and his last field of murder lost, he stood in shelter to see the Old Guard die. He was the greatest mountebank in history. Never for an hour did his soul rise above the most vulgar kingcraft: never did he show a spark of sympathy with that which is really great in men. At home, his dull, pedantic tyranny crushed thought and life, and turned a nation to a well-drilled camp; abroad, his brigand oppression made native tyrants dear to their people. His memory may be adored by a nation which deems the loss of its own honour and happiness compensated by the privilege of trampling on the honour and happiness of others. He may stand in the place of God in the title page and in the soul of M. Thiers, whose lying page will ever be its proper shrine. But are moral beings to bow to such an idol, or to accept at his hand the law of moral nature and the rule of government for the world?—*Fraser's Magazine.*

NEW ORLEANS.—New Orleans is, of all others, the city of the United States where "the bubbling passions of the country" most freely find a vent. It is conveniently situated, in a flibustering point of view, and a favourite point of concentration for the more reckless spirits of the South, who find in the mixed and somewhat rowdy crowd which throng its streets and bars a congenial atmosphere. It is not to be supposed, however, that this constitutes the society of New Orleans. While its fluctuating population is composed of such varied materials, its social attractions are as great, if not greater, than those of any other city in the Union. In its clubs the visitor will find a cordial and hearty welcome; at its opera he will be fascinated by an array of beauty more brilliant than can be found in any other house of the same limited dimensions, and he will only have himself to blame, if he is contented to confine his experiences to the range of his lognotto.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

LOUIS XIV.—From the troubles of the Fronde rose is Quatorze, triumphant, not over feudalism only, over parliaments and charters, and the evil and less spirit of Protestant reform. How splendid was dawn, with a nation full of life and hope, with all military administrative and literary genius of Jansenists, old Frondeurs! How tragic was evening, with a famished and decimated people, led with all the crimes, stripped of all the glory and of conquest, with courtier generals, weak and corrupt ministers, desperate finance, genius levelled and big faith exterminated by the jealous and persecuting entry of an omnipotent bigot; and France, the niece of Colbert, Turenne, and Pascal, already launched deemably on the dark and steep descent that led through the Regency and Louis Quinze to the Revolution! Spain, too, saw her intractable Cortes prostrated by Charles V., and stands a monument of that Imperial providence which could bring to atheism, villainess, famine, a religious and chivalric people, lord of the seas of two worlds. How strong and grand a thing is otism, if one evil despot, and he but half evil, can in single lifetime kill a nation!—*Fraser's Magazine.*

MAGNETISM IN ROME.—A Roman citizen, named Fabiani, has been committed to prison on a charge of being a magnetiser and a promoter of the diabolical art. Signor Fabiani had occupied himself with magnetism for his amusement, but he did not practise it as a profession. He invited his friends to witness experiments, but he did not receive money.

MURDER OF A POSTMAN.—A man named George Henders hanged himself at No. 16, Bridport-street, Covent-square, on Thursday morning. His wife discovered him suspended by a cord, which was attached to a hook of the cupboard door; she cut him down. He had many years employed in the General Post-office, and was in fear he should not receive a grant from the annuities fund. He had tied his hands together before committing the act.

THE LION IN TWO CHARACTERS.—Between the lion has once eaten a man—once tasted the glory and sensual delight of man-beef—and the lion remotely distant of the flavour, there lies a chasm. Only in geological text-books can the two animals be considered the same species. In profounder characteristics, in complexion of their souls, they differ as the Caucasians differ from the Hottentots. The lion who has once eaten a man, carries with him an unforgettable experience; he is supplied with the gods, and Homeric rhythms murmur in his ears. Visions of that ecstatic hour before him in his lair, accompany his moon-marches through the mountain gorge, thrill with retrospective flavours as he laps the limpid lake, and fill with a certain blissful torment his leisure moments. These visions, like the after-glow of sunset on the Alps, tinge his mental horizon, create a gustatory after-glow which warms his whole being. Haunted by such recollections, tormented by the fancies they develop, his nature undergoes mysterious flying influences; new and grander ferocities are kindled, which, in turn, develop fiercer daring, and render him ten times more formidable to man. Hitherto he has had something of the daring commensurate with his strength. He has always avoided personal combat with a spear, when honourably the challenge could be ignored. But now the case is very different; now, the taste of human blood thrills along every fibre; and a night reveals the proximity of his noble foe, then sees the tawny eye with sombre fire, the terrible talons up the earth, he dresses his mighty mane, and prepares for the fight in slow, solemn, concentrated wrath, fully foreseeing that two issues, and only two, remain for him—man-beef, or a tomb.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

SALE OF THE GARRICK THEATRE.—At the Auction, on Thursday, Mr. Robins offered to public auction leasehold property known as the Garrick Theatre, situated in Leaman-street, Goodman's-fields, with the ere, properties, and wardtobe. The property was about two years ago, and affords accommodation for about 1620 persons; held for an unexpected term of years, at a ground rent of 25*l.* per annum, and the rent is now at a rent of 520*l.* per annum. Knocked at a 2950*l.* The total cost of the property was said to have been 6000*l.*

Manuscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, June 6.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT. HOUSE OF LORDS.

In this House, a bill was brought in by the LORD CHANCELLOR on the subject of Roman Catholic Charities. The Princess Royal's Annuity Bill was brought up to the Commons and read a first time. A petition was presented by the Earl of ALBEMARLE, complaining of the working of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, which produced a short discussion. A Probate and Letters of Administration Bill was a third time and passed, after some discussion. The House adjourned at eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. KEATING, the new Solicitor-General; Mr. THOS. BARING, the new Lord of the Admiralty; and Sir EDWARD HAYES, took the oaths and their seats for Reading, Penryn, and Donegal respectively.

COWS IN HYDE PARK.

In answer to Mr. KER SEYMER, SIR BENJAMIN HALL said he was informed by the deputy ranger of Hyde Park that cows were permitted in the park by the ranger, and the number was limited according to the state of the herbage, payment being made by the owners. Last year 474*l.* 14*s.* was received and carried to the public accounts. The object was to increase the supply of fresh milk to the metropolis. The only person allowed to keep cows gratis in the park was the superintendent, who kept five, and had done so for the last twenty-nine years, but if it was thought objectionable he would relinquish the privilege without asking for compensation.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

In answer to Lord ROBERT CECIL, SIR GEORGE GREY said he hoped to introduce a bill on the subject of the Ecclesiastical Commission in the course of next week.

TROOPS AT THE CAPE.

In answer to Major WORTLEY, SIR JOHN RAMSDEN said it was not possible at present to withdraw any of the regiments stationed at the Cape of Good Hope, although the time of foreign service of several of them had expired.

EDUCATION.

On the motion for the adjournment of the House to Monday, SIR JOHN PAKINGTON urged on Lord Palmerston to give him a Government day to bring on his motion on the subject of Education.

BRAZIL.

Mr. ROEBUCK asked for the production of papers relating to the communication between this country and Brazil on the subject of the Slave Trade.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

Mr. ADDERLEY drew attention to the abuse which was made of the power of petitioning against the return of members to Parliament, which was often used for the purpose of what was called 'pairing petitions' of extorting money, or forcing on compromises with regard to seats, and in publishing libellous attacks on sitting members. He had himself been subjected to such annoyances several times, and he urged the Government to adopt measures to remedy the evil.—Mr. G. H. MOORE complained of advantage being taken of a petition against his return to publish the most scandalous personal attacks on him, which had been republished and commented on in the newspapers, and even used by Mr. Spooner as an argument against the priests of Ireland in his motion against Maynooth.—Mr. DUNCOMBE urged that the abuse of the power of petitioning against members' returns was well known at the beginning of the last Parliament, and no attempt had been made to remedy the evil, except by the passing of the Corrupt Practices at Elections Act, which had wholly failed in its object.—Mr. SPOONER said he only referred to a document in the hands of all members of the House, when he commented on the petition against Mr. G. H. Moore's return.

Lord PALMERSTON, in replying to all these questions, excused himself, in the present state of public business, from giving Sir John Pakington a Government day at present for his motion, but promised him one on a future occasion. All the papers relating to Brazil asked for by Mr. Roebuck were in a book in the library, and he would have the number of the volume and the page marked and sent to the honourable member. With regard to the abuse of election petitions, he thought it was undesirable to restrict the right of petitioning against members' returns; but he thought there were means in the power of members to prevent any abuse of that right; and the House would support them in any attempts they made to put a stop to such a system as that of presenting these petitions merely for the purpose of inducing compromises or extorting money.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that he did not suppose that the Corrupt Practices at Elections Act would put an end to bribery and corruption; but the operation of that act would be fully tested during the trial of the Election Petitions during the present session.

THE CASE OF MR. STONOR.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL called attention to the case of Mr. Stonor, whose appointment to a place in the colonies had been cancelled, and asked if he was always to be excluded from the public service.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said that he thought there was nothing in Mr. Stonor's conduct permanently to disqualify him from the public service in England, but he thought it would not be desirable to give him any appointment in the colonies.—Mr. HORSMAN and Mr. MALINS both urged that Mr. Stonor had done nothing sufficient to exclude him for ever from the public service.

THE SOUND DUES.

On the motion for going into committee to consider the redemption of these Dues, Mr. LIDDELL called attention to the Transit Dues levied on Danish railways,

which should be included in the convention entered into with Denmark for the redemption of the Sound Dues.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER then at length entered into the history of the opposition to the Sound dues, and the negotiation for their redemption, which ended in the convention by which Russia, Prussia, France, America, Belgium, and other states of Europe agreed to contribute a sum of money to redeem the Dues; the share of this country would be 1,125,000*l.*, which it was not proposed to borrow, but, owing to the state of the balances on the Exchequer, it was proposed to pay it from that resource.

A discussion followed, in which a number of members, principally those connected with trade and finance, took part—after which, a resolution granting the sum required was agreed to.

The House then went into committee on the Army Estimates, which principally occupied the remainder of the sitting.

THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

The *Siecle* (says the *London Globe*) publishes two rather curious letters exchanged between the Prefect of the Gironde and M. David, lately Deputy in the Legislative Body for the arrondissement of Libourne, in that department. The Prefect's letter, dated the 24th ult., stated that the Government is of opinion that it will be right to support the candidature of M. Armand, one of the most eminent men of the Gironde, and in the full force of his age; and it accordingly requests M. David to "give a new proof of his devotedness to the Emperor and the country by generously abstaining from presenting himself as a candidate, and thereby causing division in the great party of the Imperial cause, which he has always firmly supported." M. David, in his reply, dated the 26th, declares that, "far from giving up his candidature, he will persist in it more firmly than ever;" and that he "owes such a line of conduct to himself, and still more to his arrondissement, which revolts against the Prefect's pretensions of imposing on it a candidate who does not possess its sympathies." He adds that he shall publish some letters relative to the affair, and among them one from the sub-prefect of Libourne, which states that, though he would communicate to him the lists of the electors, he would not allow him to take a copy of them, a declaration which, says M. David, amounts to a restriction on universal suffrage, in opposition to the "just and liberal ideas of the Emperor."

The official notice given to the press of certain departments to abstain from discussing the electoral question has, according to the *Phare de la Loire*, been withdrawn. That journal says:—"The *Presse* will no longer doubt the correctness of our assertions in reference to the notice addressed to the provincial press. This notice, as we had been led to expect by the circular of the Minister of the Interior, has now been officially withdrawn."

BELGIUM.

A Brussels letter in the *Paris Presse* says that at a Cabinet Council on Thursday it was resolved to withdraw the obnoxious Bill on Charities, and that two or three ministers tendered their resignations, which the King refused to accept. The Chambers will be convoked again in a few weeks, but only to vote urgent measures, and after they are passed the session will be closed.—The disturbances are not completely, though nearly, over.

CIRCASSIA.

Naib Emin, who has been sowing dissension, and who refused to lend assistance to Sefer Pacha, has been expelled from Circassia.

SUNDAY MUSIC IN THE PARKS.—The People's Subscription Band will perform in the Regent's Park, on Sunday next, June 7th, 1857, from five till seven o'clock (weather permitting), and continue every Sunday until further notice. As the people's subscription band should be self-supporting, the committee trust that all persons attending the performances will purchase a programme in evidence of their desire for a continuance of the music.

EMBEZZLEMENT OF UPWARDS OF 2000*l.*—Information was issued by the police yesterday morning that Mr. John Gregory, wholesale and retail oil merchant, of High-street, Borough, who has been declared a bankrupt, has absconded with upwards of 2000*l.* A reward of 100*l.* is offered for his apprehension.

THE FORGERY CASE.—A respectable-looking young man, named William Scholesfield, apprentice to a printer in Rathbone-place, was brought up at Bow-street, yesterday, charged with being concerned in the late extensive forgery of cheques upon the London and Westminster Bank. He is one of two others already under remand.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.—John Greenfield, a green-grocer, was charged at Marlborough-street, yesterday, with attempting to cut his wife's throat while he was intoxicated. He was sent to prison for six months.

Open Council.

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

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

THE LAWS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The 5th and 6th clauses of the Petition which formed the subject of my previous letters run thus:—

"That if these laws often bear heavily upon women protected by the forethought of their relatives, the social training of their husbands, and the refined customs of the rank to which they belong, how much more unequivocal is the injury sustained by women in the lower classes, for whom no such provision can be made by their parents, who possess no means of appeal to expensive legal protection, and in regard to whom the education of the husband and the habits of his associates offer no moral guarantee for tender consideration of a wife."

"That, whereas it is customary in manufacturing districts to employ women largely in the processes of trade, and as women are also engaged as sempstresses, laundresses, charwomen, and in other multifarious occupations which cannot here be enumerated, the question must be recognised by all as of practical importance."

I have put these clauses together because of their inherent connexion, and prefer taking the latter first, as it forms the basis of my argument. In my last letter I remarked on the large and increasing number of educated women who had entered into such branches of art and literature as were within their reach, and upon the fact that the majority of these were married, whereas, fifty years ago, the most prominent and sterling examples of female intellect were unmarried. I would now draw attention to the enormous development of the female element in the processes of trade—a development which may well escape the attention of Londoners, but which, in the northern and midland counties, is one of the most patent facts in the condition of the population. I have not, under present circumstances, any power of putting before your readers the exact statistics of the cotton and iron trades, of the Birmingham manufacture of papier mâché, or the great silk and crape works chiefly carried on by women; but the number of female mill hands are known to all residents in Lancashire, where girls and married women alike are rung in and out of the long hours of factory work. Nay, the famous "Ten Hours Bill," right or wrong in its political economy, brought the immense amount of labour carried on by "women and children" before the public. Mrs. Gaskell's novels deal largely in the social condition of this particular element of modern manufacturing industry. Any one walking in the black lanes and roads of the Staffordshire "nailing districts" sees the rough, begrimed women finishing one nail after another with admirable dexterity; wretched enough are these specimens of the softer sex, but infinitely happier and nobler in their coarse and dirty existence than women, who in Europe, barter themselves for means of support, or those who, in Asia and Africa, are kept like domestic animals, in stalls.

In Birmingham what numbers of women are employed in making trays, screens, boxes, tables, every article made of papier mâché, and also in the pin trade. At Halsted, in Essex, a thousand women are engaged in one silk factory alone, the establishment requiring, I believe, about fifty men to attend to the steam engine and other rougher work. Thus, on all hands, we see whole branches of trade carried on by the female sex, while there remain all the various domestic avocations undertaken for hire, such as that of sempstresses, charwomen, washerwomen, and house servants.

Now I do not mean to say that this constantly increasing habit of working for money in large factories away from the home is without its grave disadvantages. While no form of association secures a thorough and wholesale attendance to domestic necessities, while the cooking, the sewing, and the care of the young children, fall exclusively on the individual mother of each household, her absence during ten hours of each week-day must be attended with such disorder and discomfort as are calculated to fill thinking men, clergymen, doctors, and philanthropists with dismay. They may well be inclined to wish all extra-domestic employment for women swept from the face of the earth, and each wife and mother restored to her own hearth to see that the pot boils and that the children do not for ever fall into the fire. To which it must first be answered that such a return is simply impossible, and that the remedy must be looked for elsewhere—in domestic arrangements fitted to the existing change and which

shall restore comfort to the home by permitting the expenditure of the wife's earnings upon some efficient plan of general surveillance.

The laws under which our expanding population develops require female labour, and we cannot go against them unless we give up all our English theories of free trade and begin to regulate every minutiae of factory life by arbitrary regulation, in which case we should find we had only entailed upon ourselves worse evils than we sought to avoid, and that the last state of that house would be worse than the first.

Moreover, the honourable members of the Lower House, whose fortunes are derived from the cotton trade, would by no means wish to see female labour abolished, and would be the first to put forth every argument by which political economy fortifies its employ; at best, any legislation on the subject could only deal with married women, unmarried women above twenty-one must be left to sell their labour in whatever market pleases them best, so must widows and women afflicted with idle husbands who will not work; and if they prefer ten shillings a week in a factory to less than half that sum in shirtmaking, he would be a bold, self-constituting protector of female interests who should say them nay.

To those who say that married women cannot and ought not to follow a trade, it is therefore enough to answer that hundreds of thousands of them do and must, and that so far from this tendency of modern society, showing the slightest symptom of decrease, it is extending on every side, that printing, watchmaking, and other kindred works requiring delicate manipulation are year by year absorbing more women, and that the process is not even rapid enough for the needs of the time, witness the Bishops of London and Llandaff, Lord Shaftesbury, and Dr. Lankester, all holding forth at Exeter Hall at "a meeting to express sympathy with the frightful overwork of milliners and dressmakers, and to call the attention of Englishwomen to their oppressed condition." The *Times*, in a leading article à propos of this Exeter Hall meeting, very truly says that no amount of sympathy from English men, or amended forethought and attention from English women, will relieve an evil springing from the pressure of our female population as the means of subsistence, and that our needlewomen must "go to Canada"—if they can get there. Mr. John Bennett is lecturing all over the kingdom upon women and watchmaking; the wives and mothers who are working in factories "north and south" do so, each woman of them, because otherwise the children would starve, and John Stuart Mill distinctly says that the greatest hope, in the long run, of an improvement in the condition of our lower classes, lies in the opening of new careers to women.

Here, then, we have assertions which may be verified by any one who in England cares to examine the cogent statistical arguments in their favour. We see that a very large proportion of English women earn weekly wages in all manner of trades and occupations, and that we might as well attempt to stop the earth from moving as to hinder this tendency of the Anglo-Saxon race; while on the other hand, the law remains what it was in the time of Chaucer. All the earnings of all these women remain absolutely in the power of the husband; he can take them from his wife, or demand them from her employer; they are not hers, but his. Now, to say this over and over again, in every newspaper, in every pamphlet, in every conversation held on the subject, seems a wearisome and somewhat foolish task. The facts of the case are so simple, that once said it might seem sufficient, were it not that every reform which the world has seen carried has been carried simply by certain people becoming convinced of its necessity and then having the patience to set it forth, heaping stone upon stone, line upon line, till they conquered by dint of obstinate perseverance. To give the earnings of one person to another person, is against justice, against the whole spirit of our English law, and to justify it, it must be proved that something in the relation of husband and wife takes such a proceeding out of the usual category of justice between individuals, and that it works well. Now the only reason why husband and wife are supposed to be fused into one party holding property before the law, consists in their joint parentage, and Lord Campbell asks, in the short debate of the 13th of February, was the wife, for instance, to be committed to prison in case she refused to contribute her proper share to the expenses of the ménage? "Undoubtedly. If a woman having the money, refuses to provide for the well-being of her children, her presence in the home cannot be of so valuable a nature as to render her being sent to prison an intolerable outrage on the sanctity of the domestic hearth. There can be no doubts in the mind of any thinking woman, that, as the sex are liable to be transported for theft, to be hung for murder, it is a somewhat maudlin sentimentality which would shrink from seeing them legally compelled to provide for a certain share of the domestic expenses of their own children; but it may be safely asserted, for the comfort of legislators who shrink from laying the

gentler sex under such a sword of Damocles, that this is about the last offence for which women would be actually sent to prison. At present the state of the case is somewhat reversed: we see the mother slaving away for her children, and under constant chance of robbery from men in a station of life in which the general "education of the husband, and the habits of his associates, offer no moral guarantee for tender consideration of a wife."

Our legislators are on the horns of a dilemma. If women are to possess full control over their own earnings, they must, in the name of all justice, be associated with men in the legal responsibility for the nurture of the children they bring into the world. Now, is it a worse offence against manly and legislative chivalry to place a woman under this legal responsibility, the very last she can reasonably or morally be inclined to shirk, than to leave her and her children both absolutely at the mercy of an individual whose sense of gentlemanly honour and tenderness may not, especially if he be unable to read and write, be quite up to the standard enjoined by the domestic customs of the members of the Upper House?

I remain, sir, yours obediently,
BESSIE RAYNER PARKES.

THE INCOME-TAX OF A TOWN DOUBLED.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—In your article upon this subject, you comfort the people of North Shields, who have suffered a grievous wrong at the hands of the Income-tax Commissioners, by stating that 'exactly the same wrong was inflicted upon Greenwich,' and that Greenwich, in spite of warlike demonstrations against their oppressors, ultimately paid.

Allow me to say that, except as to paying twice over, this is an error. In North Shields, the defaulters are not persons appointed by the town. Briggs, the defaulter, had 1700*l.* of public moneys in the local bank. This sum, which the bankers wished to pay over to the Commissioners, they most strangely, as it appears to me, refused to receive. In our town, Lucas, the defaulter, was appointed by public vestry, and his two sureties accepted as sufficient by the same authority representing the town; Lucas absconded, and has not been heard of since. Neither he nor his sureties turned out worth a shilling, and, of course, no 1700*l.* was offered to the Commissioners in part payment of their claim.

It appears to me that, hard as it is to pay twice over, no act of wrong was committed in making us do so. On the contrary, it would have been manifestly unjust to throw upon the rest of the community the loss incurred by our thinking proper to trust the collection of the tax to a rogue, and to accept paupers as his sureties. We should have conducted our business wiser.

This case is very different with North Shields, if the statement quoted by you is correct. If we in Greenwich had had as good a one, we should have seen the Commissioners in Tophet before we would have paid again. As it was, we met, found out it was our own fault, and, after a proper amount of vituperation on Lucas and the tax, ultimately submitted to be sheared, in spite of previously losing nearly all our wool. Some of us felt the scissors keenly.

The getting rid of the tax is no doubt very desirable; but, while the national expenses are what they are, it can only be got rid of, I am afraid, by taxing something else. I should be glad to know what that something is that would be a satisfactory substitute. The lucky discoverer would be immortalised.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,
A SUFFERER.

STARVING CONDITION OF THE WOOLWICH ARTISANS.—The Rev. W. Ackworth, one of the committee for relieving the Woolwich artisans who were thrown out of employ by the cessation of the war, writes to the *Times*:—"The appeal we lately made through your columns for assistance to relieve the great distress here has been answered in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who not only demurs to the duty of Government to assist its discharged operatives, but denies that any great distress exists. I only wish the right hon. gentleman, and those who share in his incredulity, would give me an opportunity of showing him a few of the cases which meet our eyes at every turn, and tempt us to ask if it be indeed true that 'the powers that be are ordained of God.' I would introduce him to houses where not a jug was left to take home the offered soup, and where children crouched at the approach of visitors to hide their very nakedness. I would show him women and children lying sick on bare boards asking only 'a penny roll'—prostrated, as the doctor would tell him, simply by 'the want of sufficient nourishment.' He would hear men tell how, week after week, they had walked the surrounding country till their limbs ached and the shoes were worn from their feet, thinking themselves happy to find employment far below the ordinary rate of wages. No less than six such persons have been at my door since I began this letter. Mr. Arthur Murphy, one of our committee, was in Ireland at the time of the famine, and he solemnly declares he never saw cases of greater distress there than have come under his notice in his visits to these operatives."

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1857.

Public Affairs.

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

THE END OF THE SUPERANNUATION CONTROVERSY.

THE report of the Royal Commissioners appointed to inquire into the pensions to civil servants, and the deductions from their salaries on account of those pensions, indicates the prospect of an end to an ugly question, which, more or less understood, has been haunting newspaper columns for the last ten years. All the world are not civil servants, and the legitimate interest which, as citizens, we should take in the rights of the public officers, has been somewhat damped by the technical and rather confused way in which the claim of the civil service has been put forward by its own pleaders.

The Commissioners recommend several reforms. The deductions from salaries are to be abolished. At present all civil servants having more than 100*l.* a year return five per cent.—so that a man with a salary (nominal) of 200*l.* a year receives but 190*l.* a year. (Officers with salaries under 100*l.* a year return only two-and-a-half per cent.) These deductions were first imposed by a Treasury minute in 1829, and were imposed only on those who entered the service after that date. The abolition of the deductions is thus a distinct boon to the civil servants—an addition of 20*l.* a year, for instance, to the salary of every gentleman at present nominally receiving 400*l.* a year. This reform has our hearty approval. It simplifies the whole question. It makes the real salary and the nominal salary correspond, and it enables us to enter fairly into the question whether our civil servants are properly paid. The next question, however, that the Commissioners had to decide was whether the Crown should continue to pay pensions to superannuated servants. The minute of 1829—confirmed by the act of 1834—imposed the deduction expressly to relieve the Treasury from the burden of the pensions. The deductions being abolished, is it necessary, is it politic, for the Crown to charge itself with providing for the declining years of a worn-out official? The Commissioners answer the question in the affirmative: the pensions are to be continued. They correctly state that public opinion in this country would not permit the Crown to leave to starvation an official unable to work: and that if officials were unprovided with pensions they would cling to their offices long after they had ceased to be useful, and thus injure the public service to a greater extent than would be made up to the Crown by the saving of the pensions. The third question to be decided is the scale of the pensions.

The older class of servants (those appointed before 1829) enjoy a rather liberal allowance. The man whose salary at retirement after ten years' service (a less amount of service commands no pension) was 300*l.* a year receives 100*l.* a year pension; if the man were appointed since 1829, he receives only 75*l.* a year. The Commissioners now recommend that the man appointed since 1829 should receive only 50*l.* a year. Their idea in their new scale seems to be to hold out very little inducement to retirement at the earlier stages of the civil servants' career, and to increase the inducement as age advances, and probably lessens his official utility. (The Commissioners suggest no alteration in the scale of pensions payable to those appointed before 1829; so that in our future comparisons of their proposed scale with the present pensions we refer only to the pensions paid to the newer class of clerks.) The officials who have served less than twenty years have better pensions under the present scale than those suggested by the Commissioners, as shown in the above instance, or in that of the man of 300*l.* a year retiring after eighteen years' service: under the present scale he receives 100*l.* a year; under the proposed scale he would receive but 90*l.* a year. After twenty years' service the present pensions and the proposed pensions are the same, but after that period the proposed pensions improve in comparison with the present scale. For instance, the present scale awards the retiring official of thirty years' service and 300*l.* a year a pension of 125*l.*; the proposed scale awards him 150*l.* a year. After forty years' service, the official of 300*l.* a year obtains now 175*l.* a year; under the proposed scale he will obtain 200*l.* a year. An important alteration is made affecting very aged officials. At present, the official who remains in office after forty years' service finds his pension increasing according to his years' service. After his fortieth year of service his allowed pension is 35-60ths of his salary, but if he drags on five years more his pension is increased to 40-60ths, thus giving him an inducement to prolong his official career. This is changed by the Commissioners. They award the official, after forty years' service, 40-60ths of his salary as pension, but if he serve ten years more (or even twenty years more, if that were possible), his pension is not increased. Thus old men have no inducement to remain in office beyond the proper age of official activity. Another alteration suggested by the Commissioners has the same object of offering inducements to old men to resign. At present no civil servant in good health can obtain a pension until he is sixty-five years old; under the new system he will be entitled to his pension when sixty years old, and he *must* retire when sixty-five. (What will Lord PALMERSTON and Lord CAMPBELL say to this principle?) The scale of the proposed pensions may be briefly indicated by the intimation that the pension is always equivalent to 1-60th of the salary (on retirement) for each year of service.

All the proposals of the Commissioners tend to improve the position of the civil servants. It is possible that they may cause an increased charge on the public revenue, but it is more than probable that they will cause an increased and economical efficiency in the public service.

THE COMEDY OF ELECTIONS IN FRANCE.

THE French Elections have now become almost *the* topic of the day, and are discussed with more or less clearness and good faith on both sides of the Channel. As they are to take place on the 21st of June—with a second

day allowed to whip in refractory or idle voters—in little more than a fortnight the results will be in our possession. We confess that we wait with easy patience for the new list of representatives, and shall be much surprised if it differ in any material degree from the list of candidates put forward by the Government. The interest of the contest—if contest there is to be—will centre in the defeats, not in the victories. If some few adverse elections take place, it is not they that will give a character to the political ceremony. What we are really concerned to know is, whether or not the Opposition, necessarily still in a minority, has sufficiently recovered from the overwhelming blow it received in 1851 to be able, despite the trammels in which it must move, to attempt anything like combined action.

M. BILLAULT has issued a Circular on the elections to the Prefects, without any hope of deceiving anybody. He uses the old hackneyed professions of loyalty and fairness in a glib, off-hand manner, which shows that he regards them as of no more importance than the preliminary flourishes of an Oriental letter, which begins by wishing all manner of prosperity to the recipient, and ends by quietly requesting him to allow himself to be strangled. "The Emperor calls to the ballot nine millions of electors, and demands from them all a free and loyal vote." No doubt the electors are called, and no doubt their bulletins will be found in the ballot-urns. But we happen to know that in Paris a selection has been made, that at any rate several persons in one *arrondissement* known to have formerly professed Republican principles have been omitted in the registers; and that although one of them by making a protest succeeded in having the omission repaired, the report he gave of the ominous looks and discourteous manner in which he was received at the *Mairie* was sufficient to deter others from taking a similar step.

The Circular makes mighty professions of the impartiality of the Government, and the facility it gives to the distribution of lists of candidates and voting papers. But the credit given to these professions is illustrated by the fact that no real lists have as yet been distributed; and that the Liberals are still discussing whether it will be prudent, even by cautiously keeping within the law, to commit themselves to overt opposition. Why does the Government insist so particularly on candidates and electors coming to them and signing a declaration which is equivalent to a confession that they are hostile to the Empire? If the contest were between a Ministry and an Opposition there might be no great hardship in this; but we must remember that it is the French Government, the Emperor himself almost personally, who comes forward and says: "Here are two hundred and sixty-seven names which I propose to you, and it is your duty to come peaceably at my voice to give for six more years to them the mission to second me faithfully in my constant efforts for the glory and prosperity of France." These words, it is true, are used by M. BILLAULT, not by LOUIS NAPOLEON; but every one discards the subaltern from his thoughts, and looks only to the chief. In the face of such an appeal, made by a military government, it requires marvellous civil courage to stand forth and propose candidates who may have a different opinion of what is conducive to the glory and prosperity of France, from the liveried gentlemen who have been disbanded, and are all eager to come back again, without a single exception, to their seats and their allowances.

It must be observed that M. BILLAULT carefully points out that the Elections must not be used as 'an opportunity for a seditious

protest' against the institutions at present existing; and not only so, but that they are not to be 'made an instrument of disturbance and annoyance.' The last word is very comprehensive and very eloquent. We know what the Imperial Government would consider an 'annoyance.' From the precaution it has taken to exact the appearance of a candidate to give in his signature, it is quite sure that none of the exiled chiefs of parties can be chosen; but there are a few persons remaining in France who might make themselves very disagreeable. We suspect that M. CARNOT would be an 'annoyance'—so would M. GOUDCHAUX—so certainly would be General CAVAIGNAC. At any rate voters are warned that if Power be offended Justice will be severe. Excesses will be 'repressed'—without any attack on universal suffrage. 'The imperceptible minority of hostile parties' is 'dared' to show itself. All this is as undignified as it is unjust. No one doubts that riots will be put down, whether they occur in this month or in any other. But when were French elections ever, even during the most stormy periods, made the occasion for 'riots?' Never that we know of. The ballot is at any rate effectual for that purpose. Then we are all aware that no committee, no meetings, no hustings addresses are allowed. Where is the opportunity for any display that would call for the intervention of force? The French Government, as well as the French public, knows that at this season, even if there were in the country an inclination to active measures, nothing of the kind is to be apprehended. Against whom and against what, then, are these threats directed? We are afraid they are directed against the opposition which the Circular professes to encourage, against the electors who may come up with hostile or equivocal faces to the election urns, against the candidates who may be so bold as to come forward against the Government list, and so rash as to challenge a majority.

THE NATIVE ARMIES OF INDIA.

THERE can be no doubt that the discipline of our Sepoy forces has been seriously impaired. A dangerous crisis has indeed just ended favourably. But it is impossible to conceal the fact that a favourable result is solely due to the energy and sound judgment evinced by the divisional commandant at Barrackpore. Had General HEARSEY'S post been filled by an officer less equal to the situation, the event might have been truly lamentable. The crisis, we now say, is to all appearance over; and, so far, there is good reason to rejoice. But will the Indian authorities be content to have simply, and narrowly, escaped a present danger? And will no attempt be made to trace out, and eradicate, the causes of disaffection? We hope for the best, yet almost fear the worst in this respect; for it has always seemed to us that the Court of Directors are strangely averse to divulging the real state of affairs. Why they should be so averse, we pretend not to say: *latet causa, vis est notissima*. But to us, at least, the revelation is not forbidden: and we shall endeavour to make it as briefly as possible.

In the first place, it is both a fallacy and an injustice to suppose that the native soldier has *per se* degenerated. The Sepoy of to-day is just what his great-grandfather may have been in OLIVE'S time; but everything around him has changed, and his own position is materially altered. A Sepoy battalion of the old school was very much what an 'irregular' regiment should be* at the present

* We say 'should be' advisedly; for pipeclay and routine are already exhibiting their soul-destroying influence, even amongst the 'Irregulars.'

period. In the old time, a comparatively small number of European officers was borne on the regimental roll; but these few were all strictly effective, and their regiment was their home. Officers were *selected* for employment with a Sepoy corps; they were then the *élite*—instead of being, as now, designated 'the refuse.' There existed no 'Sanataria' in those days; a return to Europe involved retirement from the service—the absentee's place being immediately filled up; and no man dreamed of soliciting leave of absence, unless on really 'urgent private affairs.' The Sepoy officer of old was neither eminently moral, nor, in general, highly educated; but he was centuries ahead of those committed to his charge. His domestic arrangements were ordinarily such as we would not now-a-days undertake to countenance; but this very circumstance engendered a knowledge of Oriental ways and habits of thought, to which very few attain in modern times. The ancient intimacy of association between officers and men (an intimacy never abused by the latter) has long since ceased to subsist:—such a state of things being alike opposed to modern ideas, and inconsistent with the rigidity of European discipline. Now we should be very sorry to appear to advocate a return to the moral standard of bygone generations; nor is anything of the sort necessary. The improved tone of Anglo-Indian society is a blessing, of which we are by no means disposed to speak in qualified terms. It is only to be regretted that, almost simultaneously with his voluntary abandonment of semi-Oriental habits, the Sepoy officer has found his consequence and authority, as such, reduced almost to *nil* through the operation of other concurrent causes. These causes are three, viz.:—

1. The application of an English system of discipline to Asiatic troops.
2. The withdrawal of the only machinery by which such a system could possibly be maintained.
3. A mania for centralisation; which necessitates reference to army head-quarters on the most trivial details, and deprives even the regimental commandant of all power either to punish or reward.

As regards the first cause above alleged, we believe it will be readily conceded that the old proverb, 'Let well alone,' might have been remembered with advantage. In respect to the second ground stated, it is notorious that the Bengal army has been for years in a state of shameful inefficiency, through the constantly increasing demand for officers to be transferred from regimental duty to staff employ. And this complaint has of late been rapidly extending itself to the other presidencies also. As to the third grievance, it probably results from a sort of morbid consciousness in high places, that the inefficient machinery below can hardly be expected to work with precision or even safety.

Deep-seated evils need active remedial measures. But what has the Government of India been about? In Bengal, so far as we can understand, it appears to have become the fashion to pet and coax the Sepoys, in order to induce their putting on a semblance of that discipline which no longer exists. In Madras, we are assured that the means adopted for keeping matters in some degree straight, has been to work one-half of the native army to death in order that the other half at least may be quiet and contented. In the Bombay Presidency, it is satisfactory to believe that the progress of demoralisation has been less rapid than elsewhere, owing partly to local causes, but chiefly to the fact that the pretensions of *caste* are altogether ignored. Great, therefore, was our astonishment at lighting upon the following passage in a Bombay journal of recent date:

"A *propos* to the subject of discipline in the native army, we cannot but notice with much dissatisfaction a

circular that has been recently addressed to the commanding officers of the Bombay regiments, by the Adjutant-General, on the subject of the enlistment of recruits, in which directions are issued that a preference is to be given to *high caste* applicants over *low* ones. A more mischievous or inopportune innovation could not well have been made. It is well enough known that the high state of discipline maintained in the Bombay army is traceable entirely to the utter oblivion of *caste* in its ranks, and the attempt to Bengalise the Bombay army in this respect cannot be too strongly reprobated. We trust that some attention will be excited to the matter."

We trust, in common with our Indian contemporary, that such a matter may receive the instant and earnest attention that it calls for. As to the nature of the remedies proposed, we have no present space for discussing them, but we beg to enter our most decided protest against the Bombay Adjutant-General's inoculation scheme.

THE DEMONSTRATION IN BELGIUM.

REPRESENTATIVE institutions have just been put to a somewhat severe trial in Belgium, but may, we think, be considered to have been rather strengthened than shaken by the result. The Chamber of Representatives, elected under peculiar influences, and strongly worked upon from various quarters, was seduced into discussing, and actually accepting, one of those measures which the Catholic party from time to time propose in order to carry out their cherished desire of bringing modern society gradually back to a resemblance with the society of the middle ages. The Catholic party in Belgium is exactly the same as the Catholic party in Piedmont; and both obey the impulse and imitate the policy of the great Catholic party of France—in a word, whilst professing to have national objects at heart, their whole aim is to serve the purposes of the Court of Rome. One feature in which all these factions of the Ultramontane army more especially resemble one another is, that they all have equally a keen appreciation of money-power; so that whenever you see the fight waxing more furious, and the conflict more deadly, you may be sure that pounds, shillings, and pence are concerned.

In this particular case in Belgium, where charity seems always to have been very well looked after by laymen, the clergy have determined to disturb the existing order of things; and have done it, by proposing that the Church shall be allowed to administer property bequeathed for charitable purposes. The bill introduced into the Chamber having ostensibly no other object than to release testators with benevolent views from a certain restraint, was supposed by a few Liberals—who have apparently lost in the struggles of political life that keen sense of coming danger which distinguishes the masses when ecclesiastical encroachments are concerned—to be an advance towards freedom. It is even said that the balance was really turned by the votes of a few mistaken conscientious men. But the people of the towns at once felt the real meaning of the measure. They saw themselves assailed in the confessional, by the domestic hearth, upon the death-bed, by priests persuading or threatening them into leaving property to be administered by the Church—nominally for charitable purposes, but in reality as an instrument of domination. It was this prospect that goaded them into what has been called a riot, what might have been a revolution, but what in reality was an imposing demonstration of the intelligent people of the towns, supported by a few skirmishing parties, who made use of stones and smashed several windows. We are so accustomed to see Continental people resort to violence when they should merely show strength, that most of those who have remarked upon these

events have insisted far too much on the fiercer and more irregular episodes. But the character of a popular movement must never be taken from what passes in by-streets and out-of-the-way places. The 'roughs' or *vauriens*, who went and burned Neuilly Palace in 1848, can scarcely be taken as types of the modern French revolutionist. Some episcopal windows were broken in Brussels and elsewhere; but this was not what encouraged the King to pursue the temperate course he has adopted. He learned that the crowd who collected to protest against the bill, and the whole policy of the Ultramontane party, was composed in great measure of well-dressed persons belonging to the middle classes, who naturally feel more interest than the poor in a question relative to property and wills. This was a good reason for him to give to such of his extreme counsellors as would have made him risk his throne and the institutions that surround it.

The Catholic party, so triumphant in the Chamber, was left in a state of strange isolation out of doors. The police called out to protect them, did their duty with a temper and discretion that showed they acted in the interest of order, not in the interest of the Church. Whilst stones flew at the windows of the Jesuits the cry of "*Vive la police!*" was raised—a strange cry in a Continental city, but decisive of the loyalty of the movement. No one wished to attack or to insult public authority. All the rage was directed against a conspiring and insidious corporation, which will persist in putting forward pretensions utterly at variance with the nineteenth century.

M. DEDECKER, the Belgian Prime Minister, appears, in reality, to be an honest man, with a sincere wish to conciliate and do what he thinks right; but he is driven to extremes by his party. There will probably be a break up of the Ministry—at any rate a reconstruction. M. NORUOMB, the Minister of Justice, who introduced the bill, will in any case be obliged to retire; and may, perhaps, be made governor of the province of Luxembourg, as a compensation for defeat. But it is difficult to say at present what is likely to be the nature of a new or modified administration. The King, though Protestant, knows the strength of the clerical party, and feels that it would be imprudent, as well as unconstitutional, to fly directly in the face of a Parliamentary majority. But he will do all in his power to curb them of their will, and, if he be well supported by public opinion, may succeed completely. At any rate, he seems determined to steer a middle course, and moderate angry feelings on both sides. But there is little likelihood, under any circumstances, of the strong Liberal party coming at present to power: we mean such men as MM. ROGIER, VERHAEGEN, and FRÈRE-ORBAN. If a new Ministry be really thought of, M. H. DE BROUCKERE is a probable man. But whatever takes place, we feel confident that the final result will be a check to the clerical party. That party must now itself feel the strength of the antipathy its manœuvres have aroused. The Duc DE BRABANT, who is under the influence of the priests, was saluted by occasional voices as the *Duc des Couvents*; but in the main the tone of the masses was strictly loyal and dynastic. As to the absurd charge that there were cheers for France, we need scarcely do more than mention it. If there be a French party in Belgium its members certainly do not turn out against the Charity Bill. No Belgian can at present have a sympathy for France without being a Jesuit. The popular feeling runs quite the other way. We shall watch with great interest the sequel of this important political event, which shows the existence of

a life, a vigour, an earnestness, in the Belgian people, not unworthy of the best days of old Flanders.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

The Middle Classes are about to be invaded by the Education Committee of the Privy Council, with a host of allies. The plan of the campaign, however, is such, that those who most sympathize with the class, will pray for the victory of the invaders. Who originated the project few could tell; but the plan immediately laid down has the Reverend FREDERICK TEMPLE for its author, and Mr. THOMAS DYKE ACLAND for one of its most earnest missionaries. How the plan originated it would be difficult to tell; circumstances have led up to it by degrees. The long-sustained efforts of BROUGHAM, WHATELY, and other reformers, to promote the education of the poorer classes, have drawn attention to the subject generally. The admission of Dissenters to the Universities has specifically drawn attention to that class among whom the Dissenters principally lie, and it is discovered that the Universities, with the condition of residence, and habits that demand the outlay of a considerable income annually, are not suited to the middle class. The movements of the Society of Arts to promote adult education among the working classes—which has had no inconsiderable effect on the lower levels of the middle class—and of the Committee of Education, have had a considerable influence on each other. Some *agricultural* societies have begun to take up the theme, especially one established at Exeter in 1777, of which Mr. THOMAS DYKE ACLAND is an active and leading member; and this society is about, in this instant month of June, to have an 'examination' of youths to test their educational attainments, the examination being conducted as nearly as possible on the principles of that in the Training Schools, and with the assistance of the Education Committee. The candidates come from various occupations, but, it will be seen from the list, comparatively few are drawn veritably from agriculture:—

"The Candidates state that they are being educated with a view to the following Occupations in Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, or Commerce:—Agriculture, 9, Surveyor, 3, Colt-breaker, 1; Engineer, 1; Manufacturer, 1; Commerce generally, 36; Trade generally, 4, Clay-merchant, 1, Druggist, 2, Draper, 2, Printer, Stationer, and Reporter, 3, Carpenter, 1; The sea, 7; Teacher, 7; Auctioneer, 1; Accountant, 1; Clerks, 6; Servant, 1; Not named, 8; Uncertain, 21; total, 120. In a few cases, but very few, candidates unable to declare that they are being educated for Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, or Commerce, have been admitted on the ground that their parents are in one of those occupations; or that they have themselves been educated in a Commercial School, as that term is commonly understood."

Thus, then, there is an examination of the middle class, established in Exeter, for the western counties. Many great things have originated down there in the West, and this is not the least. One of the examiners on the occasion will be the Reverend FREDERICK TEMPLE, 'one of her MAJESTY'S Inspectors of Schools,' who had already been engaged in considering the subject, and had proposed to the Master of Pembroke College a plan of action. It is this:—

"That the University should confer some such title as Associate in Arts on every person who passed an examination before Examiners appointed either by the Hebdomadal Council, or by a Delegacy, as might be thought best.

"This examination should pretty nearly follow the precedent set by the present Final Schools, somewhat of this kind—

1. A Preliminary Examination in
 - a. Writing from Dictation, Arithmetic, Parsing, and Elementary Geography.
 - b. Religious Knowledge (if the parents of the candidate desired it).

2. Four Schools:—

- a. The School of English, to include English Literature and Composition, English History, the Rudiments of Political Economy, Geography.
- b. The School of Languages, to include French, German, and the Elements of Latin.
- c. The School of Mathematics, to include Practical Mathematics, Architecture, and Drawing.
- d. The School of Physical Science, to include the Elements of Mechanics, Chemistry, and Physiology, and the Sciences connected with them.

"Two standards should be fixed: one for boys of 15, the other for boys of 17. The title of Junior Associate should be given to those who passed the former; that of Senior Associate to those who passed the latter.

"Every Candidate should be required to pass the Preliminary Examination and one School.

"A class list of each School should distinguish those who did really well from those who merely passed.

"The expense of paying the Examiners should be covered by requiring a fee of about 5s. for admission to the examination, and another of about 2s. 6d. for the testamur.

The examinations should be held annually in Oxford. But if the gentry or local authorities of any place asked for an examination to be held in their neighbourhood, and would undertake to bear the expense of the necessary arrangements, an examiner should be sent down to them. The examination should, I think, be all on paper, and the same examination papers used everywhere at once."

Here we see the University, the examiners, the students, but not the schools nor the schoolmasters; and that person who is always presumed to be so dull, 'the general reader'—of course that is not you, O gentle Reader! who are not general but particular—may wish to know where the school is? There it is, in your own street—'Classical and Commercial Academy for Young Gentlemen,' 'Collegiate Institution,' or 'School for Gentlemen,' or whatever other nickname the 'proprietor' or proprietors, 'the conductor,' 'preceptor,' or 'principal' may adopt. In order to attract custom, the dealers in education for the largest paying market, the middle class, endeavour as much as possible to give an appearance of classicality, or practicality, to their 'institutions,' and sometimes they do their best to attain the reality. They are foiled by many difficulties, but principally by three. Ignorant rivals excel them in pretensions, carry off custom, and necessitate a false system of humbug, which deteriorates the character of the whole class. Immense energy and enterprise are needed to counteract this depressing effect, and it takes a man like the father of the HILLS, ROWLAND, MATTHEW, DAVENPORT, FREDERICK, and EDWIN to found a Bruce Castle School. The second difficulty is the ignorance and vague ideas of parents, who require things not needed, while they put a low value on real education. The third is the chaotic uncertainty introduced into the whole system. Now by Mr. TEMPLE'S plan it is proposed, not to supply the schools, but to supply standards and guiding-posts for the schools already existing, or to be established by independent enterprise. According to the examination required by the University will the estimate of parents be modified. The schools which send out the greater number of successful candidates will be certificated for their efficiency; and order will be infused throughout the voluntary system of our 'Academies for Young Gentlemen.' Such is the plan debated before the Hebdomadal Board of Oxford this week; Cambridge watching the discussion.

And the 'Seminaries for Young Ladies?' Well, have we not collegiate institutions for them? Yes, but how distinguish between the genuine and the spurious? It is a question which might be put to Dr. SYMONDS, who might strike out in chivalrous rivalry with Mr. TEMPLE, and, as the Tory SUDAN has become the great Law Reformer ST. LEONARDS, so Dr. SYMONDS might become the Chevalier des Dames in Education Reform.

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.*

In *Blackwood* this month two old tales—'The Athelings' and 'Mr. Gilfil's Love Story'—are finished, and a new one, by PISISTRATUS CAXTON, begun. Of course we ought to welcome BULWER LYTTON's return to periodical literature, and if it may be accepted in confirmation of the current report that he has abandoned politics, we do so heartily; but so far as the stories are concerned it is questionable whether the exchange will be much to our advantage. We shall miss the quiet power, delicate insight, and subtle truthfulness which gave the 'Scenes of Clerical Life' so peculiar a charm; and, judging from the first instalment, the loss will scarcely be supplied by the careless sketches and conventional sentiment of 'What will he do with it?'—the title of the new story. The affectations and puerilities of the outset remind us more of PELHAM BULWER than of PISISTRATUS CAXTON. Take the elaborate headings of the chapters, done in the cumbrously jocular style of the Christmas pantomime bills—the two first for example:—

In which the History opens with a description of the Social Manners, Habits, and Amusements of the English People, as exhibited in an immemorial National Festivity.—Characters to be commemorated in the History, introduced and graphically portrayed, with a nasological illustration.—Original suggestions as to the idiosyncrasies engendered by trades and callings, with other matters worthy of note, conveyed in artless dialogue after the manner of Herodotus, Father of History (Mother unknown).

The Historian takes a view of the British Stage as represented by the Irregular Drama, the Regular having (ere the date of the events to which this narrative is restricted) disappeared from the Vestiges of Creation.

After such deadly lively flourishes at the beginning, it is reassuring to find the story carried on in the most orthodox manner. It opens with the well-known 'Summer evening in one of the prettiest villages of Surrey,' the usual 'sunset' is described, and the inevitable 'two strangers,'—one of the enviable age ranging from five to seven-and-twenty, while his companion 'might be about seventeen,'—soon make their appearance. Their conversation shows the customary BULWER mixture of cynicism and sentiment, so popular at the circulating libraries; and everything at present seems to promise well for a good story of the early type. The best chapter of this part is the second, describing the representation at the travelling theatre of the grand melodrama, *The Remorseless Baron and the Bandit's Child*.

The second article, 'New Sea-side Sketches. No. I,' is a sketch of the scenery and marine zoology of the 'Scilly Isles,'—fresh and breezy in style as the winds and waves, to whose music it was evidently written. There is a vigorous enjoyment of the sea, a definitely saline flavour in the writing which refreshes you by sympathy as you read. The writer shows in his treatment of scientific questions that thoroughly out-of-door mind which the poets of the present day are said so much to want. As a specimen of the graphic vigour of the paper take the following extract:—

As I said, the joyful tidings came at last. With alacrity I urged my staggering steps up the ladder, and emerged upon the deck, where the bright sunlight revealed a scene, which of itself was repayment and full discharge for any arrears of misery. We were in St. Mary's Sound. The islands lay around us, ten times bigger than imagination had prefigured, and incomparably more beautiful. On their picturesque varieties I might turn a green countenance and glazed eye, but the heart within me bounded like a leopard on his prey. This was worth coming to! Those poor devils who sit at home at ease, and supply their tanks from commercial sources, were now the objects of pitiless sarcasms for their want of enterprise. In such a mood I hastily secured comfortable lodgings, clean as a Dutchman's, at the Post-office; swallowed some tea and toast, to appease the baser appetites, and hurried forth to satisfy the hunger of the soul, by a survey of the Bay, and its promises. The promontory on which stands Star Castle offered a fine breezy walk over downs resplendent with golden furze, and suffered the eye to take the widest sweep. How thoroughly I enjoyed that walk! The downs were so brilliant that one could sympathize with the enthusiasm of Linnæus on his arrival in England, and his first sight of furze, as he flung himself on his knees, and thanked God for having made anything so beautiful. The downs were all aflame with their golden light. Ever and anon a rabbit started across the path, or the timid deer were seen emerging from the clumps of golden bush. A glance at the many reefs and creeks along the wavy shores raised expectation tiptoe, forcing hope into certainty of treasures abounding. Whatever drawbacks Scilly might possibly have in store, this at least was indubitable—the hunting would be good. Not that any shadow of a drawback darkened the horizon; for what could the heart desire more? Here was a little archipelago, such as Greek heroes might have lived in—bold, rugged, picturesque—secure from all the assaults of idle watering-place frequenters,—lovely to the eye, full of promise to the mind, and health in every breeze. Ithaca was visibly opposite. Homer's cadences were sweetly audible. Here one might write epics finer than the *Odyssey*, had one but genius packed up in one's carpet-bag; and if the genius had been forgotten, left behind (by some strange oversight), at any rate there was the microscope and scalpel, with which one might follow in the tracks of the "stout Stagyrte," whom the world is now beginning to recognise among the greatest of its naturalists. Homer, or Aristotle? The modest choice lay there; and as Montaigne says—"nous allons par là quester une friande gloire à piper le sot monde." (The *sot monde* being you, beloved reader.)

Was not the mere aspect of the sea a banquet? Xenophon tells us that when the Ten Thousand saw the sea again, they shouted. No wonder. After their weary eyes had wandered forlorn over weary parasangs of flat earth, and that earth an enemy's, wistfully yearning for the gleams of the old familiar blue, they came upon it at last, and the heart-shaking sight was saluted by a shout still more heart-shaking. At the first flash of it there must have been a general hush, a universal catching of the breath, and the next moment, like thunder leaping from hill to hill, the loosened burst of gladness ran along the ranks, reverberating from company to company, swelling into a mighty symphony of rejoicing. What a sight, and what a sound! There was more than safety in that blue expanse, there was more than loosened fear in their joy at once again seeing the dear familiar face. The sea was a passion to the Greeks; they took naturally to the water, like ducks, or Englishmen, who are, if we truly con-

sider it, fonder of water than the ducks. We are sea-dogs from our birth. It is in our race—bred in the blood. Even the most inland and bucolic youth takes spontaneously to the water, as an element he is born to rule. The winds carry ocean murmurs far into the inland valleys, and awaken the old pirate instincts of the Norsemen. Boys hear them, and although they never saw a ship in their lives, these murmurs make their hearts unquiet; and to run away from home, 'to go to sea,' is the inevitable result. Place a Londoner in a turnip field, and the chances are that he will not know it from a field of mangold-wurzel. Place him, unfamiliar with pigskin, on a 'fresh' horse, and he will not make a majestic figure. But take this same youth, and fling him into a boat, how readily he learns to feather an oar! Nay, even when he is sea-sick—as unhappily even the Briton will sometimes be—he goes through it with a certain careless grace, a manly haughtiness, or at the lowest, a certain 'official reserve,' not observable in the foreigner. What can be a more abject picture than a Frenchman suffering from sea-sickness—unless it be a German under the same hideous circumstances? Before getting out of harbour he was radiant, arrogant, self-centred; only half an hour has passed, and he is green, cadaverous, dank, prostrate, the manhood seemingly spunged out of him. N.B.—In this respect I am a Frenchman.

It ought to be stated that the present is the five-hundredth number of the Magazine, and that it appropriately closes with a hymn of triumph in celebration of a period so interesting in MAGA's history.

Fraser opens with a genial and discriminating criticism of *Ruskin's Modern Painters*, under the title of 'What are the Functions of the Artist?' The whole paper is very interesting, but instead of describing it we will give an extract, showing the thoughtful style in which the subject is discussed, that all who are interested in Art may be tempted to read it for themselves:—

A great tragedy, a Bartholomew or Piedmont massacre, is being accomplished; let the thunder-cloud cover the heaven, and cast a gloom, as of the sepulchre, upon the 'grave-paved star.' The association is right and legitimate. It gives fitting expression to the emotion which the situation naturally suggests. There is no exaggeration. But Mr. Ruskin requires us to accept much more than this simple and appropriate drapery. Let us examine a few of his illustrations. In the *Building of Carthage* the children are sailing their paper boats upon the sea which their children were to conquer with their commerce. Here there is not much that is wrong. The sentiment is a little forced and obtrusive, perhaps, but not offensively. In the foreground of Tintoret's *Entombment of our Lord* stands a ruined *cattle-shed*, recalling on the day of his burial the privation of his birth; the clouds, in the same painter's *Baptism of Christ*, are shaped like the head of a fish—"the well-known type," says Mr. Ruskin, "of the baptismal sacrament of Christ;" in the *Crucifixion* the ass is feeding on the remnants of the withered palm-leaves which the multitude had strewn before Him when they cried Hosanna in the highest! The trunks of the trees in Turner's *Jason* are all alive with dragons' heads; the bough of the oak in the foreground of the *Harold at Hastings* takes the form of an arrow-head. Such specimens of intellectual association Mr. Ruskin finds only in the greatest painters, and are, he assures us, the highest triumphs of art. We cannot agree with him. They seem to us, on the contrary, to be the worst exaggerations of that 'poetic fallacy' which in the case of the poet he unsparingly condemns. In either case we endow inanimate nature with life; and it does not matter whether that life is such as we would gift it with, or such as another man whom we create, and whose eyes for the time being we use, would gift it with. An excessive self-consciousness is not more offensive to us than these elaborate mystifications of the forms of natural life, this obtrusive assertion of the facts of history. In such recondite puerilities—puerilities which we hope, and in some sort believe, are more noticeable to the critic than they were to the painter—there is a smallness and pettiness of treatment we cannot admire, an absence of the courageous, candid, and healthy *abandon* of the great artist, who, like Shakspeare, looks nature and human nature broadly and frankly in the face. "The stars," said a wise heathen, "do not grieve because men die;" and trees unfortunately will not consent to twist their branches into demons' heads, nor clouds transform themselves into fish, however desirable for artistic purposes it might be that they should do so. Until nature chooses to mend her ways, we will continue to hold that a tree should be painted as a tree, and not as a fish or a dragon.

Towards the close the critic notices the pre-Raphaelites, explains the principle on which they proceeded, and, in a measure, approves their practice:—

The original maxim of the school was—literal accuracy. If God condescended to finish a leaf, they could not see any good reason why they should not; nay, there appeared to them many sufficient practical reasons why they should. Their predecessors had imitated nature from memory or from tradition. Every leaf was treated conventionally. When it was carried into the open air there was not a single tree that it would fit. This lazy and effeminate practice had taken the genuineness out of everything. No faith could be placed in any statement the artist made; and instead of making the world better when he thus took it into his own hands, every step he proceeded deprived it of beauty and attractiveness. It is indeed a most essential truth, that a man must constantly return to nature to sweeten, refresh, and invigorate himself. Nothing is more tame and monotonous than an imagination which feeds on itself. It loses the versatile manliness which is maintained only by incessant contact with the actual. Hunt, Millais, and the rest, did not inquire whether they had imitated it, but went to work at once. If they had imagination it would no doubt force its way in its own good time; in the meanwhile, what they had to do was to get at the specific character of every object which it might be needful for them to use hereafter. They found that the man who looked nearest got the best notion of what the thing was and meant, and so they sat down beside it and painted it there and then. So of plants and animals, and so of man. It is the intense human sympathy that gives the charm to all their pictures of life. Other men painted faces with artificial passions fitted to them like glass masks; they saw through the face into the soul, and painted that. I recollect an early sketch by Millais, a girl's face; the entire picture was about as broad as the palm of one's hand, not larger; each feature had been dwelt on with visible elaborate painfulness; the colours were lined and soiled by prolonged manipulation; but the whole pathos of the woman's life came out through these with wonderful vividness. One felt that the painter had seen the soul behind, and striven day after day to get at it—not without ultimate success. The pre-Raphaelite at least has learned the honourableness of his vocation. To him the relation between 'holy life and golden art' has been made manifest.

In 'The Interpreter: a Tale of the War,' by the Author of 'Digby Grand,' commenced in the present number, we may expect some vigorous sketches from the late scene of war, if the promise of the first part is fulfilled. Amongst the remaining papers of the number are one on 'The Press and the Public Service,' in which the declamatory rhetoric and false reasoning of 'A Distinguished Writer' are justly exposed; one on POE—a meagre sketch of his life and writings, which does not in the least help us to understand his character; a learned and lively article on 'Deer;' and one by Mr. FROUDE, en-

titled 'Gleanings from the Record Office'—a defence of HENRY VIII. from the charge brought against him by REGINALD POLE and reiterated by Dr. LINGARD, of having lived in unlawful intercourse with ANNE BOLEYN'S sister MARY.

The Monthlies are taking up an important question that has for some time occupied the attention of the Weeklies and Quarterlies—the growth of Cotton. The *Dublin University Magazine* and *Tait* have each an article on the subject. That in the former is an able and elaborate discussion of the capabilities of India as a cotton-growing country, evidently written by one practically familiar with the subject. The writer seems to show satisfactorily that with a little more direct and vigorous action on the market by the consumers, and with the increased facilities for transport which the railways now in progress will give, we might soon become comparatively independent of the southern American States, which, in the present state of their 'domestic institutions,' we need scarcely say is of the utmost importance. The native novelists seem for the present resting from their labours, the two leading stories of the *Dublin* being by London men—BLANCHARD JERROLD and SHIRLEY BROOKS. In 'The Partners'—the title of the new story by the latter—we are likely to have some REDPATH revelations.

In the June number of *The Train* Mr. EDMUND YATES continues the series of 'Men of Mark' with a brief biographical and critical notice of WILKIE COLLINS. We may speak in general terms of this notice as marked with excellent taste, feeling, and discretion. Perhaps it would have been better to have abstained from instituting comparisons, but with this single reservation we heartily commend the spirit in which Mr. YATES has discharged a delicate and difficult office. He has proved that thorough independence of judgment, and a nice discrimination are not at all incompatible with an unaffected admiration and a cordial sympathy. The following extract will suffice to justify our words:—

After long and careful observation of Mr. Collins's writings, I am perfectly certain that he never enters upon a story until the plot, in all its ramifications and bearings, has been thoroughly weighed and digested in his own mind; and also, that when he has once set to work, his original intention is never departed from. All his honesty of purpose, all this labour, this artistic preparation would, however, be useless had he not the power to carry out his intentions; but this power he has. Placing him in my own estimation as the fourth in rank among the British novelists of the present day (and among those prior to him I have classed that wondrous woman whose biography has so recently been given to us), I contend that as a storyteller he has no equal; that he possesses the *art de conter* above all living writers. Inferior to Dickens in pathos and humour, inferior to Thackeray in the knowledge of the secret workings of the human heart, and in the popular exposition of a cynical philosophy, inferior to Miss Brontë in his grasp of persons and places, his power of description, and in the quaint uttering of startling and original doctrines,—he yet possesses a considerable amount of the qualifications of all these authors; while in the talent with which the foundations of his story are laid, and the edifice afterwards raised to completion, he far surpasses them.

We prefer to say as little as possible about the execution of the accompanying portrait, which we may charitably believe is the result of an accident to the wood-block.

Messrs. MAULL and POLYBLANK have just added to their Photographic Gallery of Living Celebrities a life-like portrait of General WILLIAMS OF KARS, who appears on this occasion seated, and in plain clothes. The General has a look of suppressed impatience, and at the same time of scrutinizing curiosity, which brings out the characteristics of the head with great effect. The portrait of W. P. FRITH, R.A., is calm, thoughtful, and observant. The notices by Mr. E. WALFORD are in each case careful and sufficient. The next subject in the series is to be Cardinal WISEMAN.

The death of Mr. BRIMLEY, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and sometime librarian to that distinguished Society, will leave a blank in a large but select circle of the world of literature which it would be difficult to fill with equal worth and excellence again. Not to us belongs the envious but melancholy privilege of speaking of the deceased with the voice of intimate and familiar sorrow; but we cannot forget that it was under the auspices of his genial and graceful hospitality that we were first acquainted with the University which he adorned. In the noble labour and tranquillity of that dignified existence, Mr. BRIMLEY lived a life of studious refinement, of scholarly serenity, of elevated thought, of unceasing and devoted work, surrounded by the affection and esteem of friends whose society was a solace, and whose sympathy was a reward. A ripe and rare scholar, a vigorous thinker, a correct and polished writer, a critic endowed with the nicest taste and the truest judgment, and enriched with the most delicate sensibilities, Mr. BRIMLEY was one of those men, so frequent in our country, who are the unacknowledged legislators of public opinion and authoritative criticism; but how few there are among the many that have been instructed, and elevated, and delighted by the subtle thought, the piercing logic, the fine and delicate feeling, and the penetrating charm of style, who imagined that the thinker, and the writer, and the teacher, was the quiet Fellow of a College, sitting far apart from the turmoil and the strife? His early death will be no surprise to those who know how cheerfully and contentedly the suffering and the weariness were borne; but the cessation of a life so nobly lavished, if it does not take us by surprise, shocks us by its suddenness; by the suddenness, we mean, of the vacancy it leaves behind.

THE LIFE OF HANDEL.

The Life of Handel. By Victor Schœlcher.

Trübner and Co.

WHATEVER the Germans may have to say upon this point, we think that we can fairly claim George Frederick Handel as an Englishman. True he was born at Halle in Lower Saxony, was educated at Berlin, made his *début* in the musical world as *violin di ripieno* in the Hamburg Theatre; true that after his return from Rome the Elector George (afterwards George I.) made him chapel-master—all these matters are of small account in our eyes before the undeniable facts that it was to England that his steps were attracted by an irresistible impulse; that it was in England that he spent three-fourths of his life; that it was in England that he produced all the works which have immortalized his name; that it was the people of England who adopted him as *their* composer of all others, doing him honour and bringing him profit during his life, and continuing to worship his genius with a fidelity which has grown ever stronger and stronger; and that it is in England that his glorious works (inexpressibly the greatest expressions of musical poetry that have ever been heard) are best known and most revered. And if even stronger evidence be wanting of our claim to consider Handel as a fellow-countryman, can we not find it in the fact that this work of M. Schœlcher, himself a foreigner, makes its first appearance in the English tongue, and that (according to his confession) it is in England alone that the authorship of such a work is possible?

The information hitherto attainable by the general reader as to Handel and his works is to be derived from the *Memoirs* by the Rev. John Mainwaring, Dr. Burney's *Account of the Commemoration of 1784*, the *History of Music* by the same author, Sir John Hawkins's *General History of the Science and Practice of Music*, and Mr. Horatio Townsend's *Visit to Dublin*. Other matter is of course in existence, or M. Schœlcher's book would have been unnecessary, and if every page in the volume did not contain abundant evidence of research, fruitful in results, the copious list of consulted works which runs over seven well-filled pages, bears ample testimony to the extent of M. Schœlcher's enterprise; but the field in which he has worked has not been a very open one, nor has the labour which has been expended light; cyclopædias and pamphlets, musical dictionaries and memoirs, works of all descriptions in English, French, and German, collections of newspapers and of original MSS.—such are the materials which M. Schœlcher has had to collect as he best could, to digest, to collate, and to reconcile. And nobly has he executed his task; for three years has he bent a patient head over things which, to say the least of it, were very different from what had formerly occupied his attention. The spectacle of an energetic politician resting himself when rest has become necessary is at all times a suggestive one; but when we find him seeking rest and recreation in a mere change of labour, and occupying his talents with the performance of a great and difficult task, we cannot but accord a high measure of esteem to an industry and a devotion so thoroughly conscientious.

The special merits of this book are these; it corrects many errors in dates and matters of fact into which preceding writers have fallen, and it brings to light facts respecting Handel and works of his which have not been previously known, or which, at any rate, have never before been related or spoken of in print. It follows, then, that no one can be considered to know all about the great composer until he has perused M. Schœlcher's book. Whatever may be its imperfections (and it has them—as, indeed, what work has not?), it is the best and most complete account of the Shakspeare of Music and his immortal works which has as yet appeared.

A brief statement of the leading facts in connexion with Handel's career may not be unacceptable to the reader. He was born at Halle on the 23rd of February, 1685, in spite of the tomb in Westminster Abbey, which stonily asserts, and stoutly adheres to it, that the true date of his birth is the 24th of February, 1684. The difference between old and new style may explain this; but let that pass. His father was a surgeon, and intended the little fellow to be a lawyer. At a very early age, however, he manifested decided musical tendencies, and the worthy doctor, as many fathers have been compelled to do, was fain to let Nature have her way. His musical Gamaliel was Zackau, the organist of the cathedral at Halle, who grounded him in music, and laid the foundation of that immense general knowledge of the art which became one of the great composer's leading characteristics. When he was eleven years old, he appeared at Berlin as a prodigy, exciting the wonder and even the envy of his future rival, Bononcini. When he was thirteen, his father died, leaving him poor, and with a mother to be supported. Six years afterwards we find him at the Hamburg Theatre, filling the not very lofty situation of *violin di ripieno*. His genius, however, did not long suffer him to remain in a subordinate position, for he was soon promoted to the honourable post of conductor. Two years afterwards he produced his first dramatic work, *Almira, Queen of Castille*; or, *The Vicissitudes of Royalty*, which was followed by three more operas, written and produced whilst he was at Hamburg. All these works, with the exception of *Almira*, are lost, and of that opera only one copy is said to be in existence, and that one is in MS., and is in the Berlin Library. In 1706 Handel visited Italy, and there produced some operas and also religious works, which raised him to a high rank among composers. The opera of *Roderigo* gained from the Grand Duke of Tuscany 'a service of plate and a purse containing a hundred sequins;' whilst his oratorio the *Resurrezione* won for him the friendship and esteem of the greatest princes of the Roman Church. From this time forward his career was triumphant. In 1710 he paid his first visit to London, and in February, 1712, he permanently settled there. *Rinaldo* (his first opera produced in England) appeared on the 24th of February, 1711, with immense success. Here let us record for the information, and we have no doubt to the astonishment, of most of our readers, that Handel wrote *thirty-nine* Italian operas during his residence in England, all of which are known, and only four of which have not been published. When George I. came to England he found his truant chapel-master occupying a high place in public favour. Disposed to be a little gruff at first, the king, who was a great amateur of music, suffered himself to be mollified by the delicious *Water-Music*, which Handel composed expressly for one of the royal pic-nics, and the result was a pension of 200*l.*, followed

by two other appointments, bringing in 200*l.* a year each. Thus we find the composer, within three years after his arrival in this country, enjoying 600*l.* a year from the bounty of the Crown, and occupying the front place in public favour. Music both sacred and secular now came from his inexhaustible brain with marvellous facility—*Amadis*, the *Chandos Anthems*, *Water-Music*. The *Chandos Anthems* were named after the great Duke of Chandos, at whose magnificent mansion, Cannons, near Edgeware, Handel occupied the post of chapel-master. It was at Cannons that he composed his earliest English oratorio, *Esther*, which was at first only performed for the private amusement of the duke and his guests; here also he wrote the celebrated *Suites de Pièces pour le Clavecin*, to one of which the name of *The Harmonious Blacksmith* was subsequently given. M. Schœlcher disposes very satisfactorily of two points in connexion with this piece; on the one side he explodes the pretty little fiction about Powell the blacksmith, and on the other he puts it beyond all doubt that Handel was the real author of the piece. It was whilst Handel was at Cannons that he became musical director of the Royal Academy of Music, an operatic speculation which failed miserably in a pecuniary way, and perhaps also in a musical way, in obedience to the old adage that 'too many cooks spoil the broth.' Not content with having one musical director, the aristocratic patrons who presided over the Royal Academy of Music would have three, and the consequence, as may be readily imagined, was a desperate rivalry between Handel, Bononcini, and Attilio. Victory resulted in favour of the German; but few battles take place without some wounds being received on both sides, and the feud then aroused was the cause of a great deal of bickering and opposition, which continued to trouble Handel for many years. We cannot but think that Handel was somewhat to blame himself in the matter. With all his disposition to put the best face upon his character, M. Schœlcher proves, rather than admits, him to be a man of ungovernable and overbearing temper, with a good heart but a rough exterior, just the man, in fact, to make a few firm friends but a host of enemies. Some of the singers who were subject to him turned against him, and many of the aristocratic subscribers to the Opera took their part, a great deal, we can imagine, for 'the fun of the thing,' and a great deal because they were seriously offended at what M. Schœlcher terms his 'independence of spirit,' such independence consisting in invariably taking his own way and obstinately persisting in his own opinion. It may be that M. Schœlcher has been misled by the satirists and caricaturists of the day into giving to the opposition against Handel a greater importance than it really deserved. We are loth to believe that the entire aristocracy of England got up every morning and went about conspiring, talked and wrote letters, and gave parties with no other object than to accomplish the ruin of the musician whom Dr. Pepusch rather appropriately nicknamed 'the great bear.' Yet we are willing to suppose that he had some good haters opposed to him, and instead of wondering with M. Schœlcher that such was the case, we are only surprised that the friends who ever rallied round him were so numerous and so constant.

To return, however, to the chain of the narrative. The Academy having failed and Handel being then 'possessed of 10,000*l.*,' he tried his own hand at management, and entered into partnership with the notorious Heidegger at the Haymarket. This was a worse speculation than the former, and there is quite enough to account for the failure of it in a natural way to avoid attributing it, as M. Schœlcher seems inclined to do, to the intrigues of the nobility. This career of management was, however, marked by some bright spots, one of the most noticeable of which was the first appearance in public of that matchless and ever popular serenata *Acis and Galatea*. In 1733, he produced *Deborah*, the first English oratorio which was written for public performance; the success was moderate. The same year he produced *Athalia* at a Public Act at Oxford. Next year he dissolved partnership with Heidegger, and took the Lincoln's-Inn Theatre on his own account. Almost immediately afterwards he removed to the Haymarket; next year he went to Covent Garden. This constant shifting about boded no good. The entertainments given under his management were not confined to operas; oratorios were given, serenatas, and pieces, like the now famous *Ode to St. Cecilia's Day* and *Alexander's Feast*. His company was a first-rate one, for it included the celebrated Farinelli, Senesino, and Signora Cuzzoni; but it was all in vain, the year 1737 found him an insolvent debtor, and in the month of April in that year he was compelled, with impaired health, to retire to Aix-la-Chapelle. Before the end of the same year, however, he was back again and hard at work. The opera of *Paramondo*, Queen Caroline's *Funeral Anthem*, *Xerxes*, and other works, followed in quick succession. At that time he actually wrote music for the Vauxhall Gardens, where a statue by Roubiliac was erected to him during his lifetime. In the beginning of 1739 he took the Haymarket for the performance of oratorios, and produced *Saul* and *Israel in Egypt* in quick succession. About the end of the same year he moved to Lincoln's Inn-fields, and there produced *L'Allegro*, *Hymen*, and *Deidamia*. These uneasy speculations ended in a second failure, and for the second time in his life the great composer found himself unable to face his creditors.

Then followed his journey to Ireland, which was the turning point of his fortunes. From the day of the first performance of the *Messiah*, which took place in Dublin on the 13th of April, 1742, the sun of Handel's glory was undimmed by a cloud up to the moment of its setting. A veil seems to have fallen from before the eyes of his enemies; all contentions were settled, all opposition at rest, all failings forgiven. Henceforth everybody seemed to regard him with pride as the greatest composer the world ever saw, and to agree by common consent to overlook foibles which would have been unpardonable in any other man. How much of this is due to the feeling excited in Ireland by his visit there we cannot determine, but we think it far more probable that it was mainly due to his final abandonment of operas about the same time or shortly afterwards. Making a mistake which is by no means uncommon, he valued his worst works the most highly. M. Schœlcher appears desirous of convincing the world that his operas are very fine, and urges, oddly enough, in support of this, that many airs out of them have been used for sacred songs. As an instance of this we may mention that Braham's well-known song, 'Lord, remember David,' is nothing

but 'Rend' il sereno al ciglio,' in *Sosarme*. But this fact, instead of leading us into a belief of the uniform excellence of these operas, tends to confirm our impression that they are works of no very great merit, with here and there, by exception, a fine piece of music. Why have they been entirely lost to the stage? Who ever heard an opera of Handel? At the time they were written they were unpopular; are they likely to be less so now? Evidently their failure could not have entirely arisen from personal causes, because neither the oratorios nor *Acis* failed. It has been suggested that the present disposition of the public mind to test the quality of everything Handelian should hint to the managers of our two Opera Houses the desirability of reviving one of Handel's operas. We should like to see the experiment tried, and we have no doubt that the curiosity of the public would render it a successful one in a commercial point of view; but we must frankly confess that we do not think the reputation of the composer would be much increased among those who came with their ears filled with the sublime thunder of the choruses in *Israel* to listen to the music of *Rinaldo* or *Roderigo*.

From Handel's return to London down to his death, on the 13th of April, 1759, he occupied himself with the production of oratorios and their performance. *Judas Maccabæus*, *Joshua*, *Solomon*, *Theodora*, *Jephtha*, were the children of his old age. His career was at that time honourable and profitable; for he was not only enabled to pay up all arrears (which must have been an unspeakable comfort to one who was himself the very soul of honour), but he contrived to scrape together some 30,000*l.* to leave behind him. His charities were at this time very great; indeed, it is estimated that he benefited the Foundling Hospital to the extent of about 10,000*l.* About eight years before his death, he was stricken with blindness, but whether entire or partial M. Schœlcher seems to be in doubt. This was a great affliction to him, but he bore it patiently. At length, on the day which we have already named, and which happened to be a Good Friday, he died in the fulness of honour, at a ripe age, and at the zenith of his genius.

Such is the story of Handel's life, as it is well told by M. Schœlcher. The narrative is, of course, frequently interrupted by criticism upon the various works as they appear in proper order; and it is in these excursions that the musical reader will find the matter which he will value most highly. A valuable collection of MSS., discovered and acquired by M. Schœlcher himself, and which prove to be the identical copies which Handel himself used whilst conducting his own works, and which are filled with marginal notes and references in his own handwriting (containing, in fact, invaluable traditions of the orchestra direct from the hand of the great composer himself), has enabled M. Schœlcher to throw light upon a multitude of points hitherto obscured, if not unknown. In his search among the original MSS. in Buckingham Palace, he has had the good fortune to light upon a German oratorio on the *Passion*, whose existence was suspected, but about which so little had been ascertained, that it may be said to have been quite unknown before M. Schœlcher's discovery.

The most valuable results of M. Schœlcher's researches will, however, appear in a separate volume, which is to be a *catalogue raisonné* of all the great composer's works. The exact date at which this important addition to the literature of music is to make its appearance has not yet been announced; but there can be no doubt that its advent will be looked for with interest by all scientific musicians.

In fulfilment of the unpleasant but necessary critical duty of fault-finding, we have to accuse M. Schœlcher of taking what appears, to us a somewhat narrow view of his hero's character and position. He has gazed at the sun so long that he has lost all distinctness of vision. Having once made up his mind that Handel was the greatest musician in the world, he straightway goes about to prove that he was also the most virtuous, the most dignified, the most temperate, and the most amiable of men. This, however, is a venial offence. What care we for the man Handel, so that the character of the musician remains perfect? We would not have had him a fraction less good as a musician to make him twenty times more amiable. His character and the effects of it are gone; but his music is eternal. Therefore, whether we believe that Mr. George Frederick Handel was a glutton, and a coarse companion, and a swearer, and an ungallant hater of the fair sex, and a man of a somewhat grasping disposition, or whether we concede to M. Schœlcher that he was an angel in *gorge de pigeon* breeches and a periwig, is of no matter at all. It is enough that we know him for the greatest musical genius that ever subjected to his will the mysterious powers of divine harmony, that he had the power of Orpheus to bring all nature to his feet, that he wrote music such as it is not impiety to hope the Seraphim perform in Heaven. These are the truths with which we now have to deal, and in which we are happy to coincide fully with M. Schœlcher. "He would (says the latter) be the Shakspeare of Music, if he were not its Michael Angelo."

CHINA AND ITS INHABITANTS.

China: a General Description of that Empire and its Inhabitants. By Sir John Murray. Francis Davis, Bart., K.C.B. New Edition. 2 vols.

DAVIS'S *China* is sufficiently well known to require little more, in the way of introduction to the reader, than a mention of its reappearance, with additions and corrections by the author. It now forms the most readable and authoritative work on the manners and institutions of the Celestial Empire, in so far as existing materials enable them to be described. The author has controlled the statements of previous writers by his own experience; and, though inclined to magnify the importance of Chinese civilization, on the whole exhibits discretion and judgment. He is not alone in his admiration; indeed, far more moderate than many others. The Chinese, like the Germans, have a sort of mysterious power of fascinating the minds that come in contact with theirs, and sending them back into 'outer barbarism,' deprived of the free exercise of some of their higher faculties. People who travel in those regions lose either the power of thinking, or the power of writing clearly; and acquire, among other things, a wonderful faith in the obsequiousness of the public—its willingness to abdicate the right of criticism, and believe particular assertions that utterly contradict all general

rules. "I've been," say they, "and sure I ought to know." And, singularly enough, despite the ancient satire on travellers' tales, these persons often obtain credence without any examination into their powers of observation. For many years, on the report of illiterate captains' clerks or drunken supercargoes, it remained an ethnological fact that there were whole races in this world without any notion of the existence of a God; and on authority not much more respectable, we have been—and, indeed, are still, by some—expected to believe that the three or four hundred millions of men who huddle behind the Great Wall form in reality a civilized community.

For our part, whilst we accept this work as a fair summary and intelligent view of existing statements on Chinese matters, we are inclined to believe that we know little of the real condition of the Celestial Empire—even setting aside that mysterious revolution, that social conflict, the sounds of which come to us like the roar of voices and clatter of furniture when a 'row' takes place in the next house, and we know neither the causes nor the heroes thereof. After all, we are reduced, in most important particulars, to depend on the imperturbable assertions of the same men, whose thundering style and bombastical falsehoods convulse Europe with laughter every time a specimen, referring to current business, gets into circulation. What credence can be given to imperial statistics and reports even in Europe, 'our own correspondents' from every capital in Europe—from St. Petersburg to Paris—are every day employed in informing us. Suppose we were to write a description of France from documents signed Billault or Baroche! This illustration will enable us to appreciate the value of information to be got from published statements in China, where all literature is official (that is, mendacious), and where, indeed, the tendency of every man is to brag, boast, and falsify. Even a truth-telling country, provided we were not allowed to enter it, would give, by its own reports, wrong impressions to strangers. What must be the case with a country of lies?

We have mentioned three or four hundred millions as the population of China; but there are really no grounds whatever to go upon for ascertaining the truth. The probability is, considering that we have reports of vast desert tracts, ranges of mountains, provinces overrun by savages and jungle, huge lakes and interminable marshes, that, when we get better knowledge, we shall find that the population has been grossly exaggerated. Everything we are told about China wears indeed a suspicious aspect, when once we are taken away from the coast. A ferocious rabble, ignorant and prejudiced, with many of the instincts of the lower animals, soon makes way for a polished and refined race of philosophers and gentlemen; just as in the history of this braggadocio empire, the further you go back, the completer and more grand does the narrative become; so that a hundred thousand years ago, more or less, we find ourselves introduced to the private thoughts and actions of most estimable and entertaining gentlemen, but when we come to the period corresponding to our dark ages, all is doubt and confusion, disorder or bloodshed.

A Frenchman used, not long ago, to wander about Paris, exciting the imagination of our excitable neighbours by most wonderful predictions. The Chinese, according to him, were a terrible race, actuated by terrible intentions. They were destined to destroy all industry in all other parts of the world. They were so cunning, so clever, so inventive, that when once they set about it, they would produce everything wanted by everybody everywhere so much more cheaply than anything could be produced by anybody anywhere, that we should have nothing to do but to turn our fields into parks, shut up our factories, and make bonfires of our instruments of labour. China would supply us inexorably with all desiderata, corn and meat, clothes and houses—even with news—much more quickly and at lower rates than we could possibly do ourselves. The artists, who now draw hideous caricatures on earthen plates, as soon as they chose would beat Raphael and Correggio in genius, and Horace Vernet in rapidity. Nobody would care for any art but Chinese art. We should all be reduced, therefore, to the awful necessity of living on our rents without doing a stitch of work, and the arbiter of the world would be 'the great Panjander himself with a little button on the top.'

The existence of this theory, which found disciples and created uneasiness for a moment among some men of intellect (who would have probably been driven mad by the frightful narration of the man whose head was turned, and who, therefore, chewed his pigtail till he died), illustrates the unwholesome character of the beliefs about China prevalent in France. Phantoms that have neither back nor breast are apt to rise from confused and incomplete knowledge, just as miasma rise from all decayed and disorganised matter. Are we much better informed in England? Have we not been gravely told to abstain from this war, because the Chinese are a people differently constituted from ourselves, not accessible to the same influences, nor amenable to the same laws, who poison from patriotic motives, may be mowed down by grape-shot, and dashed to pieces by battalions at a time, without being in the slightest degree alarmed or convinced of their inferiority, who are victorious when they run away, invincible because they don't know how to resist, and, in fact, like the nightmares that attack us during indigestion, will be enabled to torment us terribly whilst we never shall succeed in getting at them? We may depend upon it that Chinamen, when they come to be known, will prove, after having received a few lessons, as tractable as any other Asiatic nation.

MR. HILL'S SUGGESTIONS FOR THE REPRESSION OF CRIME.

Suggestions for the Repression of Crime. Contained in Charges delivered to Grand Jurors of Birmingham, supported by Additional Facts and Arguments. By Mathew Davenport Hill. J. W. Parker and Son.

An old Swedish proverb says that he is a great man who knows the right thing at the right time. In this sense of the word, the Brothers Hill are among England's greatest men. When the trade and commerce of this country had extended to a degree never dreamt of before, and facility of communication became the great desideratum, Rowland Hill came forth with his penny-post scheme, and carried it victoriously amidst the fore-

bodings of officials and the exultations of the country. Another and even more important question—a question touching society in most of its vital interests—is mooted, and a second Hill clearly brings together all the materials for an effectual mode of repressing crime.

Who will deny that this social malady, called crime, is the great enemy to be fought? It undermines and destroys not only the 'criminal' but the innocent. Yet society, though its own life is at stake, does not prevent, but simply punishes, crime after it has been committed: hides the sword after the wound is inflicted. This is the question discussed by our author throughout the collected works of many long years. Mr. Davenport Hill does not lose himself in vain speculations, still less in despondent acquiescence; but he gives us practical suggestions based on long experience. He will prevent crime by preventing the growth of a criminal class of men, who have made law-breaking their regular vocation. Here is Mr. Hill's leading idea. He will, above all things, permanently dispose of convicts who pursue crime as a business; of that body of men who, not led astray by casual temptation or by temporary indulgence of the passions, but by long-continued, determined offences against society, have shown their incapability of living as free human beings among the rest of men. The class is much more numerous than is commonly believed; for the Recorder of Birmingham estimates them in England and Wales alone to be a hundred thousand. This computation is based on known facts, and it shows at once how small a portion of the criminals are actually brought to account. For example, the number of forged notes presented at the Bank of England, and the number of convictions for the forgery of bank-notes between the years 1805 and 1837 proves the proportion of convictions compared with that of offences as only 1 to 164. Yet hanging failed to check the crime that has been checked by improved regulations, and even by the improved paper and finer engraving of the note. The criminal class, taken as a body, is far below the average intellect of every honest class, both in natural and acquired endowments. This is a very significant fact not yet sufficiently appreciated in all its bearings. Once fully established that the law-breaker is not only a bad man but also a very stupid and ignorant man, and it becomes our duty to lay hold of him, for his own sake as well as for ours. The great question then remaining will be, how to detect these men so as to prevent their misdoings, and check them in teaching others whom we leave at their mercy—the children of the streets. Mr. Hill proposes to detain the known criminal as you would detain a lunatic or put a plague patient in quarantine.

When by the evidence of two or more credible witnesses a jury has been satisfied that there is good ground for believing, and that the witnesses do actually believe, that the accused party is addicted to robbery or theft, so as to deserve the appellation of robber or thief, he shall be called-upon in defence to prove himself in possession of means of subsistence lawfully obtained. On the failure of such proof let him be adjudged a reputed thief, and put under high recognizances to be of good conduct for some limited period; or in default of responsible bail, let him suffer imprisonment for the same term.

At the first view this seems harsh, yet it is only the strictest justice. As things are, there is a nation in a nation; a tribe of malefactors, organised and ever ready to wage war against the surrounding community of peaceable workers. It is but self-defence if the workers seize their enemies for a term, and annihilate their powers to do ill until they have made their mind up either to become workers also, or else suffer the penalty of beings alien to the laws of men and of nature. The retribution is as fair as anything in this world.

Mr. M. D. Hill has, as he himself states, not concocted this plan amid the excitement created by the daily increase of crime, and the difficulties into which it has plunged society; on the contrary, it is a maturely considered proposal, on a subject which for years has engaged no small portion of his thoughts. He first proposed it in 1850, when it found great and unexpected resistance from the press, to which resistance the Recorder replied in his charge to the Birmingham Grand Jury, October, 1851, in the following terms:—

"My theory is founded on the well-known fact (which I pause for a moment to state has never been controverted) that each individual of the class of professional marauders is well known, both personally and by character, to the police and to his neighbours, and could be pointed out with perfect ease. From this fact I drew the consequence that society (having such means of knowledge within its reach) was not only justified, but bound to use it for the general protection."

It would be difficult to contradict this; and thus the chief opposition Mr. Hill encountered during these latter years was not so much against his plan in general as against the details of execution. Yet in this new volume he acts like a man who is perfectly sure of his case; for not only his own arguments, but those of his adversaries in the public press, are freely and candidly stated, and brought before the public in their own words.

Moreover, this system of preventing crime is not the only new idea Mr. Hill advocates. As long as thirty years ago he began to comment on the daily injustice committed by the state in withholding from prisoners the pecuniary means for producing evidence in their defence, an injustice already remedied in the legislature of many continental states—Belgium and Tuscany for example. There are some painful facts cited as a consequence of this glaring wrong committed on prisoners who happen to be poor.

Another subject, likewise very important, though unfortunately little attracting public attention, is the unequal treatment of prisoners. Mr. M. D. Hill justly observes:—

Let the criminal who, whatever his offences may be, has the merit of personal decency, have the benefit of such merit. To produce artificially an equality in abasement is neither wise nor just. Such equality, moreover, is eminently deceptive, and in truth is inequality of the worst kind. Take the case of a young woman who has not been able to resist the temptation of purloining some coveted article of dress from the shop of a haberdasher. Is it equal treatment to subject her to the discipline which befalls a drunken harridan, brought for the tenth or fiftieth time back to prison in the stupor of intoxication, covered with the mud and filth collected upon her person and her clothes in her disgusting orgies? If you cut off the hair of the young shoplifter, and if you compel her to wear the same dress with her loathsome fellow-prisoner, have you inflicted equal pain by this equality of treatment? Certainly not; in the latter case you have relieved the prisoner from a portion of the revolting

misery produced by her own misconduct, and restored her to something approaching to comfort; whereas in the former case you have shocked and violated all her feelings of self-respect, thereby inflicting exquisite pain, which will not be forgotten, but which, nevertheless, is calculated to plunge her still deeper into crime than she has yet fallen.

The Arts.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

IV.—THE LANDSCAPES.

Pursuing our way through the pleasant places of the Middle and Eastern Rooms, we are struck by the vigour with which the landscape-painter keeps up to the new standard, although some of the older artists maintain their mannerism. Perhaps the one who does so in the most marked way is LINNELL, whose pictures seem to be stitched in coloured wool. But the whole body, from the highest to the lowest, share in the impulse to make their work better, to compare it more completely with nature, to bestow greater pains on the manipulation of every part, and, above all, to throw a fresher and more animated heart into their labours. You may know CRESWICK at the first glance,—it is CRESWICK alone who can give that sharpness to every twig and every leaf, every stone and every ripple; and yet arrange the sections of his composition so much in round groupings. For in the same scene every artist has a tendency to observe a particular class of demarcations, and CRESWICK'S eye is faithful in the recognition of circular subdivisions. Yet the mannerism of CRESWICK is entirely subordinate to the truth of nature; and, as in "Parted Streams," his later works have obeyed the tendency of the day. They have become more specific, more truthful; as open, perhaps, as ever to some of the fanciful complaints of Mr. RUSKIN, but challenging his approval where he comes to his specific tests, and compares the work of art with the work of nature.

It is upon the ground, near the middle of the Southern wall in the Middle Room, that you must seek what is perhaps the most perfect picture in the present exhibition. It is a little landscape, by AUGUSTE BONHEUR—"Landscape and Cattle" (300). The scene is a meadow plain, with foliage in the foreground on the spectator's left. In the middle of the picture is a narrow piece of water, on the left bank of which the spectator seems to stand. Cattle are slowly moving from one side to the other. The sun is already low, and brilliant rays are glancing through the foliage, sharp shadows playing among the trees, and marking the endless inequalities of the level foreground. The whole picture, although so tranquil that the slightest murmur of the cattle could be heard, is full of natural life and motion. The sunlight itself seems to move as it glances over the flat surface. The grass can be stirred by a breath; the cattle are breathing. The hill itself, with its sharp face turned from you into the distance—for you can almost see the precipice on the other side—stands steadfast among the moving mists of the sultry air. The effect of the picture is produced at once by true conception of the subject, and by mastery of hand. No painter, not even possessing the quickest eye and the firmest hand, could have copied the effects from nature. They are too transitory, too evanescent; but he must possess the power of seeing them in his mind, and of reproducing with his hand exactly what his mind sees. The result is, that a scene of real nature is here preserved as if it had been fixed in a mirror. The picture is perfect. But by some peculiarity in hanging arrangements, which certainly are not perfect, it is left near the feet of the visitor, to be concealed by all the petticoats in the room.

The "Spring in the Wood" does not equal some of ANTHONY'S previous works. There is the same effort to give us every twig and every leaf, the same forcible sobriety of shade; but the sombreness is too heavy, the effort is not successful. The style of the naturalist has stiffened into mannerism.

We might compare this laboured effort of the new style with a picture that is too laboured, but is still imbued by the very spirit of nature, from the hand of a veteran belonging to the old style—"Scene on the West Lyn, Lynmouth, Devon," by J. GENDALL. No man with taste, a natural eye, and a practised hand, can continue painting portraits of nature, especially if he keep his heart fresh, without bringing the sun and the breeze into the picture.

Look again at STANFIELD'S "Calm in the Gulf of Salerno," J. STARK'S "Scene on the North Coast," E. W. COOKE'S "Morning after a Heavy Gale," CORBOULD'S "Road Side," in the West Room, E. W. COOKE'S "Bit of English Coast," or REDGRAVE'S "Harvest Field."

Spain appears to have furnished the school for several of our artists this year and in many respects it is as good a school as they could choose. Its temperature tends to counteract the contracting chilliness of our own, the repose of the people is a useful antagonism to the restlessness of ours, while the atmosphere is broader in its effects. The result is seen very powerfully in ANSDALL'S largest picture "Ploughing: Seville, 1857." His mules, and other smaller works, are an improvement on his style. He has long possessed considerable knowledge of the animal form, with great skill in delineating action; but he has wanted a more simple breadth of style. Under a dull sky, in the brightest days, every particular stands out, but there has not been that flood of light upon broad surfaces which overwhelms minute shadows and outlines, and the eye can never so painfully 'condescend upon particulars' as when it sees a wiry terrier under a Scotch sky. Each particular hair then becomes a peg upon which a sermon, might be hung. And ANSDALL has heretofore given us too much, a war not only of the hungry wolf and the bristling hound, but a scene in which the locks of the hound seemed to enter into the contest. "Ploughing at Seville, 1856," is a totally different scene; here we have a broad plain, on which the rude plough, older in construction than the time of the Romans, is just scratching the surface. One plough is following another without much order; the slow

oxen moving heavily forward under the slow heat of the sky, while the peasant that guides the plough, if guiding it can be called, lends his weight to press its wooden share into the ground. The flatness of the plain, the slow movement, the sense of inorganic life, form a picture of which the harmonies are complete; and in a clear, simple design, both of composition and of colour, the artist has made his work thoroughly in harmony with the scene. The consequence is that notwithstanding the simplicity of the theatre and of the action, and the humility of the persons of the drama, there is in the whole scene a strength and dignity derived from the direct portraiture of nature.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

VERDI'S *Nabuco*, under the title of *Nino*, was revived on Tuesday for the first appearance of Signor CORSI, who brings a name of Continental repute. We cannot assign to Signor Corsi the high rank bestowed upon him by the critics of Paris and of Italy. That his voice is not what it may possibly have been, there is no denying; that it was always a voice of limited range and moderate capabilities, we are disposed to believe. At present, it is wanting in vibration and sonority of tone, and deficient in force and flexibility, but it is not unskillfully employed, and has its fine moments. But it was as a dramatic singer that the advent of Signor Corsi was announced. We regret to be unable, so far as his performance of *Nino* (or *Nabuco*) is concerned, to discern the characteristics of a great actor. His make up, which we may roughly describe as something between a swollen JULLIEN and the Wandering Jew, was singularly unimposing, and neither in his presence, nor in his action, nor in his by-play, could we discover the dramatic artist. His gesticulation was almost as monotonous as his voice, but we indulge the hope that we have not yet seen or heard the best of Signor Corsi.

We were regretting last week that Madlle. SPEZIA had not as yet succeeded in making good in England the high reputation accorded to her in Italy. In *Nino*, however, this lady has made a decided advance: she looked, sang, and acted throughout the opera with a degree of force and fervour of expression, and a commanding dignity of manner, that gave assurance of even higher excellence. The opera was, on the whole, creditably performed, but the *mise en scène* was terribly dingy, and the stage business irregular and indifferent. The orchestra seemed at home in music peculiarly fitted to a brass band. *Nabuco* has always been a great favourite in Italy, both with the singers and the public, and was the first opera that, after many failures, established the success and popularity of VERDI, now the best-abused and best-enjoyed composer in Europe.

Don Giovanni is announced for Thursday next, and to be given with extraordinary completeness. But, is it possible that we read aright? *Di Immortales!* *Don Giovanni*, Signor BENEVENTANO? We shudder at the thought. *En revanche*, Madlle. PICCOLOMINI is to be the *Zerlina*, with Madlle. SPEZIA as the *Donna Anna*, and Madlle. ORTOLANI as the *Elvira*, and GIUGLINI as the *Don Ottavio*. Signor CORSI, too, we dare say will be more at home as *Masetto* than as *Nebuchadnezzar*, 'up from grass.' With this pleasurable anticipation of evenings with MOZART, let us be permitted to inquire when we are to have the *Nozze* at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA?

THE WHITSUNTIDE AMUSEMENTS.

A FINE day on Monday shed cheerful influences on the pleasure-seekers whom Whitsuntide always calls forth. Railroad carriage, steamboat, omnibus, and cab, overflowed with happy, genial life, and great was the ruralising in the fields and lanes. Great also was the gathering of families in the various places of amusement in town, whether open free or requiring the enchantment of silver towards the unfolding of the portals. The NATIONAL GALLERY, the BRITISH MUSEUM, the GREAT GLOBE, the public gardens from CREMORNE, west, to ROSHERVILLE, east, the PANORAMAS, DIORAMAS, and hosts of nondescript exhibitions, the CRYSTAL PALACE, COLOSSEUM, and POLYTECHNIC;—all were loud and bright with humanity. At night came the Theatres, though with few novelties. The HAYMARKET produced a new comedy by the author of *The Cagots*, called *The Husband of an Hour*, with a part for Mr. BUCKSTONE; and the audience proclaimed it a success. The PRINCESS'S continued the historical pageantry, of *Richard II.*; and the horses, tumblers, and mimes of DRURY LANE went on with their 'Isthmian games' and their jokes. The OLYMPIC, SURREY, ASTLEY'S, STANDARD, QUEEN'S, VICTORIA, and some of the other Theatres, not to speak of the Saloons, still relied on their stock pieces; but, at the ST. JAMES'S, the Paris *Bouffes* produced a new *opérette-militaire*, entitled *Dragonnette*, and at the STRAND Signor Bosco exhibited his feats of magic and ventriloquism. The ADELPHI reserved its new piece for the benefit of Madame CELESTE on Wednesday, when an original drama in five acts, called *George Darville*, revealed a tale of wrong-doing and remorse, and gave occasion for some effective acting by Mr. WEBSTER, the fair manageress, Mr. WRIGHT and others.

The visitors at CREMORNE were amused by a troop of Marionettes; and, at the SURREY GARDENS, M. JULLIEN, in his never-fading white waistcoat, and with his fateful bâton, brought out a musical phenomenon of his own composition, called 'The Comet Galop,' in the conducting of which he goes into more than his usual ecstasies of ferocious liveliness. A large audience stamped with their approval this piece of descriptive harmony, which is spirited and telling in its main subject, and in its accessories is a perfect tempest of brassy and gongy clangour. The supposed rushing of the comet is not badly indicated in the roar of sound; but of course the whole thing is more a matter for good-humoured amusement than criticism. Among the fireworks at the end of the evening there was an attempt at a visual comet; but it was a failure, the tail being unaccountably shed after a little while, and the rest looking like a cod's head and shoulders in the sky.

To all these entertainments has been added the inexpressible delight of fine weather—weather with a hot, bright soul—weather of blue skies, and golden sunlight, and violet-tinted evenings—weather of west winds—weather still tender with the youth of spring, yet full-bodied and odorous with the wealth of summer. The comet, which fails to produce much influence in the pyrotechny of the Surrey Gardens, seems to be truly ripening the year as a peach ripens on the sunward side of the wall. The Whitsun pleasure-seeker, as he steamed down the river or whirled along the iron rails that pave the pathway of the locomotive, must have thought of the vintage of the last year—1811, if we mistake not—and smacked his lips with anticipations of a more than ordinarily exquisite bottle of port; and even those unto whom port is not drunk their humble ale with added gusto and delight.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

ALLAM.—On the 5th May, at Tobago, West Indies, the wife of Alfred J. Allam, Esq., Colonial Secretary: a daughter.
SIM.—On the 12th April, at Trichinopoly, India, the wife of William Clulow Sim, Esq., Madras Civil Service: a son.

MARRIAGES.

ALDERMAN—UTHER.—On the 30th May, at St. Mary's, Islington, John Alderman, Esq., of Crowland, Lincolnshire, to Susan Margaret Uther, youngest daughter of the late John Smith, Esq., formerly of Banbury, Oxfordshire.
ST. JOHN—MIDDLETON.—On the 29th May (after a previous marriage by license, the 25th of April, at the Registrar Office of Marriages for St. Martin-in-the-Fields, before the Superintendent Registrar, assisted by Mr. Augustus Hay), at St. Pancras New Church, by the Rev. Lanford Dale, Vane Ireton Shaftesbury, youngest son of James Augustus St. John, Esq., of 13, Grove-end-road, St. John's-wood, to Eliza Catherine, youngest daughter of Saffery Middleton, Esq., of 40, Long-acre.

DEATHS.

BOLLAND.—On the 26th of April, near Jerusalem, of pleurisy, in the 33rd year of his age, the Rev. John Bolland, youngest son of the late Baron Bolland.
EVANS.—On the 21st April, of fever, at Rome, the Rev. E. T. Evans, incumbent of Llandudno, North Wales, aged 33.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, June 2.

BANKRUPTS.—LEWIS HENRY MYERS, late of the Jews' Hospital, Mile-end-road, and Long-acre, now of 35, Wellesley-street, Stepney, dealer in Manchester goods—GEORGE WILLIAM GLINISTER and WILLIAM JOSEPH GLINISTER, Spring-garden-place and Green-street, Stepney, grocers, cheesemongers, and beer retailers—JAMES WOODS, 23, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, tailor—CHARLES BUDDEN, Basingstoke, Hants, tailor—JOHN LOWDEN and WILLIAM LOWDEN, 13, Colleshill-street, Pimlico, shipowners—GEORGE DURRANT STARLING, Ormesby, Norfolk, grocer, draper, and miller—GEORGE WHELDON, the younger, Wyke-house, near Wincanton, Gillingham, Dorsetshire, brick and tile maker—JOHN JOSEPH BUGGINS, Birmingham, silver plater and pearl cutter—JOHN BETTS, 16, West-street, Bristol, grocer and provision dealer—GEORGE MATTHEW HALE, Cardiff, Glamorganshire, late of St. Arvans, Monmouthshire, victualler—THOMAS GREENWOOD and SAMUEL KING, Cannon-street and St. Aubyn-street, Devonport, builders and contractors—ROBERT NOBLE, Whitby, Yorkshire, dentist—BENJAMIN CHADWICK, Liverpool, chronometer and watch maker—JOHN EVANS, Spring-vale-works, Whitefield, Lancashire, bleacher—RICHARD WALBURN, Howdon, near Crook, Durham, grocer and draper.

Friday, July 5.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—JAS. RALSTON, Cowcaddens-street, Glasgow, ironmonger, tinsmith, and gas-fitter—ROBERTSON BROTHERS, Glasgow, tea, coffee, fruit, and spice merchants—ANGUS SHAW, Cowcaddens, Glasgow, glass and china merchant.
BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—DAVID MEYRICK, Cardiff, Glamorganshire, boot maker.
BANKRUPTS.—JAMES SHAW, Southover, near Lewes, grocer—CHARLES KNOWLES, Exeter, draper—JAMES HOGGINS, Strand, auctioneer and tobacconist—JOHN FREDERICK GOODERD, Piccadilly, wine merchant—SAMUEL GROTICK, Blackfriars-road, hatter.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, June 5, 1857.

THE Australian gold delivery is taking place at last, and the amount received this last week from various sources must be considerable.

The shipments of silver, however, for India and China continue without abatement, and the exchange being against this country we shall still have to send out bullion. The pressure for money has been excessive, and this has stopped all speculation. The Consols monthly account has been settled this day. The rate of continuation is as high as 3/4 per cent., which serves to show that the speculators for a rise are still in the ascendant. The fine weather adds to the buoyancy of the market, and an easier money market once given we must have a general rise. Against this there is that fatal thunder cloud which hangs over the Bourse of Paris and ruin half France, taking a goodly number of our countrymen along with it. The foreign stocks have been steady. A slight improvement in Turkish Six per Cent., but they do not go much beyond 95. French and Belgian railway shares are heavier, this is particularly noticeable in Sambro and Meuse, Luxembourg, Paris and Lyons. Riga and Danaburg shares having fallen to 10s. per share discount, have made a call of 4s. per share, and are recovering by slow degrees. The traffic returns of Grand Trunk of Canada and Great Western of Canada are becoming better, and these lines are in greater favour. All the traffic returns are excellent, but shares are not in proportion, although the feeling this afternoon is decidedly better. Caledonians have fallen to 36 1/2 again, and are not looking nearly so well. Joint-Stock Bank shares continue in demand. Mining shares are much depressed. A considerable fall in the price of Copper has brought many sellers of shares into the market. Lead Mines shares have not experienced the same fall. In Miscellaneous shares, absence of business is shown by hardly one single bargain being marked on the daily official list.

Blackburn, 8 1/2; Caledonian, 7 1/2; Chester and Holyhead, 36, 37; Eastern Counties, 11 1/2; Great Northern, 90 1/2; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 10 1/2; 10 1/2; Great Western, 64 1/2; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 100 1/2; London and Blackwall, 6; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 110, 112; London and North-Western, 104, 104 1/2; London and South-Western, 90 1/2; Midland, 83 1/2; North-Eastern (Berwick), 80, 80; South-Eastern (Dover), 74, 74 1/2; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6 1/2; Dutch Rhensish, 2, 1 1/2; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 28 1/2, 29 1/2; Great Central of France, 24 1/2; Great Luxembourg, 6 1/2; Northern of France, 37 1/2, 38 1/2; Paris and Lyons, 58 1/2; Royal Danish, 10, 18; Royal Swedish, 1 1/2; Sambro and Meuse, 8, 8 1/2.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, June 5, 1857.

We have received from abroad this week 41,130 qrs. of Wheat, 10,810 qrs. of Barley, 67,250 qrs. of Oats, and 1940 barrels of flour. Holders, however, have evinced great firmness, and the value of Wheat has been fully supported. The quantity of English grain on sale to-day was not large. Barley, Beans, and Peas underwent no change of importance, while in Oats the turn in price was against the buyer.

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

Table with columns for Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur., Frid. and rows for Bank Stock, 3 per Cent. Red., 3 per Cent. Con. An., Consols for Account, New 3 per Cent. An., New 2 1/2 per Cents., Long Ans. 1860, India Stock, Ditto Bonds, £1000, Ditto, £1000, Ex. Bills, £1000, Ditto, £500, Ditto, Small.

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Table with columns for Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur., Frid. and rows for Brazilian Bonds, Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents, Chilean 6 per Cents., Chilean 3 per Cents., Dutch 2 1/2 per Cents., Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif., Ecuador Bonds, Mexican Account, Peruvian 4 1/2 per Cents., Portuguese 3 per Cents., Portuguese 4 per Cents., Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents., Russian 4 1/2 per Cents., Spanish, Spanish Committee Cert. of Coup. not fun., Turkish 6 per Cents., Turkish New, 4 ditto, Venezuela 4 1/2 per Cents.

FINSBURY CHAPEL, SOUTH-PLACE.

Gentlemen desirous of promoting the Cultivation and Diffusion of Religious Free Thought, by Single Lectures or Courses of Lectures on Sunday mornings at the above Chapel, are invited to communicate with the Secretary. The Lectures are not expected to be gratuitous.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, COVENTRY-STREET, LEICESTER-SQUARE.

Lectures by Dr. KAHN, daily, at 3 o'clock, on the Physiology of Marriage and the Diseases of Imprudence, and by Dr. SEXTON, F.R.G.S., F.E.S., as follows: At half-past 1, on Vision; its Laws, Curiosities, Phenomena, and Disorders, &c. At 4, the Great Tobacco Controversy. At half-past 7, the Food we eat; its Uses, Preparation, Adulteration, and Digestion. The Museum contains 1000 Models and Preparations, and is wholly unrivalled in the world. Open daily (for gentlemen only) from 10 till 10. Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Dr. Kahn's Lectures, gratis to visitors.

MADLE. ROSA BONHEUR'S GREAT PICTURE OF THE HORSE FAIR.

Messrs. P. and D. COLNAGHI and Co. beg to announce that the above Picture is now on View at the GERMAN GALLERY, 168, New Bond-street, from 9 to 6, for a limited period.—Admission, 1s.

SCHWEPPE'S MALVERN SELTZER WATER.

Manufactured by J. SCHWEPPE and Co., the sole lessees, from the Pure Water of the Holy Well, possesses all the celebrated properties of the Nassau Spring. SCHWEPPE'S SODA, MAGNESIA, POTASS WATERS AND LEMONADE are manufactured as usual. Every Bottle is protected by a Label with their signature.

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HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.

The variable temperature of the English climate exercises a pernicious and deleterious influence on the skin, the muscles, and the glands, and thus it is we find erysipelas, blotches, boils, and quinsey, so prevalent at particular seasons of the year, often engendered, and always aggravated, by this baneful health. Providentially, in Holloway's Ointment, we have the antidote before us, eradicating disease, and invigorating the outward organs, whilst the Pills conjointly prevent the recurrence of internal complaints or outward inflammation.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 81, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stampa, Constantinople; A. Guidicy, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

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OPINION OF CHARLES COWAN, Esq., M.D., L.R.C.S.E., Senior Physician to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Consulting Physician to the Reading Dispensary, Translator of "Louis on Phthisis," &c. "Dr. Cowan is glad to find that the Profession has some reasonable guarantee for a genuine article. The material now sold varies in almost every establishment where it is purchased, and a tendency to prefer a colourless and tasteless Oil, if not counteracted, will ultimately jeopardise the reputation of an unquestionably valuable addition to the Materia Medica. Dr. Cowan wishes Dr. DE JONGH every success in his meritorious undertaking."

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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—IL DON GIOVANNI.

On Thursday next, June 11 (included in the Subscription in lieu of Saturday, 25th July), will be produced MOZART'S CHEF-ŒUVRE, with the following unprecedented cast:—Zerlina, Madlle. Piccolomini; Donna Anna, Madlle. Spezia; and Donna Elvira, Madlle. Ortolani. Don Giovanni, Sig. Benevntano; Leporello, Sig. Belletti; Masetto, Sig. Corsi; Il Commendatore, Sig. Vialletti; and Don Ottavio, Sig. Giuglini.

The "Minuet" in the Ball Scene will be danced by Mdles. Pasquali, Karliski, Mortacchi, Marie, and the Corps de Ballet. Conductor, Signor Bonetti.

The Mise-en-Scène by Sig. Ronzani; the Scenery by Mr. Charles Marshall; the Dresses executed by Mrs. Masterman and M. Laureys, under the direction of Madame Copere; the Properties, Mr. Bradwell.

From respect to the grand work of the immortal Composer, the following Artistes of the Establishment have consented to lend their assistance to increase the effect of the Majestic Finale of the First Act, including the Chorus "Viva la Libertà":—MM. Reichardt, C. Braham, Bottardi, Mercuriali, Kinni, De Soros, and Baillou. Mesdames Poma, Berti, Baillon, Fazio, and Ramos.

The following pieces hitherto omitted will be restored:—"Ah! fuggi il Traditor," sung by Madame Ortolani; "Ho Capito," Signor Corsi; "Della Sua Pace," Signor Giuglini.

On Tuesday next, June 9, IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA. Rosina, Madame Alboni.

To conclude with the Ballet of ACALISTA.

FRENCH PLAYS.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—LES BOUFFES PARISIENS.

Open every evening. Monday, the Opéra-Comique, en un acte, L'Opéra aux Fenêtres, paroles de L. Halévy, musique de Gastinel, with new scenery, painted expressly by Messrs. Cuthbert and Adams.—Muller, Propriétaire, M. Leonce; Frantz, Poète, M. Tayau; Frederic, Officier, M. Charles Petit; Louise, Nièce de Muller, Madlle. Dalmont.

Opérette-Bouffe, en un acte, Six Demoiselles à Marier, paroles de M. Jaime, musique de Delibes.—M. Beaucoq, M. Pradeau; Parvi, M. Tayau; Sidonie, Servante de M. Beaucoq, Madlle. Macé. Les Six Filles de M. Beaucoq: Segovia, Madlle. Marechal. Barcelona, Soudzoukala, Pesth, Millana, Lieutza. With other entertainments.

In order to ensure the best possible effect to their performances the orchestra attached to the establishment in Paris has been brought over by the Director of the Company, Monsieur Offenbach, who will occasionally conduct the Performances.—Leader of the Band, M. Jules Offenbach.

In rehearsal, Le Savetier et le Financier, musique de Offenbach, and La Rose de St. Flour, musique de Offenbach. LES BOUFFES PARISIENS.—Thursday, May, 28, 1857.

Mr. MITCHELL respectfully announces that, in consequence of the general satisfaction afforded by these performances at the St. James's Theatre, and the patronage with which they are honoured, Monsr. Offenbach, the Director of the Company, has been induced and enabled, with the consent and approbation of his Excellency the Ministro d'Etat, to close the Théâtre des Bouffes in Paris, and to bring over the remaining Members of the Company—Monsr. Tajau, Monsr. Leonce, Monsr. Charles Petit, Monsr. Caillat, and Madlle. Corally Guffroy, who will have the honour of appearing, conjointly with Monsr. Pradeau, M. Guyot, M. Mesmacre, M. Paul, Madlle. Dalmont, Madlle. Macé, and Madlle. Mareschal. The following new and attractive pieces will be added to the repertoire:—"Le Roi Bolt," "La Pomme de Turquie," "Après l'Orage," "L'Orgue de Barbarie," &c. &c. &c. Performances will be given every Evening. Subscriptions may be arranged upon the same terms as at the commencement:—Stalls for twelve representations, 5 guineas; Private Boxes, 30 and 40 guineas.

By the Night: Stalls, 10s. 6d.; Public Boxes, 5s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 2s. Private Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets, may be secured at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street; Mr. Sams' Royal Library, St. James's-street; Messrs. Ebers, Rush, and Bubb (late Andrews'), Hookham's, Leader and Cook's, Chappell's, Hammonds, Campbell's, Cadby's, and Ollivier's Libraries, Bond-street; Cramer's, Jullien's, and the Carlton Library, 12, Regent-street; Messrs. Keith and Prowse's Music Warehouse, 48, Cheapside; and at the Box-office, which is open daily from Eleven till Five o'clock.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN. Monday, and during the week, A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING. Messrs. G. Vining, Addison, and Cooke; Mrs. Stirling. DADDY HARDAORE. Mr. F. Robson; Misses Stephens and Hughes. And THE WANDERING MINSTREL. Mr. F. Robson. Monday, June 15th, will be revived Murphy's Comedy ALL IN THE WRONG. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Addison, G. Vining, G. Cooke; Mrs. Stirling, Misses Swanborough, Marston, &c. Commence at Half-past Seven.

HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS. COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.

Mr. MITCHELL has the honour to announce that the LAST CONCERTS of this distinguished Society will take place this evening, Saturday, June 6th, being positively the LAST and FAREWELL CONCERT of the SOCIETY in England.

- PROGRAMME. 1. "On the Water," Mendelssohn. 2. "The Little Church," Chorus J. Becker. 3. "The Three Little Roses," Dr. Fr. Silcher. 4. "The Young Musicians," Kucken. 5. "Song of Liberty," C. M. Von Weber. In the interval of the Concert, M. OFFENBACH (Honorary Member of the Cologne Choral Union, and Director of Les Bouffes Parisiens), will have the honour of executing a Fantasia on the Violoncello, "Homage to a Rossini," accompanied on the Pianoforte by Herr Director WEBER. 6. "Double Serenade," Kollner. 7. "Popular Songs" {"The Faithless One," Dr. Fr. Silcher. 8. "Spanish Canzonet," by M. DUMONT. Reichardt. 9. "Dance," Otto. 10. "The Merry Wanderer," Mendelssohn. "God Save the Queen," National Air.

Doors open at Eight, Concert at half-past Eight. Director, Herr FRANZ WEBER. Reserved Stalls, 10s. 6d.; Back Seats, 5s. Which may be secured at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.—THE FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of Pictures by Modern Artists of the FRENCH SCHOOL, is Now Open to the Public at the FRENCH GALLERY, 121, Pall Mall, opposite the Opera Colonnade. Admission, One Shilling; Catalogues, Sixpence each. Open from NINE to SIX Daily.

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A Pint Sample of both Wines for 4s. 6d.
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Country Orders must contain a remittance. Cheques to be crossed "Bank of London."

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GOODRICH'S SISAL CIGARS! at his
Tobacco, Snuff, and Cigar Stores, 407, Oxford-street, London, near Soho-square. Box, containing 14, for 1s. 9d.; post free, six stamps extra; lb. boxes, containing 109, 12s. 6d. None are genuine unless signed "H. N. Goodrich."

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The GUINEA DRESS TROUSERS and HALF-GUINEA
WAISTCOATS.
The REGISTERED OUDE WRAPPER, combining Coat,
Cloak, and Sleeved Cape, 25s.
N.B.—A perfect fit guaranteed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Consultation and every information gratis.

TEETH.—Treasures of Art.—Dr. Edward Cook, of Guy's Hospital, and many other medical men of eminence, have recognised the diploma of Mr. ANDREW FRISCOE as a Surgeon-Dentist. His improved incorrodible mineral teeth and flexible gums resemble nature so perfectly that they cannot be detected in any light, while mastication and articulation are fully guaranteed! They can be fixed on the most tender gums without springs or wires of any description, and no painful extraction of roots required. Mr. A. F. may be consulted (gratis) daily at 513, Oxford-street, where he has practised for many years. His charges are more moderate than those generally advertised. Children's teeth attended to and regulated at 10s. per annum, including stopping and sealing.—513, New Oxford-street.

BEDSTEADS, BATHS, and LAMPS.
—WILLIAM S. BURTON has SIX LARGE SHOW-ROOMS devoted exclusively to the SEPARATE DISPLAY of Lamps, Baths, and Metallic Bedsteads. The Stock of each is at once the largest, newest, and most varied ever submitted to the public, and marked at prices proportionate with those that have tended to make his establishment the most distinguished in this country.

Bedsteads, from..... 12s. 6d. to £12 0s. each.
Shower Baths, from..... 7s. 6d. to £5 12s. each.
Lamps (Moderateur), from..... 6s. 6d. to £6 6s. each.
(All other kinds at the same rate.)
Pure Colza Oil..... 5s. per gallon.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied assortment of TABLE-CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on SALE at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales—3½ inch ivory-handled table-knives, with high shoulders, 12s. per dozen; dessert to match, 9s. 6d.; if to balance, 6d. per dozen extra; carvers, 4s. 3d. per pair; larger sizes, from 19s. to 26s. per dozen; extra fine ivory, 32s.; if with silver ferrules, 37s. to 50s.; white bone table-knives, 7s. 6d. per dozen; desserts, 5s. 6d.; carvers, 2s. 3d. per pair; black horn table-knives, 7s. 4d. per dozen; desserts, 6s., carvers, 2s. 6d.; black wood-handled table-knives and forks, 6s. per dozen; table steels from 1s. each. The largest stock in existence of plated dessert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish-carvers.

PAPIER MACHE and IRON TEA TRAYS.
—An assortment of Tea Trays and Waiters wholly unprecedented, whether as to extent, variety, or novelty.
New Oval Papier Mache Trays,
per set of Three..... from 20s. 0d. to 10 guineas.
Ditto, Iron ditto..... from 13s. 0d. to 4 guineas.
Convex-shape ditto..... from 7s. 6d.
Round and Gothic Waiters, Cake and Bread Baskets,
equally low.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR SILVER.

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

	Fiddle or Old Silver Pattern.	Thread or Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Table Spoons and Forks per dozen.....	38s.	48s.	60s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	30s.	35s.	42s.
Tea ditto	18s.	24s.	30s.

Tea and Coffee Sets, Cruet, and Liqueur Frames, Waiters, Candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of replating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

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

In these Premises, formed of Eight Houses, is on show the most magnificent STOCK of GENERAL HOUSE IRONMONGERY, with Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated Goods, Baths, Brushes, Turnery, Clocks, Candelabra, Lamps, Gaseliers, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, and Bed-hangings, &c., so arranged in Sixteen Large Show Rooms as to afford to parties furnishing facilities in the selection of goods that cannot be hoped for elsewhere. Illustrated Catalogues sent (per post) free.

39, OXFORD-STREET, W.; 1, 1A, 2, and 3 NEWMAN-STREET; and 4, 5, and 6, PERRY'S-PLACE, LONDON.
Established 1820.

FURNISHING IRONMONGERY.

FLOWER-STANDS, ARCHES, &c., also Massey's tubular pans for out flowers, requiring only half the usual quantity, preserves them double the time, and displays them to every advantage, 4s. each. Electro-plate, baths, cutlery, bedsteads, and bedding, stoves, fenders, fireirons, &c., &c. The FURNISHING IRONMONGERY and HARDWARE COMPANY (Limited) mark every article in plain figures, and deliver them, carriage free, throughout the kingdom at a saving of 25 per cent. to the purchaser.—47 and 48, Baker-street, Portman-square.

OPERA GLASSES, MICROSCOPES, TELESCOPES, SPECTACLES, EYE-GLASSES, and every kind of Optical and Philosophical Instruments, manufactured and sold by W. LADD, 31, Chancery-lane. Also maker of Bentley's Inductive Coils.

DEANE'S TABLE CUTLERY, celebrated for more than 150 years, maintains an unrivalled reputation for cheapness and first-rate quality. The stock is most extensive and complete, including the finest transparent Ivory Handles at 32s. per dozen, choice ditto Balance Handles from 22s. per doz., medium ditto Balance Handles (an exceedingly cheap and serviceable family article), 10s. per doz., also Bone, Horn, Stag, and every variety of mounting, all warranted. Plated Dessert Knives and Forks with Silver, Pearl, Ivory, and Plated Handles, in cases of 12, 18, or 24 pairs, also plated Fish-eating Knives from 42s. per doz. Silver and Plated Fish Carvers of the newest and most elegant designs always in stock. London Agents for Messrs. Joseph Rodgers and Sons' celebrated Cutlery. DEANE, DEAY and Co.'s General Furnishing Ironmongery Warehouses (opening to the Monument), London Bridge. Established A.D. 1700.

TEETH.—Much has been said and written about new inventions in artificial teeth, but hitherto no method for fixing them has been found to answer the purpose of preserving and consolidating the loose teeth and roots remaining. Up to this time to have had a tooth or a set of teeth replaced, springs or wires, or a painful operation, has been considered necessary. These inconveniences have been obviated by Mr. Rogers's improved method of fixing artificial teeth. The teeth thus secured resemble the natural teeth so completely that even the practical eye of a dentist cannot detect the imitation.—Invented by Mr. ROGERS, Surgeon-Dentist, from 270, Rue St. Honoré, Paris, author of several works on dental art. Mr. R. may be consulted daily on all cases of dental surgery at 18, NEW BURLINGTON-STREET, corner of REGENT-STREET.

VICTORIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 18, KING WILLIAM-STREET, CITY.
Established 1838.

Benjamin Hawes, Esq., Chairman.
Thomas Nesbitt, Esq., Deputy Chairman.
Charles Baldwin, Esq.
George Denny, Esq.
J. C. Dimsdale, Esq.
J. P. Gassiot, Esq., F.R.S.
Aaron Goldsmid, Esq.
Sidney Gurney, Esq.
W. K. Jameson, Esq.
John Nolloth, Esq.
M. Stanland, Esq.
Daniel Sutton, Esq.
O. B. Bellingham Woolsey, Esq.

The business of the Company embraces every description of risk connected with Life Assurance. The Premiums are moderate, and may be paid quarterly, half-yearly, or otherwise.

Credit allowed of one-third of the Premiums till death, or half the Premiums for five years, on policies taken out for the whole of life.

Residence in most of the Colonies allowed without payment of any extra Premium, and the rates for the East and West Indies are peculiarly favourable to Assurers.

Loans are made on Mortgage of Freeholds, Leaseholds, and Life Interests, &c.—also to Policy-holders with unexceptionable Personal Sureties.

Four-fifths or 80 per cent. of the entire Profits are appropriated to Assurers on the Profit Scale.

WILLIAM RATRAY, Actuary.

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

LIFE ASSURANCE TREASURY INCORPORATED, and DEPOSIT, DISCOUNT, and ASSURANCE BANK. The EARL OF DEVON, Chairman. G. H. LAW, Manager.
6, Cannon-street West, E.C.

THE OTTOMAN RAILWAY, from SMYRNA to AIDIN.

Capital, 1,200,000l.
Divided into 60,000l. Shares of 20l. or 2500 Piastres each. A minimum Dividend of 6l. per cent. per annum guaranteed by the Sublime Porte.

Deposit, 1l. per Share. Calls of not more than 2l. each at intervals of not less than three months.
No liability whatever incurred beyond the amount actually paid on deposit and on calls as made.

SHARES TO BEARER.

DIRECTORS.
Chairman.

SIR MACDONALD STEPHENSON,
115, Gloucester-terrace, Hyde Park.

PHILIP P. BLYTH, Esq.,
53, Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square.

ERIC CARRINGTON SMITH, Esq.,
1, Lombard-street.

Deputy-Chairman.

CAPTAIN DANIEL WARREN,
17, Porchester-terrace North, Hyde Park.

WILLIAM GORDON THOMSON, Esq.,
83, Gloucester-terrace, Hyde Park.

MAJOR-GENERAL TREMENERE,
33, Somerset-street, Portman-square.

Bankers in London.

Messrs. SMITH, PAYNE, and SMITHS,
Lombard-street.

This railway, about seventy miles in length, will connect Smyrna, the most important seaport in the Levant, with Guzel Hissar or Aidin, the great entrepôt of the internal trade of Asia Minor.

The present goods traffic will give a dividend of 12 per cent. per annum, after deducting one-half of the receipts for working expenses, and the division of profits with Government over 7 per cent.

Interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum will be allowed on payments either for or in anticipation of calls during the construction of the line.

Applications for shares, with the Bankers' receipt for the deposit, to be addressed to Messrs. Mullens and Co., 3, Lombard-street, or to the Secretary of the Company, 38, Cannon-street, City, where Forms can be obtained.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.

Notice is hereby given, that no applications for Shares in this Company will be received after Wednesday next, the 10th instant.

By order of the Directors,
J. L. ELKIN, Secretary.

June 3, 1857.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847.

The Court of Directors GRANT LETTERS of CREDIT and BILLS at par upon the Company's Banks at Adelaide and Port Adelaide. Approved drafts negotiated and sent for collection.

Every description of Banking business is also conducted with Victoria direct through the Company's Agents, as well as with the other Australian Colonies generally.

Apply at the Offices, No. 54, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.
London, June, 1857.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

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

Price of a single truss, 10s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.—Postage, 1s.

Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d.—Postage 1s. 6d.

Umbilical Truss, 42s. and 52s. 6d.—Postage 1s. 10d.

Post-office Orders to be made payable to JOHN WHITE, Post-office, Piccadilly.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c., for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c.

They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking.

Price from 7s. 6d. to 10s. each.—Postage, 6d.

JOHN WHITE, Manufacturer, 228, Piccadilly, London.

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.
Established 1831.

The TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING of this Society was held in Edinburgh, on the 6th May, David J. Thomson, Esq., in the chair. The Report by the Directors stated that the number of Policies issued during the year ending 1st March last, was 658, the sums thereby assured being 300,440*l.*, and the Annual Premiums thereon, 9589*l.*—all of which exceed, in every particular, those of the previous year.

The Invested Funds of the Society amount to £1,029,604.
The Annual Revenue to £176,411
The Existing Assurances to £2,882,098.

Copies of the Report may now be obtained at the Society's offices.

ROBT. CHRISTIE, Manager.
Head Office, 26, St. Andrew-square, Edinburgh. London Office, 26, Poultry, E.C.

ARCHD. T. RITCHIE, Agent.
Western London Office,
6A, James's-street, Westbourne-terrace, W.

CHARLES B. LEVER, Solicitor, Agent.

EQUITY AND LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, No. 26, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, LONDON.

Trustees.
The Right Hon. the Lord High Chancellor.
The Right Hon. Lord Montagu.
The Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron.
The Hon. Mr. Justice Coleridge.
The Hon. Mr. Justice Erle.
Nassau W. Senior, Esq., late Master in Chancery.
Charles Purton Cooper, Esq., Q.C., LL.D., F.R.S.
George Capron, Esq.

Examples of the Bonus upon Policies declared to the 31st December, 1854:—

Date of Policy.....	March 18, 1845.	April 24, 1845.	Nov. 7, 1845.
Age at Entry.....	30.	42.	51.
Annual Premium.....	£25 7 6	£35 16 8	£49 8 4
Sum Assured.....	£1000 0 0	£1000 0 0	£1000 0 0
Bonus added.....	£157 10 0	£184 0 0	£211 10 0

Copies of the last Report, Prospectuses, and every information, may be had upon written or personal application to the Office.

THE HOUSEHOLDERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

DIRECTORS.
Wm. Ashton, Esq., Horton-house, Wraysbury, Staines.
The Rev. Thos. Cator, Brynaston-square, and Skelbrook-park, Doncaster.
Charles Hulse, Esq., Hall-grove, Bagshot.
F. D. Bullock Webster, Esq., Norfolk-terrace, Hyde-park.
Arthur P. Onslow, Esq., Lawbrook-house, Shere, Guildford.
Thomas Pocock, Esq., Southwark-bridge-road.
Peter Paterson, Esq., jun., Park-road, Holloway.
James Laughton, Esq., Holm Villa, Lewisham-road.

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

Forms of application to deposit sums of money, at 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly, or to purchase shares (the present interest on which is 6 per cent.), may be had on application to R. HODSON, Sec.
15 and 16, Adam-street, Adelphi.

BANK OF DEPOSIT. NATIONAL ASSURANCE AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION.

No. 3, PALL-MALL EAST, LONDON, S.W., (Head Office):
No. 2, ST. ANDREW-SQUARE, EDINBURGH;
No. 202, UNION-STREET, ABERDEEN;
No. 5, CHERRY-STREET, BIRMINGHAM;
No. 8, PAVILION-BUILDINGS, BRIGHTON;
No. 64, HIGH-STREET, LEWES;
No. 9, WESTMORELAND-STREET, DUBLIN.
Established May, 1844.

EMPOWERED BY SPECIAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

THIS Company was Established in 1844, for the purpose of opening to the public an easy and unquestionably safe mode of investment, with a high and uniform rate of interest.

The plan of the Bank of Deposit differs entirely from that of ordinary Banks in the mode of employing capital—money deposited with this Company being principally lent upon well-secured Life Interests, Reversions in the Government Funds, or other property of ample value. This class of securities, although not immediately convertible, it is well known yields the greatest amount of profit, combined with perfect safety. Further, Loans made by the Company are collateral secured by a Policy of Assurance on the life of the Borrower, or his nominee, effected at a rate of premium which ensures the validity of the Policy against every possible contingency.

Thus depositors are effectually protected against the possibility of loss, whilst the large and constantly increasing revenue arising from the premiums on Assurances thus effected yields ample profit to the Company, and provides for all the expenses of management.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS may be opened with sums of any amount, and increased from time to time, at the convenience of depositors.

A receipt, signed by two Directors, is given for each sum deposited.

RATE AND PAYMENT OF INTEREST.
The rate of interest since the establishment of the Company has never been less than five per cent. per annum, and it is confidently anticipated that the same careful and judicious selection from securities of the description above mentioned, will enable the Board of Management to continue this rate to depositors.

The interest is payable in January and July, on the amount standing in the name of the depositor on the 30th of June and 31st of December, and for the convenience of parties residing at a distance may be received at the Branch Offices, or remitted through Country Bankers.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.
3, Pall-Mall East, London.

Forms for opening accounts may be obtained at any of the Branches or Agencies, or they will be forwarded, post free, on application to the Managing Director.

PELICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
ESTABLISHED IN 1797,
70, Lombard-street, City, and 57, Charing-cross, Westminster.

DIRECTORS.
Robert Gurney Barclay, Esq. K. D. Hodgson, Esq., M.P.
William Cotton, D.C.L., F.R.S. Henry Lancelot Holland, Esq.
John Davis, Esq. Benjamin Shaw, Esq.
William Walter Fuller, Esq. Matthew Whiting, Esq.
Jas. A. Gordon, M.D., F.R.S. M. Wyvill, Jun., Esq., M.P.
Henry Grace, Esq.

This Company offers
COMPLETE SECURITY.
Moderate Rates of Premium with Participation in Four-fifths or Eighty per cent. of the Profits.
Low Rates without Participation in Profits.

LOANS
in connexion with Life Assurance, on approved Security, in sums of not less than 500*l.*

ANNUAL PREMIUM
required for the Assurance of 100*l.*, for the whole term of life:—

Age.	Without Profits.	With Profits.	Age.	Without Profits.	With Profits.
15	£1 11 0	£1 15 0	40	£2 18 10	£3 6 5
20	1 13 10	1 19 3	50	4 0 9	4 10 7
30	2 4 0	2 10 4	60	6 1 0	6 7 4

ROBERT TUCKER, Secretary.

IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
1, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.
Instituted 1820.

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

ONE-THIRD of the Premium on Insurances of 500*l.* and upwards, for the whole term of life, may remain as a debt upon the Policy, to be paid off at convenience; or the Directors will lend sums of 50*l.* and upwards, on the security of Policies effected with this Company for the whole term of life, when they have acquired an adequate value.

FOUR-FIFTHS, or 80 per cent. of the Profits, are assigned to Policies every fifth year, and may be applied to increase the sum insured, to an immediate payment in cash, or to the reduction and ultimate extinction of future Premiums.

At the fifth appropriation of profits for the five years terminating January 31, 1856, a reversionary bonus was declared of 1*l.* 10*s.* per cent. on the sums insured, and subsisting additions for every premium paid during the five years. This bonus, on policies of the longest duration, exceeds 2*l.* 5*s.* per cent. per annum on the original sums insured, and increases a policy of 1000*l.* to 1638*l.*

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

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

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum Payable after Death.
1820.....	£ s. d. 523 16 0	£ s. d. 114 5 0	£ s. d. 1638 1 0
1825.....	382 14 0	103 14 0	1480 8 0
1830.....	241 12 0	93 2 0	1334 14 0
1835.....	185 3 0	83 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

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

SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

PROVIDENT CLERKS' MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION. Established 1840.

TRUSTEES.—Thomas Baring, Esq., M.P.
Thomson Hanky, Esq., M.P.
Wm. George Prescott, Esq.
Baron L. N. de Rothschild, M.P.

Every description of life assurance and annuity business effected daily.
This Association has an accumulated fund of 88,000*l.*
An annual income of 27,000*l.*
Profits have been divided to the extent of 15,000*l.*
And a third bonus will be declared during the ensuing year.

Policies effected on the half-credit system.
Chief Office, 15, Moorgate-street, London.
WILLIAM THOMAS LINFORD, Sec.

£1000 IN CASE OF DEATH.
A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF £6 PER WEEK IN THE EVENT OF INJURY BY ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, may be secured by an Annual Payment of £3 for a Policy in the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Smaller amounts may be secured by proportionate payments.
NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.
RAILWAY ACCIDENTS ALONE may be insured against by the Journey or by the Year at all the principal Railway Stations, where also Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had—and of the Provincial Agents—and at the Head Office, London.

N.B.—The usefulness of this Company is shown by the sum paid as Compensation for Accidents £22,722.
Railway Passengers Assurance Company. Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.
WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.
Office, 3, Old Broad-street, E. C.

THE GRANGE HOUSE SCHOOL
(near Newington),
EDINBURGH,
FOR THE BOARD AND EDUCATION OF YOUNG GENTLEMEN.

Conducted by Mr. DALGLEISH (during the last 24 Years Head-Master of Park-place Institution), and Mr. W. S. DALGLEISH, M.A., University of Edinburgh; with the Assistance of RESIDENT and VISITING MASTERS.
This Establishment will be OPENED in OCTOBER NEXT, for the EDUCATION of a LIMITED NUMBER of RESIDENT PUPILS.

TERMS FOR BOARD AND EDUCATION.
from Eighty to One Hundred Guineas per Session.
THE GRANGE HOUSE SCHOOL is designed to afford increased facilities for Educating Young Gentlemen of the upper ranks; to enable them to meet the higher requirements of the Scottish and English Universities; and, in particular, to prepare them, in accordance with the recent regulations of the Civil and Military Boards, for entering the Public Services at Home and in India.

In accordance with the leading design of the School, the stated Class-instruction will be confined exclusively to Professional Teachers from Edinburgh, of established reputation in their several departments.
The Private Studies of the Pupils will be superintended by Mr. W. S. DALGLEISH, and a staff of Resident Tutors, Graduates of English, Scottish, and Continental Universities. In the Advanced Classes for English, Mathematics, Classics, and the Modern Languages, frequent Examinations, conducted in Writing, will form an important part of the work of each Class. Pupils, on entering the School, must not be above Fifteen, nor under Eight years of age.

THE GRANGE HOUSE, a baronial residence, is situated about a mile to the south of Edinburgh, and is consequently easily accessible to Masters professionally attending the School. The locality, in the centre of a well-sheltered district, having a southern exposure, is widely known for its salubrity; and the Mansion-House, which occupies an elevated position, and affords ample accommodation for Seventy Resident Pupils, is peculiarly suitable for a Private Boarding and Scholastic Establishment of the highest class. The inclosed Pleasure-Grounds, Gardens, and Park, extend over several acres; and additional playground can at any time be obtained in the immediate neighbourhood of the House.

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