

Head and Tailor, 33 1/2 Strand.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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VOL. IX. No. 422.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1858.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED.. FIVEPENNY.
Stampd..... Sixpence.

Review of the Week.

THE leading characteristic of the home and foreign politics of the present time is unsettlement. In Parliament there is hardly a question of importance upon which an extremely unsettled state of feeling and opinion is not manifest. We have the India Bill, intended to furnish a Government for India, broken to pieces, its principles dissected, its whole scheme unsettled, subjected to treatment not very much unlike what it might receive in the ventilation of a debating-club. It is the same with half a dozen other questions: the movement against church-rates, about which there is the greatest wavering; the Oaths Bill, which carries with it into the House of Lords no end of disquieting influences; Parliamentary Reform, the national expenditure,—about all these matters we are at sea. Abroad, we see France enlarging her army from 600,000 to 700,000 men, and adding to the strength of her navy; Austria, suspicious, and siding with despotic Naples in her dispute with Sardinia, upon whose frontier she is placing an imposing force. Eagerly watching these movements, we see democratic and revolutionary Italy ready to take heart of hope on the first glimpse of opportunity. Our own immediate relations with France are obviously of a most unsettled kind, and are not likely to become less so yet awhile. In America, those standing difficulties, Kansas and Utah, are furnishing their quota of the political unsettledness of the times. The latest news tells us that the Congress has voted against the admission of Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton constitution, so that the fever for which Mr. BUCHANAN imagined he had found a remedy may be looked for in a chronic form for a long time to come. Thus it appears to us that the politics of the better part of the world may be fairly characterized as unsettled.

Perhaps this unsettledness, as far as we are directly concerned in it, finds its acme in the condition of the great parties in Parliament, and in the position of the Government. Lord DERBY is holding office by the sufferance of a majority whose duty it is to remove him from his post, and to take into their own hands the government of the country, but who, instead, lend him a hand with the work which he would otherwise be unable to do for himself; the latest hand lent being to help his budget over all stiles in its way, though the assistance given in this case was much less than he might have looked for had he needed it.

As Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. DISRAELI bestowed all his skill this time, not in the design of a fanciful and imposing budget, but in the construction of a speech to neutralize any possible attack. His plan is as simple as it is possible to be; and all his explanations were devoted to show the difficulties with which he had to contend—special and peculiar difficulties bequeathed to him by the preceding Government. Thus he has an immense expenditure; but it is not for him to reduce it, at least at present. "Reduction," he said, "depends upon policy." You have a certain policy which has been carried out, and which has cost immense sums of money; you must reconsider that before you can venture upon reducing your expenditure. Reduction, too, demands nice thought and fine calculation, and needs great time to effect it in one point without injuring another part of public service; so that Mr. DISRAELI must be some time longer in office before he can be expected to manage that useful service. There is truth and force in the appeal. Then, again, the largest items of expenditure are the Army and Navy estimates, which every party in the House of Commons is for increasing rather than diminishing. The common idea is, that the Miscellaneous estimates are the most open to reduction; but here Mr. DISRAELI warns us that they involve such large and complicated arrangements that they cannot be roughly handled with the pruning-knife. A preceding Chancellor of the Exchequer had arranged that certain portions of the war taxes should be paid off; and although Sir GEORGE LEWIS would have suspended the operation of that arrangement last year, Mr. DISRAELI prevented him, and insisted on "good faith," so that this year there is the subsidence of the Income-tax to 5d., with one million and a half to be paid into the War Sinking Fund, and two millions of Exchequer Bills; the gross result being that there is an expenditure of 67,110,000*l.*, while Mr. DISRAELI only counts upon an income of 63,120,000*l.* Even that latter figure involves rather a favourable estimate of the revenue for the current year. How then shall he proceed? He cannot take a loan to pay a loan. He shrinks from the unpopularity, perhaps inexpediency, of reimposing the twopence of Income-tax. He proceeds by a mixed course, seeking such new taxes as will inflict the least possible injury. He defers until '62 and '63 the payment of the Exchequer bonds, defers the operation of the War Sinking Fund, raises the tax on Irish spirits to a level with Scotch and English, and imposes a penny stamp on bankers' cheques.

He calculates that the tax on Irish spirits will give him 500,000*l.* and the cheque stamp 300,000*l.*; and thus, on paper at least, he has a surplus of 300,000*l.* The Budget has been received with general indifference rather than otherwise. It injures nobody—except the bankers, who are loud in objection; it probably will not injure the Irish spirit dealers at all—though they also are loud—for it will be accompanied by the removal of fiscal restrictions on the Irish spirit trade; an improvement which has more than compensated the enhancement of the Scotch tax. The Budget is least popular with the supporters of the late Government, who rather anticipated an opening for attack. By the public at large, since it leaves things much as they were, it is regarded with no feeling save that perhaps of relief at not finding it worse; and of amusement at finding Mr. DISRAELI getting on so well upon the throne of PITT.

The same sort of success has attended Ministers with their Army and Navy estimates; they were to be let off easily, and so, although a good deal was said, very little opposition was meant; and in spite of a somewhat tight exchequer, ample means are placed in their hands for carrying on the great services of the country in an efficient manner.

On Monday evening last Mr. DISRAELI laid his Indian resolutions upon the table of the House, and on Monday evening next he will move that the House do go into committee on the 30th instant for the consideration of the bill, the principles of which are set forth in these resolutions. The important modification of the original scheme indicated in these resolutions is the quiet abandonment of that part of the elective machinery which was to have lifted the ten-pound householders of five big manufacturing cities into arbiters of the fate of millions of men. In fact, the changes proposed are intended to cover the retreat of Ministers.

But while the right form of Government for India is under review, attention is directed to the condition of India itself. Mr. LIDDELL opened up the subject of Indian railways, and showed that the present system is one under which all sorts of impediments are thrown in the way of the formation of railways. The civil engineer is overborne by the military inspectors employed under the Indian Government; even the Company has to wait upon the decision of the Government before it can enter into any contract or make any arrangements; and the stores required can only be obtained from England with the sanction of the Government, and to get that sanction



delay of sixteen or eighteen months. The progress of the Indian railways may well be slow, and Mr. LIDDELL has done good service in setting the nature of the grievance clearly before the country. In spite of opposition from the thick and thin "defenders of things as they are," the House consented to grant a committee of inquiry.

The Oaths Bill has been read a second time in the House of Lords, and a strong appeal has been made by Lord LYNDHURST and by Earl GREY to the reasonableness of the House in its treatment of this measure. They each set the case clearly forth, and showed what the consequences must be of a further rejection of the bill, the principles of which have been over and over again affirmed during the last quarter of a century. It would be extremely undesirable to find the House of Lords again in conflict with the House of Commons upon a question which has long been decided by the feeling of all classes of the community. Should the Commons be reduced to the necessity of seating Baron ROTHSCHILD by resolution, the dignity and prestige of the Upper House will sustain an injury out of all proportion to the gravity of the case. Evidently Lord DERBY feels this, and some expect that the bill may yet pass unmutated.

The abolition of church rates is another of those questions which have to be urged in the teeth of obstinate prejudice and unreason. On Wednesday evening the House went into committee on Sir JOHN TRELAWNY'S bill; but before doing so every sort of shift was resorted to by its opponents to overthrow the measure; some of the arguments used being really childish. Sir GEORGE GREY reminded these "worms that never die" that an unequivocal expression of opinion on the principle of the bill had been given on the second reading; but it was useless; the obstructives went on with the old pleas, and in spite of them the bill shall find its way before the Lords, the war of words will be renewed. Is it not time that this question, too, should be settled?—it cannot with decency be asserted that the feeling of the country favours the continuance of church rates. According to Lord DERBY'S answer to a deputation which waited upon him on the subject, on Monday last, the House of Lords will not pass the present bill, and for his own part he sees no solution of the question. This may well be, and will be, so long as he and those who think with him believe that the opposition to the payment of church rates is confined to a "few vexatious individuals" in certain parishes. Yet even Lord DERBY hints at some new course—a buying-up of church rates, which are to form a charge on the land. The truth is that the positive zeal on all sides is less than the negative zeal: religion, in England, is more "Protestant" than Catholic; every man's conscience makes him object to his neighbour's "sect," but he does not care to be at any expense or trouble for his own "Church."

The astonishment with which the news of Dr. BERNARD'S acquittal was received in certain circles in Paris is nothing surprising, though we cannot quite realize the idea of the "stupefaction" which some assure us resulted from the first communication of the fact. Of course it was to be expected that a great outcry would be raised, and of course we expect a still greater outcry when it is known that Government has determined not to carry the prosecution any further. The newspapers, after a week's silence, are one by one having their say, and one by one evincing their profound ignorance of the course of English-law-and-justice.—It is useless to answer men who will not learn that English judges are no more answerable for the verdicts of English juries, and no more able to dictate or control them, than the writers who fulminate empty thunder from the printing-offices of Paris, and who threaten us with the army of 700,000 bayonets which their master is organizing.

But France has other work near at hand than

quarrelling with England. The late debates in the Sardinian Chamber on the Conspiracy Bill have made it evident that it is to France that Piedmont will look in the event of a rupture between Naples and herself. And there is good reason to believe that France is very willing to protect her for the sake of measuring her strength with Austria, whose partisanship with Naples hardly needs to be announced, since she has assembled large forces upon the frontier of Sardinia without object, if not to intimidate her hated rival in Italy. A very short time will determine the destination of the Austrian troops collected at Piacenza, and of the augmented legions of NAPOLEON III.; for the latest news from Turin announces that Naples has flatly refused to comply with the Sardinian demands. Meanwhile the policy of Count CAVOUR is winning increased respect in England, and the sympathy of the country will be with him in the struggle into which our defective diplomacy has helped to lead him. Public opinion here is dissatisfied with the position in which England has been placed, and its expression will be sufficiently marked to enforce its will: it will not see Sardinia either left to contend single-handed with Naples and Austria, or under the sole protection of Imperial France.

The banquet given to Sir JAMES BROOKE, at Manchester, on Wednesday, was an event of unusual importance, for, but for its occurrence, possibly, the real value of the great adventurer's possession in the Indian Archipelago would have continued unknown to the bulk of the people of this country. The recognition of the fact that Sir JAMES BROOKE'S energy and far-sightedness have placed at our disposal the "gates of China," cannot long be a piece of unfruitful knowledge. Our late successes at Canton must lead to a real development of our trading intercourse with the Celestial nation; a glance at the map is enough to convince us of the importance of Borneo as a telegraph and coaling station. Russia, France, and America will not be slow to discover the value of this "Gibraltar" of the China seas; and it will be well that the possession which Sir JAMES BROOKE offers to give up to us should be early secured.

A CHRISTENING IN VENICE.—A lady with her attendants came forward, and placed on the lowest step of the altar a little glass case, or rather litter, curtained with muslin and pink calico, and festooned with flowers, which almost vied with those on the altar. What can it be? we immediately speculated with each other in our innocence. It is some pretty little offering to the Madonna, surely—a model of a leg or a silver heart, perhaps. Alas! nothing of the kind. How utterly we were mistaken! To our surprise a living child—a living child is brought out of the little ambulance—and to be christened!—a little red thing only a few hours born, as tightly swathed as an Egyptian mummy; its poor little flat, squeezed-up rudiments of features all distorted and awry with the misery of those bands, which are but a type of the others, spiritual and temporal, religious as well as political, to follow in their turn through life. It is taken to the font immediately, where an old priest and his white-surplised lad await it, and the ceremony begins. The formulary is read, or rather I must really say, *gabbled*, by the aged clergyman, with toothless inarticulation, and yet as quickly as possible, as if the good man felt all the while that his dinner was as rapidly cooling. His tones resembled just the quick and angry bubblings of an old woman's potato-kettle; and not one word could my inquisitive, exceedingly attentive ear detect. As for feeling, I suppose he was too much a man of business to indulge in a weakness which consumes valuable time. Moreover, no doubt a rite in itself of divine and complete efficacy may well dispense with it. One important mistake he was very near committing in his precipitate haste nevertheless. He all but christened the child Elizabetha Lucrezia Maria, instead of Isabella Lucrezia Maria. At the proper stage of the ceremonial, the poor little child's head and back are bared, and it is bent forward; the chrism, or sacred oil, is energetically rubbed in, and the painful mewlings are painfully increased; and finally, the infirm priest, holding on by the shoulder of one of the sponsors, and as he hobbles along, again reading in the same harsh and seething tones from the book still borne before him by the acolyte, the whole party makes off rapidly to the altar, where the rest of the ceremony is speedily despatched.—*Art Journal.*

THE EXIT OF LISTZ.—The *Cologne Gazette* announces that the celebrated pianist, Listz, was solemnly received on the 11th into the order of Franciscans at Pesth.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, April 19th.

THE CAGLIARI.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord WENSLEYDALE asked if the Government intended to refer the case of the seizure of the Cagliari to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. He believed that would be the best possible mode of obtaining an opinion on the subject.—The Earl of MALMESBURY said he would consider the suggestion, but could not give a definitive answer. The law officers had decided that the detention and imprisonment of the two English engineers was illegal; but, as to the legality of the capture of the Cagliari, the law officers are divided in their opinion—two deciding that it was legal, one that it was illegal. The law officers of the late Government were also divided on the question; so that it would be impossible to take any strong measures on that ground.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

On the motion of the Duke of NORFOLK, an address was agreed to for copies of correspondence between the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund and other parties relating to the case of Mrs. Rosina Bennett and her children.—In the discussion on the subject, Lord COLCHESTER and Lord ST. LEONARDS defended the Commissioners from the imputation of partiality in administering the fund; and Lord CAMOYS admitted that, in the explanation of the Commissioners, the charge had been completely and satisfactorily answered.

The CUSTOMS BILL went through committee, and their Lordships then adjourned.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. WHITE asked whether any and what instructions had been transmitted to her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China, with the view to obtain indemnification for the losses of British merchants arising out of recent events at Canton, and also to secure our future mercantile relations with China on a more satisfactory basis.—Mr. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD (who spoke in so low a tone of voice that very little of his reply was heard) was understood to say, in reference to the latter portion of the question, that Lord Elgin's instructions were to endeavour to gain access to ports in other parts of China as well as to those which our ships were now allowed to enter. Whatever advantages were obtained, however, would be for the benefit not only of British commerce, but of that of the world at large.

THE MARBLE ARCH.

Lord ELCHO, referring to a paper dial on the Marble Arch, inquired whether it was the intention of the Government to place a clock in that position.—Lord JOHN MANNERS was understood to say that it had been suggested that a clock being placed on the arch would add to the uniformity of appearance, and a paper dial had been placed on the spot to obtain public opinion on the subject. The idea was not a legacy to him from Sir Benjamin Hall; and, with respect to a question put by the noble Lord as to "whether the Government thought it would be desirable to place a similar clock in the cocked hat of the Duke of Wellington's statue," Lord John replied that "he should be very unwilling to deface in the manner suggested the monument erected in honour of the Duke." (*Laughter.*)

The report of the Committee of SUPPLY was agreed to; and the House then resolved itself into a committee of Ways and Means (Mr. FITZROY in the chair), to hear the financial statement on

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER began by remarking that, since this time last year, a considerable change for the worse had taken place in the monetary condition of the country. The American panic acted in a disastrous way on the commerce of England, and towards the end of 1857 we had a crisis in which the rate of discount reached ten per cent. Severe distress had thus been produced, and the revenue of the country had been heavily pressed on. In pointing out the decrease in our exports, Mr. Disraeli took the year 1853, the year before the war, and the years 1855, 1856, and 1857. "The declared value of the total exports of the manufacturers of the United Kingdom, in 1853, was 99,000,000*l.*; in 1855, it had sunk to 95,500,000*l.*; in 1856, risen to 110,000,000*l.*; and, in 1857, to 122,000,000*l.* Of textile fabrics, in 1853, the year before the war, we exported 52,000,000*l.*; in 1855, 51,000,000*l.*; in 1856, 59,000,000*l.*; and in 1857, 61,000,000*l.* In metal fabrics, the year before the war, our exports amounted to 19,500,000*l.*; in 1855, they had sunk to about 18,000,000*l.*; in 1856, they had risen to 23,500,000*l.*; in 1857, to 26,000,000*l.* The real value of the total imports of the United Kingdom in 1855 was 148,000,000*l.*; in 1856, 172,000,000*l.*; in 1857, 187,000,000*l.* Our imports of raw cotton were, in the year before the war, 746,000,000 lbs.; in 1855, they were 767,000,000 lbs.; in 1856, 877,000,000 lbs.; in 1857, they were 837,000,000 lbs. The British tonnage in the year before the war was nine millions, the foreign six millions; in 1855, British tonnage was also about nine millions, foreign also about six; in 1856, British tonnage had reached eleven millions, foreign about seven; in 1857, British had reached 11,000,000, and foreign 7,400,000. The total tonnage before the war was 15,880,000; in last year, 19,072,000." Within

the last few months there had been a considerable restoration of commercial confidence; but, although he believed that the general condition of the country is sound, and although there are indications of improvement, he could not indulge the belief that there would be a rapid return to the spirit of enterprise. The expenditure for the year 1858-9, he thus estimated:—

Funded and unfunded debt	£28,400,000
Civil List, &c.	1,900,000
Army	11,750,000
Navy	9,860,000
Miscellaneous Civil Services	7,000,000
Revenue Departments	4,700,000
Liabilities	3,500,000
	£67,110,000

The resources to meet these charges he estimated as follows:—

Customs	£23,400,000
Excise	18,100,000
Stamps	7,550,000
Land and Assessed Taxes	3,200,000
Property and Income tax	6,100,000
Post-office	3,200,000
Crown Lands	270,000
Miscellaneous	1,300,000
	£63,120,000

There would thus be a deficit of 3,990,000. This deficiency was not occasioned by any falling off in the resources of the country: it was created by our having to pay debts and by the amount caused by the cessation of taxes. The War Sinking Fund (1,500,000), and the payment of 2,000,000 Exchequer Bonds, must come into the calculation, Mr. Disraeli denounced as absurd and extravagant the attempt to pay off debt when there is no surplus revenue disposable for that purpose; and stated that he proposed to rescind, or at any rate to postpone, any further payments on account of the War Sinking Fund. "This would retrench a million and a half from the charges of the year, and would leave only two millions and a half of deficiency to be met. Respecting the two millions of Exchequer bonds, he intended to maintain the principle of liquidation, but suggested that the actual payment might be postponed for the present, provided that such arrangements were made as would ensure their being ultimately cancelled. The chief reduction of taxes had taken place in the Property and Income tax. The imposition of this tax had excited innumerable controversies; endless complaints were urged against its injustice, which many vain attempts had been made to assuage; and at length, in 1853, a scheme had been adopted by Parliament for the gradual diminution and ultimate extinction of the impost at the end of a certain period. The war had since changed the circumstances of the country, both temporarily and permanently, by adding considerably to the public debt and expenditure. Nevertheless, even in the face of a deficit, the Government did not intend to suggest any increase or suspension in the progressive diminution of this impost. There remained therefore a deficiency of 500,000, still to be met, and this object could not be accomplished by a retrenchment of expenditure. The present Ministry had cut down the estimates by 800,000, and further remissions could not be made in heat and haste, but must follow from a change in the policy of the country and the gradual accomplishment of economical reforms. To obtain the required income, he proposed to equalize the duties on Irish and British spirits, abolishing the only remaining differential duty still existing in the sister isle. From this source he anticipated a gain of at least half a million, thus extinguishing the deficit. It was, he conceived, still prudent to establish a surplus of revenue, on which account he thought a very moderate provision necessary, since large sums would become available for the service of the year through repayments from the East India Company and the Sardinian Government, and of moneys advanced for public works. The only new tax therefore which he should suggest was a small stamp duty of one penny on bankers' cheques, from which he hoped to obtain at least 800,000." Mr. Disraeli concluded by drawing a cheerful picture of the financial prospects of the country next year (when he anticipated that there would probably be a surplus revenue), and by expressing a hope that his statement would receive, not only the candid consideration, but in time the cordial acceptance, of the House and of the people.—The delivery of this speech occupied about two hours and a quarter.

Considerable discussion ensued, in which several of the Irish members urged objections to the increased duty on the spirits of their country, and Sir GEORGE CORNWALLIS LEWIS denied that there was anything fallacious in the statement which he presented to the House in regard to the redemption of debt last year. He had redeemed 2,000,000 of Exchequer bonds, and 288,000 of Exchequer Bills; 250,000 had been redeemed on the war sinking fund, in addition to the ordinary sinking fund of 77,862; and the redemption of the Sound Dues had cost 1,125,200, making a total of 3,471,068. In addition to this, they had paid out of revenue 635,000 for the Persian expedition, 40,000 for the Princess Royal's dowry, and a supplementary sum of half a million for militia expenses. They had also paid many expenses connected with the Indian mutiny. When all these facts were taken into consideration, he hoped the

Committee would conclude that there was nothing fallacious or deceptive in the operations for the redemption of debt last year. With regard to the proposed postponement of the payment of Exchequer bonds, the operation was, in fact, the creation of a new debt. As respects the equalization of the spirit duties, he thought that the effect would be to the advantage of the Irish trade; and he trusted that the right hon. gentleman would not consent to postpone the resolution, inasmuch as the delay would afford an opportunity for taking spirits out of bond, whereby the revenue would be diminished.

Mr. GLADSTONE (who spoke from his old place below the gangway on the Ministerial side of the House) was pleased to find that the Budget had met with general support. He thanked the Chancellor of the Exchequer for his attempt to equalize the spirit duties, and could not understand the opposition of the Irish members. It was a subject for congratulation that there was to be no augmentation of the income-tax. The difficulty experienced in extinguishing that tax resulted from the expenditure of the country being vastly increased apart from war obligations. This increase of expenditure had prevented the progress of a system of policy which had proved of immense value to all classes of the country. If they really intended to get rid of the income-tax, they should review their entire system of expenditure.

—Mr. CARDWELL supported the proposition for an increased duty on spirits. He doubted the advisability of abolishing the income-tax at the time proposed, as they would then be in a deficit, and recommended an income-tax of twopence in the pound.—Mr. WILLIAMS thought that increasing a debt in a time of profound peace was most objectionable and unjustifiable. He congratulated the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the manner in which he had got over his difficulty this year. (Laughter.)—Sir FRANCIS BARING said he concurred in the opinion of the right hon. member for Oxford, that the only hope of getting rid of the income-tax is by a careful revision of expenditure.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL thought the Government had proposed reductions as large as the circumstances of the country would at present allow. He was in favour of the equalization of the duty on spirits. As to the war debt, he thought that a portion of it should be paid off this year.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER thanked the House for the candid reception it had given to his statement, and replied to various objections that had been made in the course of the debate.

Resolutions embodying the principles of the financial statement were then put and agreed to.—On the resolution with regard to the stamp upon cheques, Mr. WILSON said that this was a resolution which was not subject to those financial necessities which attached to the duty on spirits. He would therefore venture to ask the Government not to press it through at once.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: "Certainly not, if there is any objection."—The resolution was then withdrawn.—In answer to Sir H. WILLOUGHBY, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he intended, when the business of the House would permit, to call attention to the whole subject of the account and appropriation of public moneys. (Cheers.) He would then state what were the measures which the Government intended to bring forward on the subject generally, and what arrangements it was proposed to make with regard to Exchequer Bills.

The House resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported progress.

LORD HOWDEN.

Sir DE LACY EVANS called the attention of the House to the recal of Lord Howden. That act had caused great regret in Spain among all parties, and as no reason was assigned for the proceeding, it had given rise to a fear that the present Government meant to act towards Spain on less liberal principles than preceding Governments had done.—Mr. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD denied that there existed the slightest ground for such an inference, and he questioned the right of the House to interfere in that which lies entirely within the jurisdiction of the Crown.—Lord PALMERSTON bore testimony to the zeal and ability of Lord Howden in the discharge of his duties, and regretted that the present Government should have seen reason to place the interests of the country in other hands. Still, he agreed that the matter was not one for the interference of the House.—Mr. KEIT also spoke highly of Lord Howden; and the subject then dropped.

SUPPLY.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, the following votes were agreed to, after some discussion:—2,000,000 to pay off Exchequer bonds, due in May, 1858; 34,671 to complete the sum for wages in the naval establishments abroad; 797,742 to complete the sum for naval stores, purchase of steam machinery, and other purposes.—The House then resumed.—The LOAN SOCIETIES BILL was read a third time, and passed.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (NO. 2) BILL.

On the order for the second reading of the Ministerial bill for the Government of India, it was postponed until Friday.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

Mr. CROSS obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Act 59 George III., ch. 12, "to amend the laws for the relief of the poor."

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

Tuesday, April 20th.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord MONTEAGLE inquired whether the Government intended to lay before the House the resolutions to be moved in the House of Commons relating to the reconstruction of the Government of India. In the case of the union with Ireland, and the renewal of the charter of the East India Company in 1833, Parliament proceeded by resolutions, which were laid before both Houses simultaneously.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH stated that the Government did not intend to lay any resolutions on the subject before the House of Lords. He trusted they would be very shortly sent up from the other House, when their Lordships would have the opportunity of discussing them.

The CUSTOMS BILL was read a third time, and passed.

BARREL-ORGANS.

The Marquis of WESTMEATH presented a petition signed by upwards of four hundred householders in the districts of Belgravia and Pimlico against the nuisance of barrel-organs in the streets of the metropolis. It was a very hard case, when a gentleman of limited means had engaged a professor of music to give lessons to his daughter, to have one of these organs grinding beneath the window. The petitioners stood on their right to have the quiet of their homes maintained inviolate; and, though noble Lords might laugh, it seemed to him to be no laughing matter.—Lord DUNGANNON rebuked the Marquis for making "much ado about nothing." It was unseemly and inopportune to take up their Lordships' time on such a trifling subject.—The petition was ordered to be laid on the table.

TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.

On the motion of Lord REDESDALE, it was ordered that no bill be read a second time after the 27th of July, except bills of Supply, or such bills as the House may specially exempt from the order.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

LAW OF BANKRUPTCY.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in reply to Mr. GLYN, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had been charged by the Lord Chancellor to prepare a bill for the amendment of the law of bankruptcy and insolvency. The bill was in an advanced state of preparation, and he expected that it would be in a condition to lay before the House of Lords by the end of next week or the beginning of the following week.

THE MILITIA.

In answer to Captain O'CONNELL, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated that, on the disembodiment of the militia, subalterns would receive six months' pay, the surgeon and assistant-surgeon one year's pay, and the paymaster would continue his pay for three months after the disembodiment, and would also receive three months' pay after the final settlement.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN GUARANTEE COMMITTEE.

Lord STANLEY, in replying to Sir JOHN TRELAWNY, said that he had examined the minutes of the House of Representatives of New Zealand, and found that a resolution was passed providing for the contingency of a loan of only 200,000 being granted. The resolution bore date the 2nd July, 1856. With respect to whether the House of Representatives had negatived the proposal to accept 200,000 instead of 500,000, he was bound to say that there was no trace of such a proceeding in the Records of the Colonial-office.

DUBLIN PORT DUES.

Mr. VANCE moved for a select committee to consider certain duties on ships and other imposts leviable within the port of Dublin. The duties had been imposed for the purpose of liquidating the cost of a refuge harbour; but he only wanted inquiry into the effect on the trade of Dublin.—Mr. HENLEY admitted that the mode of levying this tax was injurious to trade; but there was an awkward element in the question—namely, that there had been a bargain which involved the interests of the Consolidated Fund. This was a matter which touched the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He (Mr. Henley) did not object to an inquiry.—The motion was supported by Mr. GROGAN.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he should oppose any attempt to relieve Dublin of the tax in question. But, if the mode in which it was levied was injurious, he had no objection to the grievance being remedied. He should not oppose the committee.—Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD (while admitting that the question was so entangled that he could not understand it—an ignorance which he believed was shared by all present) thought that Dublin had some grievances to complain of, from which it should be relieved.—Mr. LOWE said the Consolidated Fund had a claim on the harbour for something like 400,000, for which it received yearly about 3000, or less than one per cent.; and he agreed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not properly called upon to forego that receipt from the port of Dublin.—Lord PALMERSTON thought that the committee should be restricted in the manner suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—After a few words in reply from Mr. VANCE, the resolution (altered to an inquiry into the mode of levying duties and other imposts on certain ships in the port of Dublin, and whether any equivalent can be provided for

the sum now paid into the Consolidated Fund) was agreed to.

REPEAL OF THE SEPTENNIAL ACT.

Mr. COX moved for leave to introduce a bill to repeal the act of the 1st George I., ch. 38, commonly called the Septennial Act, and to limit the duration of Parliament to three years. According to the ancient constitution of the country, Parliaments were annual. In the reign of William and Mary, they were made triennial; but, in 1715, the Whigs, who had attained to power by the shedding of blood and by bribery, took every precaution to keep it. They therefore passed a Septennial Act with the most indecent haste, ostensibly to allay heats and animosities, and save expense, but really to secure their own places. A shorter term of Parliamentary existence he conceived to be necessary to the honesty of the House; and he beseeched Lord John Russell—who, it was whispered outside, was looking for the Premiership (*laughter*)—to bid for popular support by giving his powerful aid in furtherance of the repeal of the Septennial Act.

Mr. WALPOLE said that the first statute to which Mr. Cox had referred did not allude to the frequency of election of members of Parliament, but to the frequency of the sessions. The real question, however, was as to whether the law which had been observed for nearly a century and a half was or was not the best for regulating the duration of Parliaments. If the Parliament of George I. simply repealed the Triennial Act, there is nothing in the Common Law, the Constitutional Law, or the Statute Law, which prevents the sitting of Parliaments during the whole reign of a king. He believed all men agree, that that would be far too long a term, while most men think annual Parliaments too short. Every part of our legislation has gone on improving since the Septennial Act was passed. He did not attribute all the improvement that had taken place in that respect to the Septennial Act (*a laugh*); but he attributed a great deal of the ability and the authority which that House had exercised for the good of the country to that act. Since they found that their legislation had improved under the act—since it had been instrumental in keeping that House in conformity with the other House of Parliament—since it had added dignity and stability to the Executive Government—he hoped they would pause long and anxiously before they would resort to a measure which had failed, as a substitute for a measure which had been attended with such remarkable success. (*Cheers.*)

Mr. HADFIELD made some observations in reply to Mr. Walpole; but he was imperfectly heard, owing to the loud and repeated cries of "Divide!" The House accordingly divided, when there appeared—For the motion, 57; against, 254: majority, 197.

EAST INDIA RAILWAYS.

Mr. LIDDELL called attention to the delay that has occurred in the construction of railways in India. The obstructions he attributed to the manner in which the Government supervision is exercised. The railway companies are not at liberty to make their own contracts; and the inspectors are selected by Government. He concluded by moving for a select committee to inquire into the subject.—The motion was seconded by Mr. CRAWFORD, who attributed the whole blame of the delay in the introduction of railways into India to the Board of Control, and who pointed out the multiplied impediments occasioned by the vicious system enforced to a ridiculous extent by the ruling authorities in India.—Mr. BAILLIE denied that there was any just ground of complaint against the Government. The delays arose from the vicious principle of the Indian railway system: the guarantee given by the Government renders its supervision and control indispensable. No great advantage could be gained from an inquiry, and he must therefore oppose the motion.—Mr. AYRTON, while agreeing that there had been much delay on the part of the Government, did not think the motion would be of any use.—Mr. MANGLS defended the Indian Government; and, Mr. LIDDELL having replied, the motion was agreed to without a division.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.

Mr. Serjeant DEASY, in moving for leave to bring in a bill to promote and regulate reformatory schools for juvenile offenders in Ireland, said that there is a general desire that Ireland should have the benefit of such an institution as well as England and Scotland; but, without a legislative measure, it would be inoperative. The motion was seconded by Mr. GREER.—Lord NAAS said it was not the intention of the Government to offer any opposition to the introduction of the bill; on the contrary, he thought the subject required careful consideration.—After a few remarks by Mr. PALK (who advised the postponement of the measure till they saw the results of reformatories in England), leave was given to introduce the bill.

Sir EDWARD COLEBROOKE obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law for the registration of county voters in Scotland.

GALWAY FREEMEN DISFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

On the order for going into committee on this bill, Mr. WALPOLE drew the attention of the House to the difficulties which surrounded the case. The bill did not deal equal justice to all; it confounded the innocent freemen with the guilty, and, while it disfranchised the bribed, it did not meddle with the briber. In order to

enable the committee to deal with the whole case, it would be necessary to give the committee an instruction, of which he read the terms. There were only two courses which the House could take—either to refuse to go into committee altogether, or to adopt the instruction he proposed, and then postpone the further consideration of the case. He concluded by moving the instruction, empowering the committee to include the purchasers of votes.—Mr. FRENCH denied that a case had been made out which called for the action of the House, and protested against the injustice of the measure as violating the statutory indemnity.—Mr. CLIVE, who had charge of the bill, dissented from the views of Mr. Walpole. He defended the bill, and declined to have anything to do with the instruction.—Lord LOVAINE, Mr. Serjeant DEASY, and Mr. MAGUIRE, opposed the bill, which Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD supported.—Upon the instruction being put from the Chair, Lord PALMERSTON said he could not concur in it, but would simply support the bill for disfranchising the voters among whom corrupt practices had prevailed.—Mr. WHITESIDE observed that the passing of the bill as it stood would exempt from punishment the bribers who were not voters.—Mr. ROEBUCK denounced the measure, which, in its then state, was partial and unfair, and, under the pretence of purity, would do an act of signal injustice.—Upon a division, the instruction was carried by 152 to 121.—Colonel FRENCH then moved to defer the committee for six months.—Lord PALMERSTON, though he had voted against the instruction, said he could not consent to get rid of the bill.—The House having again divided, the amendment was negatived by 226 to 51, and the House went into committee upon the bill, when the Chairman was ordered to report progress, after a short conversation as to the mode of proceeding.

Some routine business having been disposed of, the House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

Wednesday, April 21st.

CHURCH RATES ABOLITION BILL.

Sir JOHN TRELAWNY having moved that the House go into committee on this bill, Mr. PACKE moved to defer the committee for six months. The measure was further opposed by Mr. KER SEYMER (on the ground that it was but the inauguration of an attempt to separate Church and State), Lord JOHN MANNERS, and Mr. NEWDEGATE; and was supported by Mr. HUGESSEN, Mr. PUGH, Sir GEORGE GREY, and Lord HARRY VANE.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER thought it would be better to discuss the bill in committee, and therefore recommended Mr. Packe to withdraw his amendment—a suggestion in which he was joined by Lord JOHN RUSSELL.—Mr. PACKE consented; but Mr. BRIGHT objected. He thought it was the duty of Sir John Trelawny and those in favour of the measure to pass the bill, as it was proposed to the House.—After an unsuccessful attempt by Mr. STEUART to obtain a hearing, the SPEAKER put the question in the ordinary form, "that the words of the original motion proposed to be left out by the amendment should stand part of the question;" and, no negative being uttered, apparently through lapse of attention or misapprehension by the dissentients, he declared that the "Ayes" had it, and the House went into committee on the bill, Mr. PULLER being thereby precluded from moving an amendment of which he had given notice.

Upon the first clause of the bill, Sir A. H. ELTON moved an amendment, the effect of which was to suspend the operation of the bill for three years. After a long discussion, this was negatived.—Lord ROBERT CECIL moved an amendment of the same clause, confining the operation of the bill to cities and boroughs.—Sir G. C. LEWIS objected that this amendment did not carry out the principle in view, it being too wide in one respect and too narrow in another; and he suggested that the propositions of Sir George Grey for amending Sir William Clay's bill embodied the principle in a more practical form.—The amendment was ultimately withdrawn, and Mr. LYON moved that the Chairman report progress; but the motion was negatived by 346 to 104.—It being now past a quarter to six o'clock, the further proceedings of the Committee were, by rule, adjourned.

The remaining orders were then disposed of, and the House adjourned at six o'clock.

Thursday, April 22nd.

THE OATHS BILL.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord LYNDRHURST moved the second reading of this bill, to which Lord DERBY said he should not offer any objection. Still, he added, his opposition to the admission of Jews to Parliament was as strong as ever; and therefore, if the omission of the fifth clause (which seeks to effect that object) were moved in committee, he should support the motion.—Earl GREY reminded their Lordships of the frequently expressed determination of the House of Commons, by large and steadily increasing majorities, to admit Jews into their body; and it would not be dignified on the part of the Lords to continue their opposition to what is plainly the wish of the nation. He recommended the Earl of Derby to follow, with regard to this question, the example of the Duke of Wellington on the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts.—The Earl of WICKLOW protested against the assertion that the projected alteration of the oaths would meet with universal acceptance.—The bill was then read a second time, and their Lordships adjourned.

DR. BERNARD.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in reply to inquiries by Mr. ROEBUCK and Sir RICHARD BETHELL, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reminded the House that Dr. Bernard had been brought before the Bow-street magistrate, during the time of the late Government, on a charge of conspiracy; and that, the evidence widening as the case proceeded, it was determined—also during the time of the late Government—to extend the charge to one of murder. "In considering the charge upon which Dr. Bernard had already been tried and acquitted, and the charge upon which he had yet to be tried under the bill of indictment found by the grand jury for conspiracy to assassinate the Emperor of the French, it had become his duty to review with minute attention the whole body of the evidence adduced upon the late trial, and to ascertain what evidence it would be necessary to adduce, and what would be the substantial nature of the entire case if Dr. Bernard should be put upon his trial for conspiracy. Now, almost at the outset of this inquiry, and upon the first view of the case, he had felt it his duty thus minutely to consider a maxim of criminal law, which had ever been held sacred by all who had taken part in the administration of the law in this country—*Nemo debet bis vexari pro eadem causa*. It appeared to him that the two charges, though different in name, were substantially and identically the same. Under these circumstances, he thought that to proceed further with the prosecution, and to put Dr. Bernard again on his trial, would be to violate the maxim to which he had adverted. Therefore the prosecution of Dr. Bernard would not be further proceeded with, and the prisoner might consider himself entirely discharged."

Sir RICHARD BETHELL said that the proceeding with a view to prosecution for murder, or for being an accessory to the crime of murder, was not only not contemplated by the late Government, but they decided that there was no reasonable ground upon which such a charge could be maintained. He begged to ask the Attorney-General—as it had been asserted in the public papers that, after the accession of the hon. and learned gentleman to office, Mr. Bodkin was instructed to state that it was no longer intended to proceed upon the charge of conspiracy, but on that of murder—whether Mr. Bodkin acted in this matter under his direction.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he believed it was a mistake to say that Mr. Bodkin ever intimated that it was not the intention of the Crown to proceed with the prosecution for conspiracy. It was the opinion of the counsel for the Crown, and of the magistrate who committed the prisoner, that they would not have discharged their duty if the counsel had not prosecuted and the magistrate committed Dr. Bernard on the capital charge of murder. Even Mr. Edwin James, who defended the prisoner with so much zeal, ability, learning, and eloquence, instead of claiming an acquittal as a matter of right, thought it expedient to state to the Judges the nature of the objections which might afterwards be made in point of law. The Judges reserved these points for the opinion of the fifteen Judges without discussion, and without the suggestion of any other course; and for six entire days the trial proceeded upon the capital charge. He thought, therefore, that the Government had only done its duty in pressing the capital charge.

Sir RICHARD BETHELL said he claimed to have a plain answer to a plain question—was the alteration in the charge from conspiracy to the being accessory to murder made under the direction of her Majesty's Attorney-General? (*Hear, hear.*)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had no answer to give but the answer which he had already given; but his respect to the House called upon him to add that, for all that was done, either before the police magistrate or at the Old Bailey since the present Government came into office, he stood there personally responsible, and should be ready, upon every fitting occasion, to vindicate the line of conduct which he had pursued. (*Cheers.*)

Subsequently, in answer to a question put by Mr. Serjeant KINGLAKE upon the same subject, Mr. WALPOLE said that no step had been taken without the assistance and advice of the Attorney-General, and that, before the present Government came into office, the late Government had, most properly, issued a notice of a reward for the apprehension of Mr. Allsop, not for a misdemeanor, but for felony. Two questions would arise under the act of Parliament: first, whether Dr. Bernard was a subject of her Majesty within the act; secondly, whether any person, subject or not, could be tried for murder committed abroad, either as principal or accessory. The only difference between Dr. Bernard's case and that of Mr. Allsop was that the latter is a British subject.

COURT OF DIVORCE.

Mr. AYRTON asked whether it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to introduce any bill to facilitate the taking of affidavits in the Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL intimated that he would take an early opportunity of communicating with the Judge of the Court of Divorce upon the subject referred to, and, if necessary, would devise means to remedy any defect which might be found to exist.

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.
The LORD-ADVOCATE, in answer to Mr. COWAN, said

he was engaged in the preparation of a bill for harmonizing the law throughout Great Britain on the subject of probates and letters of administration.

CHELSEA NEW BRIDGE AND THE MARBLE ARCH.

In reply to questions from Sir JOHN SHELLEY, Lord JOHN MANNERS said a bill was being prepared for meeting the requirements of the public with respect to Chelsea Bridge, and that he had given up all intention of putting a clock on the Marble Arch, from which the paper face would be taken down.

DECIMAL COINAGE.

Replying to Mr. BLAND, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said it was not in his power to hold out any prospect of a final report on decimal coinage.

PENNY STAMPS.

Sir EDWARD BUXTON asked what number of penny bill and receipt stamps were issued during the last financial year.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the subject was one for a motion of returns, rather than a question to a Minister. He was, however, prepared to answer the question, by stating that the number of bill stamps was 660,000; receipt and check stamps, about 73,000,000. (*Laughter.*)

DIPLOMATIC SALARIES AND PENSIONS.

Mr. WISE moved "That it is the opinion of the House that the diplomatic salaries and pensions, now charged upon the Consolidated Fund, should be brought under the more immediate view and control of Parliament, and be paid out of a vote, annually provided by the House of Commons for the purpose." Disclaiming any intention of making personal attacks, Mr. Wise denounced the extravagance and uselessness of our diplomatic system. The expenses of the service are no less annually than 320,258*l.*, while last year they amounted to 483,000*l.* "The Paris embassy house had cost the country 87,000*l.*, and last year we were told that 20,000*l.* were required for repairs. The house at Constantinople cost 90,000*l.* for its completion, though the estimate was 73,000*l.* At various places, the nation furnishes ambassadors with a service of plate; and this is not generally known. The extraordinary expenses are gradually increasing, and last year they were 37,500*l.* Independently of salaries, these expenses during the last ten years amounted to 208,000*l.* We had also spent upwards of 200,000*l.* since the reign of George IV. in foreign chapels. Chaplains' salaries amount to 1500*l.* a year. In the East, 6000*l.* a year are spent on dragomans. France, Prussia, Austria, and Russia take care to educate their own people for the work of translators and interpreters; England alone has to depend on the fidelity of foreign interpreters." Degrees should be established in our Universities for acquaintance with modern languages; and the Oriental tongues, in particular, are very important. It would be well, also, to adopt the French system of pupil consulships, by which a man might be trained to the performance of the higher duties.

Mr. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD admitted that the subject was one of great importance; but he thought it was undesirable to introduce the change contemplated by the motion—that of handing the charges in question over to the annual estimates. All the instances that had been complained of as extravagance had occurred in the items which are now voted annually, while proper economy characterizes the expenditure chargeable on the Consolidated Fund. It was not correct to say that the diplomatic service is a refuge for incompetent patriots; and nothing would be more invidious than to bring the diplomatic service under the control of Parliament. If we had had a diplomatic representative at Naples, the whole course of events respecting the Cagliari would have been different.

Mr. WHITE said that by adopting the resolution they would bring the consular service under the purview of Parliament; and therefore he was in favour of it.—Mr. HORSMAN observed that under the present system the House is in a state of ignorance of our foreign affairs, inconsistent with the principles of constitutional government, and that Mr. Fitzgerald had not resisted the motion upon constitutional grounds.—Lord PALMERSTON said the motion tended to reverse a decision deliberately come to as to the mode in which diplomatic salaries and pensions should be paid. Secret diplomacy, as it was called, might be defended on constitutional grounds. Parliament must either place confidence in the Ministers of the Crown in regard to our foreign relations, or appoint a standing committee of diplomatic relations; and the latter alternative he regarded as neither constitutional nor desirable. "There could not possibly be a worse engine for diplomatic transactions than a popular assembly. Nothing could prevent them from getting into repeated difficulties and disputes. They had an instance of that in the case of France and America. A question arose between the two Governments which was seized hold of by the assemblies on both sides of the Atlantic; and it had not been for very earnest exertions on the part of friendly Powers, that question must have produced a very serious rupture between the two countries. Without going further back, if there was at that moment a popular assembly in France, exercising the power of discussing public affairs, the relations between England and France might now be

very different from those which happily exist. As observed by Mr. Horsman, it was impossible that diplomatic transactions could be made public while they were in progress, and, when the result was come to, it was made known to Parliament. If Parliament thought it right to call upon the Government to account for its conduct, why then, according to constitutional usage, Parliament could interfere and call upon the Minister to answer for the transactions. If there was an annual debate on the salaries of our diplomatic agents, it would do those agents great harm at foreign courts, where their influence would thus be lowered.—Mr. KINNAIRD declared that neither the Government nor Lord Palmerston had answered the hon. gentleman who had brought forward the motion.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL said he was content with the present mode of paying their diplomatic agents. At the same time, he thought there ought to be a general division of the diplomatic service. (*Hear.*) He was against the system of unpaid *attachés*; and he thought that diplomatic papers ought to be more frequently submitted to the House.

The House then divided, when there appeared—

For the motion.....	114
Against it.....	142
Majority against	—28

DESTITUTION IN DONEGAL.

Mr. BAGWELL moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the destitution in Donegal, the northern part of which county, he said, is a wild, mountainous district, in which there is a great deal of very bad land. The people, according to the evidence of Lord G. Hill, are quiet and inoffensive, but in a rude state of society. He read statements showing their miserable condition, which, he contended, called for inquiry.—Sir E. HAYES referred to an official report, which showed that the representations of certain Roman Catholic priests, upon which Mr. Bagwell had relied, were without foundation. He did not object to a fair inquiry.—Mr. MACARTNEY protested against the motion. The inquiry, in his opinion, could end in no good.—Mr. PETER O'BRIEN supported the motion.—Lord NAAS read various statements, including evidence taken by Mr. Hamilton, who was directed by the late Government to make inquiry into this matter, contradicting and refuting the representations of the Roman Catholic clergymen. He did not oppose the motion for a committee, and hoped the inquiry would elicit the truth.—After some further debate, the House divided, and the motion was carried by 147 to 111.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. LOCKE KING obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish the property qualification of members of Parliament.

The LORD-ADVOCATE obtained leave to bring in a bill to make provision for the better government and discipline of the Universities of Scotland, and improving and regulating the course of study therein; and for the union of the two Universities and Colleges of Aberdeen.

Lord GODERICH obtained leave to bring in a bill to provide for the general registration of partnerships, the object of which is to require that all persons engaged in trade, in partnership, or under the style of a company, not within the provisions of the Joint-Stock Companies Act, or carrying on trade under any other name than their own, should give the public exact information who and what they are.

Mr. ADDERLEY obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Public Health Act, 1848. This, he said, would not be a mere Continuance Bill; not repealing the existing law, it would decentralize the whole system by establishing local boards, embodying the new provisions with the law of 1848.

These bills were read a first time.

The consideration of Lord PALMERSTON'S India Bill was postponed for a fortnight.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Lord RAYNHAM moved the second reading of this bill.—Mr. Secretary WALPOLE opposed the bill, on the ground that the Act 12 and 13 Vic. cap. 92, which the first clause proposed to repeal, meets all the objects for which it was intended, and that the noble Lord's measure would not accomplish the objects which he had in view. He moved that it be read a second time that day six months.—Mr. AYRTON hoped that Lord Raynham would not press his measure, which, while protecting animals, inflicted cruelty, in the shape of pains and penalties, upon man.—Sir J. EAST also opposed the bill, which was rejected without a division.

CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

The adjourned debate upon this bill was postponed.—Mr. AYRTON gave notice that the hon. Member for Tavistock (Sir John Trevelyan) would, on the following day, ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could make arrangements for a day upon which the division could be taken.

PRESCRIPTION (IRELAND) BILL.

This bill was withdrawn, Mr. WHITESIDE undertaking to deal with the subject at a future period.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The report of the committee was brought up and agreed to.

BOYDELL'S TRACTION ENGINE.

On the motion of Mr. GARNET, there was ordered a copy of the report upon the capabilities of Boydell's traction engine, made by Sir Frederick Abbott, last February, to the Hon. East India Company.

EXCHEQUER BILLS.

The Exchequer Bills (20,911,500*l.*) Bill was read a second time.

CHANCERY AMENDMENT BILL.

Upon the motion for the second reading, Sir RICHARD BETHELL said, he thought the bill was open to certain amendments as to the proceedings with respect to assess damages. He should be happy to co-operate with his hon. and learned friend in any step he might take to render the bill a perfect measure.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL proposed to take the second reading then, and afterwards to go into committee *pro forma*, with a view to the introduction of certain amendments which had been suggested.—The bill was then read a second time.

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

THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL.

It is a mortifying fact that, with our wonderfully developed powers of locomotion, with our constantly increasing intercourse all over the world, we are, in respect of accommodation for travellers, far behind other countries. Excepting only the Great Western Hotel, we have no establishments of the sort that can for a moment challenge comparison with the magnificent "travellers' homes" of Paris, New York, Boston, and New Orleans. It is almost a national reproach. We go to all those places, upon business or pleasure, and we return full of admiration at these perfections of hotel-convenience; when foreigners return to their own countries we know that it is impossible for them to express any admiration for our formal, dear, and comfortless hotels.

But we have made one move towards a better state of things, and we are about to make a second and more important move. The first was an experiment, the success of which has put our power to realize a first-rate hotel beyond doubt or question; the second will amply confirm our confidence, and go far to redeem us from the mortifying consequences of our old ill-reputation. The scheme of a vast international hotel, which for perfection of detail shall be entitled to comparison with the very grandest of the French and American establishments, has just been published. The promoters of this scheme frankly state that the entire success of the Great Western Hotel has incited them to attempt to supply a remedy for a great public want; their plan is certainly one of high promise, and, as we believe, of practicability. A site has been chosen which seems to embrace every possible advantage. It is intended to occupy the plot of ground on which the Lyceum Theatre now stands. The hotel building is to have "a frontage of 800 feet, abutting on the Strand, Burleigh-street, Exeter-street, and Wellington-street," the ground story being devoted to first-class shops. The hotel accommodation will provide 230 sleeping-rooms, with a proportionate number of private sitting-rooms. There will be a daily table d'hôte in a magnificent *salle-à-manger*; coffee and reading-rooms for ladies and gentlemen; billiard, smoking, and chess-rooms. In short, the prospectus of the projectors tells us, "this hotel will unite all the comforts and conveniences of internal arrangement, as at the best clubs in London, and in the leading hotels on the Continent and in America."

The want of such an hotel as is here promised is pressing. Money is cheap, and even if the profits should fall short of the expectations of those who have made the estimate, they must necessarily be handsome; while the nature of the property would offer an excellent permanent and indestructible security to the shareholder. If the Great Western Hotel is so entirely successful that it is always full, there can be little ground to fear that an hotel even more complete in its organization, and having infinite local advantages, will not meet with ample patronage. Its central position will at once point it out to the traveller as the lodging most convenient in point of situation. From its doors he will be within a shilling ride of all the railways but two, the Great Western, and the Eastern Counties. All the public offices, and all the leading places of amusement, will lie within a circuit of about a mile of his resting-place; he will be but a few minutes from the two great centres of business and pleasure—the 'City,' and the West End.

But there are other considerations no less bearing upon the traveller's convenience. In the International Hotel, as in the Great Western Hotel, there will be a fixed tariff of charges, and the promoters pledge themselves that these shall be moderate; the traveller will have at his command every luxury and convenience, and at the same time will be enabled to regulate his expenses to a shilling; a result that at once does away with the old barbarous extortions and absurdity of the English hotel-system, which we have so long grumbled at and borne. This, too, is a convenience that appeals to a much larger class than the traveller properly so called; and a well-conducted hotel and tavern should indeed provide, not only for the traveller, but for the numerous class of the traveller's friends, and the still more numerous class of

those who in a great city like London are, for a great part of the day, divided from their homes, besides an equally numerous class who reside habitually at a distance from home. In fact, this huge metropolis is gradually developing several classes that more or less need hotel accommodation. Many who can afford it join clubs; but here the expense not only consists in the annual outlay, but in the uncertainty which always overhangs an immense multitude of our fluctuating population. There are thousands upon thousands of men in London who abstain from joining a club because they are not certain of their movements for three months together; what they want is a temporary club, and particularly one which shall afford them the requisite conveniences at a fair price, but at a price which they can ascertain beforehand. Let an hotel be started upon such principles at the opening, and the concourse at its doors must pass all calculation.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

We have no new facts from India to record this week; but some of the details of the operations at Lucknow will be found below. The next mails will probably enable us to form some idea as to what the mutineers propose to do now that their chief stronghold has been taken from them.

"Two Sepoy regiments from Barrackpore," says a private letter, dated March 12th, "have been sent to China; others to the Andaman Isles. General Hearsay found out the plot, which was that the Sepoy guard coming down from Barrackpore to relieve the guard at Calcutta was to be provided with arms, and also arms for the guard relieved by the Rajah of Rampore, a man just out from England. He and others implicated are lodged in the fort."

The sum of 947l. 5s. 1d., for the Indian Mutiny Relief Fund, has been received from Mexico, with the expressions of a hope that a further considerable sum will be remitted. In transmitting this sum, Messrs. Graham, Geaves, and Co., add that, "it cannot fail to be gratifying to the Relief Committee at home to observe the considerable amount received from foreigners of all nations, but especially the French; and the committee here have felt themselves under the greater obligations for this liberality that it was entirely spontaneous."

THE TAKING OF THE MARTINIÈRE.

Mr. Russell, the Special Correspondent of the *Times*, gives the subjoined account of one of our recent successes at Lucknow:—

"Early in the morning (March 9th), Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard was directed by the Commander-in-Chief to make his arrangements for taking the Martinière at two P.M., with the following instructions:—

"He will employ for the purpose the 4th Brigade, with the 38th and 53rd Regiments of the 3rd Brigade in support. The 42nd Highlanders will lead the attack, and seize, as a first measure, the huts and ruined houses to the left of the Martinière, as viewed from the Brigadier-General's front. While the movement is being made upon the huts in question, the wall below the right heavy battery will be lined very thickly with at least the wing of a regiment, which will be flanked again by a troop of R.A. The huts having been seized, this extended wing behind the wall will advance right across the open on the building of the Martinière, its place being taken immediately by a regiment in support, which will also move rapidly forward on the building. But the attack on the huts is not to stop there. As soon as they are in, the Highlanders must turn sharp on the building of the Martinière, also following up the retreating enemy. The heavy guns of the right battery, as well as those belonging to the troop, will search the entrenchments of the tank and the brushwood to the right, while this advance is going forward. The whole line of the ruined huts, Martinière, &c., having been seized, the engineers attached to the 2nd Division for the operation will be set to work immediately by the Brigadier-General to give cover to the troops. The men employed in the attack will use nothing but the bayonet. They are absolutely forbidden to fire a shot till the position is won. This must be thoroughly explained to the men, and they will be told also that their advance is flanked on every side by heavy and light artillery, as well as by the infantry fire on the right. The Brigadier-General will cause his whole division to dine at twelve o'clock. Inlying pickets will remain in camp. The 90th Foot, now in the Mahomed Bagh, will be relieved by a regiment from Brigadier-General Franks's division. The troops will not be allowed to pass the lines of huts and the building without orders."

"It needs not a word from me to point out the clearness and simplicity and carefulness of these orders. They were thoroughly considered, and well understood and carried out."

"On returning to the Dilkoosha, about twelve o'clock, I saw an anxious group of sailors at the entrance to one of the rooms. 'Captain Peel's wounded, sir, there's a sad business,' said one of the men, in reply to my question. It was indeed so. He had walked out of the battery to look out for a good spot for another gun, and

a matchlockman shot him through the thigh. The ball had passed by the bone, and could just be felt under the skin at the other side. Soon the surgeon came with chloroform, and the ball was cut out. Our guns were now thundering away—mortars, howitzers, and 24-pounders—at the pits, huts, and Martinière, from which the enemy kept up an incessant fusillade of the weakest sort—the only thing remarkable about it being its pertinacity. The time wore on, and at last the Highlanders and Sikhs came marching from their camp, and drew up behind the Dilkoosha. The Chief, General Mansfield, and staff were on the roof; but, as the moment approached, Sir Colin went down, and, on foot among the men, gave his last orders to the officers. And now just observe this fact:—The enemy had remained steady in their trenches under the fire of six mortars and ten heavy guns and howitzers. But the instant they caught sight of our bayonets, and that the lines of the Sikhs and Highlanders came in view, we observed them, by twos and threes, and groups, and at last in masses, running and marching at the double as fast as they could clear out of the works, and moving to the rear or stealing off under cover of their parapets. The Commander-in-Chief came up to the roof again just in time to see the complete success of his plan. The orders were obeyed beautifully. We saw the Highlanders, with skirmishers thrown out in front, advancing rapidly, without a sound in their ranks, towards the Martinière, while the Sikhs on their flank, agile as panthers, ran at full speed towards the trenches, from which the enemy, firing a few hurried shots from their muskets, were flying so fast that not a man was left inside by the time our troops were within two hundred yards of the Martinière. But their gunners on the right of the Martinière, along the canal works, had seen the attack, and they began to pitch round shot up to us, and to plump them among the dhooly-bearers and light baggage advancing in rear of our column. In less than ten minutes, we saw Highland bonnets among the trees in the park, and the Sikhs rushing through the ruins in the rear, looking in vain for an enemy. I should have mentioned that, before the assault took place, an officer came in to say that the enemy in the canal trench, behind the Martinière, fearing an enfilading fire from Outram, had abandoned the works, but our glasses told us that there were Sepoys still in the Cavalier Bastion and behind the high parapet which ran across the head of the canal. The Commander-in-Chief therefore sent the following order to Sir James Outram at one P.M.:—

"It is still possible to make out people (the enemy) on the line of the canal. The Commander-in-Chief requests that guns may be placed in position to enfilade it."

"These orders were soon obeyed, and, while the Highlanders, advancing to the wall of the Martinière park on the left, gained the whole enclosure, another body of them and the Sikhs took possession of huts in the rear of the building, and engaged the enemy lining the parapet of the canal trench. But soon round shot and shell from Outram's guns, sweeping the whole of the left of the line, forced the enemy to abandon the works they had constructed with much care and labour, and on which they had relied with such confidence. The Chief, and his staff and followers, now galloped over to the Martinière. Mounting to the summit, we had a splendid view of the position, but the enemy opened two guns on us, and Sir Colin ordered all officers not on duty down at once. Outram was creeping on, and his guns, ranging almost up to our skirmishers, with repeated discharges swept every inch of the enemy's front on their left, and crushed them utterly, so that they contented themselves with some weak musketry fire from long distances, and evacuated the parapet and bastions up to the Second Cavalier."

"At four P.M., Sir Colin sent orders to Sir James Outram to place his mortars in position to shell the Kaiserbagh as soon as possible, and soon afterwards the Highlanders and a party of the Sikhs, turning to their right from the Martinière, seized upon the enemy's abandoned works, and established their pickets in the second bastion."

"Our loss in gaining this considerable success was trifling."

THE CASE OF BRIGADIER CARTHREW.

We read in the *Times*:—

"A short correspondence relative to the conduct of Brigadier M. Carthew, commanding Madras troops in India, appeared on Monday. His conduct in retreating from a position which he had been directed to defend on the evening of the 28th of November appears to have been censured by the Commander-in-Chief (in India), and the Brigadier endeavours to exculpate himself. Major-General Windham was referred to for his opinion, and he thinks that Brigadier Carthew 'has made a fair representation of his views.' He had hoped, however, that a certain reinforcement supplied by him would have prevented the necessity of retirement on the part of the Brigadier, and hence his surprise at the retreat. Sir Colin Campbell accordingly withdrew his censure, and wished his *Mem.* to be deemed null and void. It had, however, been already forwarded to the Court of Directors, so that its annulment was then impossible."

AN ESCAPE FROM THE MUTINEERS.

Some particulars of the escape from the mutineers

of a party of English is given in a letter from Nynce Tal, dated February 8th, 1859:—

"Captain Harsey, who had an appointment in Oude before the revolt, came in here the other day. He, with several others, has been wandering about since June last. The party with him consisted of Mrs. Greene, Miss Jackson, and a Mrs. Rogers, a sergeant's wife, all from Seetapore. They were joined by Captain Hastings, a Madras officer, and Mr. Gonne; also by Mr. Brand and Mr. Carew, from Shajahanpore. They kept together for nearly a month in the jungles, till one night they were attacked and their party separated, the ladies and Mr. Carew together. The remaining four (gentlemen) never saw or heard anything of the ladies and Mr. Carew afterwards. The four (Captain Harsey, Captain Hastings, Mr. Gonne, and Mr. Brand) kept together, suffering great privations. In August they were all prostrated by jungle fever. Mr. Gonne died after twelve days of suffering, and was buried early in September. The others recovered, but Captain Hastings only partially so, for he died in December. Captain Harsey and Mr. Brand got away dressed as natives; the former wandered from place to place for a month, and at last reached Nynce Tal, and Mr. Brand escaped to Nepal."

THE ORIENT.

EGYPT.

The disturbances in the Soudan (says an Alexandrian letter) are far from being appeased; and, for the second time, the armies of the Viceroy have been defeated. The insurgents have at their head a certain Nasser, an old Mameluke of Mehemet Ali. In the second affair Nasser surrounded half of the army of Gosman Bey, and massacred without mercy all the Egyptian soldiers who fell into his hands. Arakel Bey, Governor of the Soudan, is animated with the best intentions; but it must not be concealed that it will be long before the savage and warlike nations contended to his management will admit Egyptian rule, and that it will require the most persevering efforts on the part of Said Pacha, and a considerable force to reduce them to submission.

AMERICA.

Congress has been busy with one or two political questions. In the Senate, the Bill providing for the employment of five regiments of volunteers has been amended so as to reduce the number of regiments to three—one to be employed on the frontiers of Texas, and the others in protecting emigrant and Government trains on their way across the plains. In that shape, the bill was passed by a vote of 41 to 13. The House of Representatives has amended the bill for the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution by substituting for it Mr. Crittenden's proposition for submitting the constitution to the votes of the people, when, if it be rejected by them, another convention shall frame a new constitution, while, in the event of its being approved of, Kansas shall at once be admitted into the Union as a State by proclamation of the President. The bill, as thus "amended" (if such an entire reconstruction can be so called), was rejected by the Senate by 32 to 22. The anti-Lecompton victory in the Lower House was commemorated on the night of the 2nd inst. by a salute of one hundred and twenty guns, fired from the battery at sunset, and by a display of fireworks in the park in the evening. The House has since determined, by 119 votes to 111, to adhere to its decision, and it is thought that the Senate will ask for a committee of conference.

Some other bills, of less European interest, have been discussed. There has been another "scene" in the Senate. Mr. Chatfield, of New York, became disorderly in the course of a debate, and, on a motion to that effect being carried, was forcibly removed by the Serjeant-at-arms.

The steamer *Sultan* was burnt to the water's edge, and sank near St. Genevieve, Mobile, about three o'clock on the morning of the 2nd inst., and between fifteen and twenty persons are supposed to have lost their lives by the catastrophe. The *Sultan* was bound for New Orleans with a full cargo of produce, which, together with the boat, will be a total loss.

The steamships of the Collins line—the Adriatic, the Baltic, and the Atlantic—were sold at auction on the 1st inst. by order of the Sheriff. They were sold together, and brought 50,000 dollars. The liens on the property amount to 657,000 dollars. The vessels are valued at 2,500,000 dollars. The purchaser was Mr. Dudley B. Fuller, of the firm of Fuller, Lorb, and Co., iron merchants.

The questions pending between the Government of Paraguay, on the one hand, and those of Brazil and France on the other, have been definitively and amicably settled. The same result is anticipated in connexion with the United States dispute; and a joint commission, it is stated, is about to be appointed in Buenos Ayres, for the investigation and decision of all pending British claims.

The *Seminario*, of Buenos Ayres, announces the death, on the 10th of February, of Mr. Charles Gore Ouseley, son of Sir William Gore Ouseley, late Minister Plenipotentiary of her Britannic Majesty in the River Plate, and at present her Special Commissioner in the United States.

"A very extraordinary case of forgery," says the

Times Pernambuco correspondent, writing on the 24th ult., "has come to light this month. Two bills, purporting to be drawn by Messrs. N. O. Bieber and Co., and accepted by Messrs. J. Keller and Co., were discounted three months ago at the Branch Bank of Brazil in this province. On the date of their falling due the bills, one of 20,000 milreis, and the other of 30,000 milreis (5000*l.*), were presented to Messrs. Keller, who declined payment, alleging them to be forgeries. Messrs. Bieber refused on the same plea. The matter remains thus for the present; but the remarkable part of the affair is the bank, usually very cautious, having discounted bills to a person unknown, and who gave into the bank at the time the transaction was effected an altogether fictitious name. The bills, it appears, are precise copies of *boni fide* bills which had previously been discounted at the bank."

General Santa Anna, ex-President of Mexico, with his suite, arrived at St. Thomas's (one of the West India islands), in the mail steamer Clyde, on the 17th ult., from Carthagena, and was to have left on the 19th for Havannah in the mail steamer Dee; but the non-arrival of the Solent from the Gulf at the moment of the Dee's departure seems to have changed his intentions, as he still remained in the island at last accounts.

Peter Besançon, a Frenchman living at New Orleans, who was dismissed from the Pension Office some months back, and refused a reappointment by the Secretary of the Interior, made a murderous attack, on the forenoon of the 8th, on that gentleman, Mr. Thompson. He presented a pistol at him in the hall of the department; but Mr. Thompson struck it from his hand, caught Besançon by the arm, threw him down, jumped on him, so as to break his arm; then picked up the pistol, and went to his office.

The Grafton Bank, at Grafton, Massachusetts, was robbed of 12,000 dollars on the 8th, 7000 dollars of which was in bills of 100 dollars each. The robbery was committed in the daytime, during the temporary absence of the cashier.

The Rhode Island State election took place on the 7th, and resulted in the complete triumph of the Republicans, who elected their whole State "ticket" and large majorities in both branches of the General Assembly.

In the General Sessions of the city of New York on the 9th, Oscar M. Thomas was convicted of kidnapping George Anderson, a coloured man, and selling him as a slave in Richmond, Virginia. His counsel gave notice of a motion for an arrest of judgment. Thomas was remanded for sentence.

The "religious revival" at New York and other cities continues in full force; and wonderful are the "conversions," including corrupt common councilmen and pugilists. The New York correspondent of the *Daily News* tells an amusing anecdote:—"One meeting is being held daily in the forenoon in one of the leading theatres (Burton's), and Mr. Burton himself, the manager, was on one occasion held up to the assemblage as an excellent subject for their prayers. This was followed by an announcement, on the following day, of his conversion—a statement which he indignantly denied at the evening theatrical performance in the same place."

It is said that a proposition had been favourably entertained for the amalgamation of all the banks of New York City into one great institution, similar in its workings to the Bank of England or the Bank of France.

The revolution in Venezuela appears to have been completely successful. According to advices, dated La Guayra, of the 22nd of March, President Monagas sent in his resignation to Congress on the 15th, and immediately, with his family and his chief Minister, Gutierrez, fled to the French Legation for refuge, where they still remained. But the ports are blockaded, and there is no chance for his escape.

According to the *New York Herald*, negotiations are proceeding for the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

Messrs. Allibone and Newhall, ex-directors of the Bank of Pennsylvania, have been indicted for conspiracy.

THE SARDINIAN CONSPIRACY BILL.

THE debate on the Conspiracy Bill, brought into the Sardinian Chamber of Representatives on the requisition of the French Government, has produced some vigorous speeches. That of Count Cavour is especially memorable. He spoke for two hours and a half, and went over many incidental topics. It was necessary, he said, for a small state like Sardinia, having a difficult task to get through, to cultivate friendly alliances, more especially as "there was danger of attack from a great power which beholds with displeasure the success of a political system diametrically opposed to its own." The freest and proudest nations had frequently allied themselves with despots; and, as to France, he thought, while entertaining the greatest respect for the French nation, that it is one of the least fitted for Republican institutions. All Republics had an egotistical character, and were prone to tyrannize over other nations.

"Have we not," asked the Count, "the example of

the French republics? Both the first, which was warlike, and the second, which was pacific, always had, with respect to Italy, a worse than egotistical policy. The first drove out the Germans, but it was to make a market of the conquered provinces. It gave Venice to secure itself the Rhine. ("Bravo!") And the second? There were in the Government representatives of the most advanced revolutionary opinions, the Ledru Rollins, the Bastides; nevertheless, not only did they refuse us the assistance of men, of money, of armies, but even the loan of a General whom we committed the fault of asking them for. ("Bravo! bravo!") When—the form of the Government having been somewhat changed—we turned for assistance to its head, do you know what happened? Nine years have elapsed since then, and I do not think I shall be indiscreet in telling it. (*Movement of attention.*) The head of that Government was disposed to give efficacious assistance to Charles Albert in his war against Austria, but he was prevented by the chiefs of the National Assembly and by his Ministers, among whom were ancient and present Republicans. (*Sensation.*) I can confidently affirm this, because I heard it from the lips of a celebrated writer, who had the sad courage to boast to me of the part he took in that resolution." (*Profound sensation.*)

Count Cavour then denounced those who incessantly demand a revolution.

"*Insensati!*" he exclaimed, "who think that a revolution, which would imperil social principles, would be favourable to the cause of liberty in Europe. *Insensati!* who know not that its surest effect would be to make all liberty disappear and to take us back to the middle ages! *Insensati di buona fede*, who love revolution more than they love Italy! (*Great applause.*) To maintain alliances it is necessary to inspire esteem, to seek to promote common interests, to show reciprocal benevolence; and this we have done with treaties of commerce, with copyright treaties, and we have found the Government of France very benevolent. The war converted this goodwill into a formal treaty. We then did what lay in us to re-establish good relations with Russia, and we succeeded. At no period were our foreign relations better."

Alluding to the attempt on the life of the French Emperor, he said that it was not an isolated act, but one of a series. It was, therefore, not surprising that the Emperor should seek to prevent such attempts, and should address himself to friendly powers.

"And we are bound to acknowledge," said the Count, "that the despatches dictated by the French Government, and especially that sent to us, are marked by a sentiment of friendliness and benevolence which cannot fail to be recognized by those who may have read the document, which for many days past has been deposited in the offices of the Secretaries of the Chamber. I do not, however, think that in the despatch in question the facts relating to our country are all appreciated in the justest manner; I do not hesitate to express my opinion that with respect to many of them, and especially to the occurrences at Genoa last June, that document passes a judgment which is excessively severe and not altogether conformable with fact. I believe that the causes and the consequences of those occurrences have been greatly exaggerated by the French Government, and that there has remained in its mind an excessive preoccupation with respect to them."

The Piedmontese Government had expressed its willingness to do all it could towards the suppression of such crimes, but had said that the best plan for checking them would be better government and less oppression. Count Cavour then read a despatch sent on the 11th of February to Count Minerva, Sardinian Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, to be communicated to the Papal Government. Copies of this despatch (which ran as follows) were sent to France and the other powers:—

"The system of expulsion exercised on a large scale by the Pontifical Government—since in our territory alone his Holiness's expelled subjects amount to several hundreds—cannot but have the most fatal consequences. The man exiled on suspicion or for indifferent conduct is not always corrupt or indissolubly affiliated to revolutionary sects. Retained in his country, watched over, punished if necessary, he might mend, or at least might not become a very dangerous man. Sent into exile, irritated by illegal measures, excluded from honest society, and often without means of subsistence, he necessarily becomes connected with the partisans of revolutions. It is easy for them to delude and seduce him, and to make him one of themselves. Thus the man of loose habits quickly becomes a political sectarian, and a most dangerous one. Whence it may with reason be asserted that the system followed by the Pontifical Government has for result continually to furnish new soldiers to the revolutionary ranks. As long as this lasts, all the efforts of Government to put down these sects will prove fruitless; because, in proportion as these are dispersed from the dangerous centres, others converge thither, sent in a certain degree by their own Government. To this must be attributed the extraordinary vitality of the Mazzini party, and the measures adopted by the Papal Government contribute to it in great part."

The Premier related that, after the January at-

tempt in France, information reached the Sardinian Government, "from a Government most friendly to exiles, and most jealous of the right of asylum," that the republicans talked of renewing the attempt at Paris, and also of assassinating the Sardinian monarch. There could be no doubt, said the Count, of the truth of this statement. He continued:—

"If the Liberal Ministers of the nation had done nothing against such infamous attempts, there might, perhaps, among the masses that reason little, have occurred" (when the projects became publicly known) "a reaction not only against us, but against all the Liberal party. ("Bravo!") I think that in this none can see the effect of a foreign pressure. If there was pressure, it was one to which it is an honour to yield; it was the pressure of our conscience. This is a very grave question, on which depends the fate of the Ministry; it is a question that brings with it what is called a ministerial crisis; and this not by wilfulness or caprice, or by excessive susceptibility on the part of Ministers, but by a necessary inevitable consequence of things themselves. In a country where the constitutional system is loyally practised, when a Ministry finds itself in open dissension with the majority of the Chamber on a political question a crisis is the necessary consequence. . . . If you, gentlemen, share the opinions of the majority of the Committee, you ought not to allow us to sit here longer as representatives of the Crown. We await, then, with confidence the vote and the judgment that you are about to pronounce; whatever it may be, we will accept it with reverence."

On a subsequent day, Signor Brofferio made some observations touching the alleged refusal of the French Republic to give aid to Italy. He said:—

"Marquis Pareto wrote that Marquis Brignole ought to persuade France not to interfere in our affairs. And a despatch from Lord Palmerston, referring to the army of the Alps, and to an order of the day of General Oudinot, called the attention of the Sardinian Government to the interest it had in preventing a French intervention, and said that the best way of getting out of it would be by a compromise between the Government of Milan and that of Austria. Thus spoke that Lord Palmerston who now, for the great good fortune of liberty, has fallen. Therefore, if the Republic of 1848 did not interfere, it was because we did not wish it. And here I ask leave, in my turn, to make an indiscreet revelation. General Antonini, a few months before his death, communicated to me a letter, of which I have spoken to my political friends, and in which General Oudinot wrote to him:—"I have 60,000 men, artillery, cavalry, and infantry: give me an opportunity of interfering. Ring the alarm bell at Susa. I will descend the Mont Cenis, and we will go together to Vienna." (*Sensation.*) After Custozza, assistance was asked for; but then Cavaignac already exercised a military dictatorship. . . . A Republic no longer existed, but the dictatorship of a General who had killed 40,000 Frenchmen at the barricades. (*Sensation and murmurs.*) I say 40,000, because I consider transportation as a political death."

The next speaker was General La Marmora, who, referring to a speech made by Signor Brofferio about a year ago, said:—

"He said that the French Republic was disposed to assist us. I was charged at that time with a thankless mission, and can give explanations as to those good dispositions. (*Movement of attention.*) I was at Novara, Chief of the Staff of Division. I was called to Turin by the Prime Minister, Alfieri, and three hours were given me to prepare to start for France in search of a general. Two or three illustrious names were mentioned to me; one was that of Bugeaud. Marquis Brignole immediately procured me an audience of Cavaignac. The General—and he was at the head of the Republic—was astonished that I should have presented myself without an autograph letter from Charles Albert, and also that I had no credentials. I had never been on a diplomatic mission, and did not even know what credentials were. (*Laughter.*) There were no railways or telegraphs then, and the credentials did not arrive until after ten or twelve days. Then I thought that all was right. Marquis Brignole asked for another audience for me. What did General Cavaignac reply when I asked him for Marshal Bugeaud, who appeared disposed to come? 'Vous ne l'aurez pas, et je vous prévions qu'il est gardé à vue.' (Valerio:—"You should have gone to Lamartine.") But if they were all the same? (*Laughter.*) You wish me to speak of Lamartine? The reply is well known which he made to those who asked him to assist Charles Albert:—"I will never allow the Mediterranean to become an Italian lake." He professed Italianism only when in opposition. I recollect also that, in '46 or '47, he said, from the tribune, that he had seen the Austrians working at the fortifications of Alessandria. I thought to myself, What could ever have put it into that poetical head that the Austrians were at Alessandria? Do you know what it was? He had seen our sappers and miners working in their shirt-sleeves, and had taken them for Austrians. (*General laughter.*) I will not name the other generals. Cavaignac, with respect to them, said to me, 'If they like to go, they are free to do so; speak to them.' One of them had already asked me many explanations, and listened willingly to those I gave him. Fifteen days had already passed; our army

meanwhile was without a general, and lacked confidence in its chiefs. You may imagine what I suffered. One day, the general in question said to me, 'I cannot accept.' And, as I insisted, he at last told me that he had seen a report to General Cavaignac, in which it was stated that we had only 10,000 or 12,000 men. Now, our 120,000 were not all good; many would have been better at home; but 60,000 or 70,000 good soldiers we certainly had. It was the same thing as saying to him, 'I will not let you go.' I obtained a last audience; and then General Cavaignac, after many shifts (*giri*), said to me, 'Enfin, nous ne voulons pas nous brouiller avec l'Autriche pour vous faire plaisir.' (*Sensation.*) Subsequently, I had other missions to the President of the Republic, Louis Napoleon, and was always received as the representative of a sovereign; and the language of that head of the French Government was always marked by the greatest sympathy towards Piedmont and Italy." Signor Tecchio, in supporting the measure, observed:—

"Let us remember that we are not upon terms with Austria, and that we have France for our ally. France also is evidently not upon good terms with Austria. Whilst, in Austria, the celebration of a funeral service for Daniel Manin was prohibited, in France a subscription in honour of him has been allowed. M. Jules Favre, by the Emperor's permission, lately read the letter of Orsini, which was regarded in Austria as a revolutionary publication; and Orsini's second letter has since been printed in our own official journal, which would certainly not have published it unless it had been received from the French Government. It is also to be observed that the Austrian journals are employing very injurious language against France. For my part, I do not look to foreign arms for the salvation of my country; it is only by our own arms that I expect it to be gained; but it would be folly for us to despise the support and friendship of others."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

That narrow and unchristian feeling is to be condemned which regards with jealousy the progress of foreign nations, and cares for no portion of the human race but that to which itself belongs.

DR. ARNOLD.

FRANCE.

THREE persons have consented to stand on the Opposition interest in the approaching Paris elections. Those three are—M. Lionville (Bâtonnier of the Order of Advocates), for the third electoral district, for which the late General Cavaignac had been chosen; M. Ernest Picard (Advocate), for the fifth district; and M. Jules Favre (Advocate), for the sixth district. They have made the formal declaration on oath, required by law, that they will be faithful to the Emperor and the Constitution.

The sittings of the Congress of Delegates from the French provincial scientific societies which have met for the last fortnight in the rooms of the Société d'Encouragement, Rue Bonaparte, have been brought to a close.

The state of Marshal Bosquet's health will prevent him from entering on his command before the end of the year. It is probable that a Lieutenant-General will be appointed *ad interim*.

The Emperor returned to Paris on Thursday week from Sologne.

The Emperor and Empress visited, last Saturday afternoon, without escort, the Boulevard de Sebastopol, to inspect in detail the subterranean works which are being executed beneath that thoroughfare.

The acquittal of Bernard has been criticized very indignantly by the Imperialist papers. The *Univers* is fierce in its anger, and the *Constitutionnel* has the following short article:—"The acquittal of Bernard has excited deep indignation in France, and the animated sentiment expressed by the *Univers* on the subject has been understood by everybody. Nevertheless, we must remark in strict justice that this is not the moment to attack the *Times* as the *Univers* has done, since that journal supported with energy the 'Conspiracy Bill,' denounced the assassins, and vindicated England's honour. We will not dwell at any length on such an acquittal, which throws an unheard-of scandal on public morality, for what honest man in France or England could entertain a doubt of Bernard's guilt? We will merely inform those of our neighbours who desire the maintenance of good relations between the two countries, that if, by misfortune, the address pronounced by Bernard's counsel—that address which was allowed to teem with calumny and insults against the Emperor, against the nation which elected him, against the army, and against our institutions—were to be circulated in the towns, barracks, and rural districts of France, it would be difficult for government, with the best intentions, to stay the consequences of public indignation." With respect to this article, the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* remarks:—"Did the *Constitutionnel* never hear of the respect exacted by French law for the *chose jugée*? It knows well that it could not make the slightest reflection upon the judgement of the smallest police-court in France without being punished, and yet it dares to say that the British jury who tried Bernard are not honest men!"

The *Débats* of last Saturday has the following:—"We have just received the *Globe*, which contains Mr. Edwin James's defence of M. Simon Bernard. The general tone of this defence is such that we dare not reproduce it."

"According to returns lately prepared at the Ministry of Marine, by order of the Emperor," says the *Times* Paris correspondent, "France will possess in the year 1859 an effective force of one hundred and fifty war-paddle and screw-steamers of great speed, independently of the sailing ships of war fitted with screws. These one hundred and fifty war-steamers will be composed of ships-of-the-line, frigates, corvettes, and cutters. Neither gunboats, steam-transports, floating-batteries, nor fireships are included in the number of one hundred and fifty. M. Reybell, Chief Engineer of Hydraulic Works, and M. Dupuy, de l'Orne, Director of Naval Constructions, have been sent to Cherbourg by order of the Emperor to ascertain the precise time at which the new dock can be opened. The Emperor inspected the works on Wednesday morning which have been commenced in the gardens of the Tuileries, by which the portion open to the public will be considerably curtailed."

The Emperor has completed his fiftieth year, having been born at the Tuileries on the 20th of April, 1808.

The letter of M. Henon, one of the opposition members, declining an invitation to dine at the Tuileries, was as follows (according to the *Continental Review*):—"Monsieur le Grand Chambellan,—I have received the letter by which you invite me, in the name of the Emperor, to dine at the Tuileries. I should be greatly surprised, M. le Chambellan, to find myself at such a meeting, and my constituents would not be less so, at the moment when my friends are on the road to exile and transportation."

AUSTRIA.

Dr. Zugschwerdt, lately a member of the Board of the Credit Bank at Vienna, has been tried and found guilty of fraud and embezzlement. He has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment in chains.

ITALY.

It is seriously in contemplation by the Neapolitan Government to form a camp at Gaeta. Count de Trapani, the brother of the King, has resigned the command in chief of the Royal Guard in consequence of some differences which have arisen between his Majesty and himself.

The reply of the Court of Naples to the last Sardinian Note was officially communicated on Thursday to Count Cavour. It is couched in moderate terms, but contains a flat refusal of the Sardinian demands.

SPAIN.

The Queen is stated to be in a condition promising an augmentation of the royal family.

A person named Ribera, belonging to a respectable family at Granada, and formerly Chief of the Secret Police under the Sartorius Ministry, plunged a poniard, or short sword, in the middle of the day, on the 14th inst., into the body of Colonel Verdugo. The crime was deliberately and openly committed in one of the most frequented thoroughfares of Madrid. Having struck two blows, the assassin coolly walked away with the reeking weapon in his hand, and finally flung it down an area, after which he lit a cigar, and began to smoke. He was shortly afterwards arrested, when he asked, with some indignation, "Am I a criminal, that I should be treated in this way, and have my hands tied?" Ribera had been associated with some scandalous transactions during and after the time that he was at the head of the Secret Police, and was more than once imprisoned. He afterwards went to Cuba, and sent home to Spain an attack on the administration of O'Donnell in that island. Returning to Spain in 1856, he was again made Chief of the Secret Police by Narvaez, but once more lost his position when that Minister fell. The motive for his present act is said to be revenge against Verdugo for some alleged severity towards him when he was a prisoner. The victim, however, is universally respected. He is the husband of a lady of some note as a poet and dramatist. It is thought impossible that he can recover.

The journals announce the approaching presentation of a law restoring to the secular clergy the church property not sold.

TURKEY.

A religious disturbance at Aleppo is reported in a letter from Constantinople which appears in the *Paris Univers*. "The Armenian Bishop of Aleppo, Mgr. Nicholas, who is a learned man, has long manifested a Roman Catholic tendency. The new patriarch, wanting to get rid of him, obtained from the Porte an order that he should be exiled. The Pacha of Aleppo was charged to execute the order; but, when he sent to have the bishop arrested, the latter called on the consuls of France and Russia to protect him, and sought refuge in the convent of the Capuchins. Afterwards, when the French consul and a congregation were attending divine service in the church, Mgr. Nicholas entered, and, walking up to the altar, deposited on it his crucifix, and proclaimed himself and all his flock (the latter consists of about three hundred families) to be Roman Catholics. The Russian consul, who was present, then withdrew, and the French consul then wrote an account of the affair to

Constantinople. Mgr. Nicholas has been summoned to that city to give explanations."

The *Presse d'Orient* announces that the Porte has severely punished the Armenians who obtained passports as naturalized Russians. It was desired at Constantinople that this lesson should not be lost on the Armenian population of the empire. The son of Sefer Pacha had discovered, by means of intercepted letters, a plot organized in Circassia in favour of Russia. The Hungarian Bangya, who had taken service with the Circassians, confessed his share in the plot, and was condemned to death, with several emissaries of the Russian General Philipson.

The Sultan has decided on augmenting the pay of the troops.

SWITZERLAND.

Two hundred and fifty men have been sent for, to put down troubles which had broken out at Hegburg on the occasion of the municipal elections. A red flag had been displayed. The public-houses frequented by the radicals are closed by authority.

The Conseil d'Etat of Fribourg has just published the following proclamation:—"The communal elections have given rise for some days to culpable manifestations. The Conseil d'Etat has taken a large share in the excitement of the moment. But it will not allow it to be prolonged. Two companies have entered the capital, for the purpose of protecting it against any rash attempt. Let the good citizens be assured. We watch over their safety, and guarantee it to them. Disorder is impossible, when the country and the authorities lend a hand." Seditious cries and symbols are prohibited, as well as all parading in the streets and public places. If companies are formed, they will be dispersed by armed forces. The taverns where these tumultuous reunions take place are already under the surveillance of the police, and the Councillor of State, Presset, has been arrested, with thirty workmen, under a charge of having projected an insurrection.

GERMANY.

A rare event has occurred in Saxony—the release of a convict after not fewer than fifty years' detention. This man was condemned to imprisonment for life for having formed part of a notorious band of brigands, and was sent to the prison of Waldheim. He remained there until a few days ago, when he obtained a pardon. Notwithstanding his long confinement, he is in good health, and he has returned to his native village of Leutersdorf with a sum of two hundred thalers, the product of his labour in the gaol.

STATE OF TRADE.

In all the great seats of industry there were slight signs of improvement in the various branches of manufacture during the week ending last Saturday; but the increase of business is in no place considerable, though promising better things for the future. The number of unemployed poor is diminishing. In the Bradford Union, the number of persons in the receipt of outdoor relief at the present time is about 1200 less than it was last February, when the pressure was greatest; but nevertheless the present number is more than 2000 in excess of the number at the corresponding period of last year.

The suspension has been announced of Messrs. Robert Browne and Co., a respectable mercantile firm, chiefly in the Australian trade. Disappointments in remittances from the colony have been the cause of the difficulty, which it is hoped will be surmounted. The liabilities are supposed to range between 80,000*l.* and 40,000*l.*

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

An eccentric old maiden lady, named Maria Suter, living at Blissett-street, Greenwich, has met with a very sudden and horrible death. Miss Suter was possessed of sufficient means to enable her to live comfortably and respectably; but for the last few years her manners had become so very strange and peculiar, that two gentlemen related to her recently went to her house, in order to ascertain the precise state of her mind, in which endeavour they were aided by a couple of medical men, who were each to furnish the relatives of the lady with a certificate to place her in some lunatic asylum, should it be found necessary. Accordingly, the doctors had each an interview with Miss Suter separately, and the result was that they both came to the conclusion that she was of unsound mind; and they, therefore, determined on signing the required certificate, with a view to removing her into an asylum as speedily as possible. On the same night, at a late hour, an unusually loud noise, made in stirring the fire, was heard by the neighbours; but nothing more was noticed afterwards, and the following morning, when the postman came with a letter for Miss Suter from her brother, he received no answer to his knock. As, however, the lady was frequently in the habit of not rising until two or three o'clock in the middle of the day, nothing remarkable was thought of this circumstance; but, about four o'clock in the afternoon, Miss Suter's brother himself called at her residence, and, as the house was still unopened, he was obliged to make an entry by the back of the premises. He immediately proceeded into an up-stairs room, on

entering which he perceived the body of his sister lying dead upon a box, while close to her head stood a covered saucepan in which was a quantity of decomposed coffee. It was evident that the old lady could not have met her death by violent means, as the slightest movement of her body would have caused the saucepan to fall. The floor of the room was sprinkled with blood just below the dead woman's left leg and arm, which were hanging over the side of the box; and it was likewise discovered, on further examination, that the flesh had been gnawed off the knuckles of the right hand. A candle, part of the grease of which was devoured, stood by the side of the box properly extinguished, from which it would appear that the old lady had lain down to rest in her clothes, and had been attacked by rats and mice while asleep, the wounds being of so severe a nature as to cause death. Three bank-notes of 5*l.* each, a bunch of keys, and some loose gold and silver money, wrapped in different parcels, were found upon her person, and several pieces of meat, cooked and uncooked, together with bread, vegetables, and an unusually large number of candles, were in the front parlour cupboards; but the house was in a most filthy and wretched state, and almost wholly devoid of furniture.

A ticket-of-leave convict, named Rodgers, living near Belper, was making his way home a few days ago across some fields, and was in the act of getting over a fence, when the owner of the field (who is also a constable) called out to him. Rodgers knew that the police were at that time looking after him on a charge of felony, and, being alarmed, he ran off towards the river Derwent, which flows through the fields. He was pursued by the constable, and, leaping into the water, swam more than half way across, when he became exhausted and was drowned.

Seven men were washed overboard from the bowsprit of the packet Solent in the Gulf of Mexico during a violent gale. Five men manned one of the boats, and she was dropped into the water. One of the seven men washed overboard was washed on board again; two held on at a single round life-buoy, and kept themselves above water; and another was able to swim. These three men were saved; the other three out of the seven were drowned, and amongst them was the boatswain.

An alarming explosion occurred on the morning of Friday week in one of the coal-pits on the estate of Lord Vernon at Poynton. Two hundred and forty men were in the pit at the time of the catastrophe, and three were killed. The others were extricated in about two hours; they were then in a state of stupefaction, but have since recovered. The explosion is supposed to have arisen from the removal of the top of a Davy lamp by one of the workmen.

Mrs. Simms, wife of the station-master at the Stretton station of the Midland Railway, has been killed on the line. She was running across the railway just at the time the Leicester coal train with empty waggons was passing. The engine knocked her down, and the wheels of the carriages cut the body into numerous pieces. The husband was standing on the embankment close by at the time, and was the horrified spectator of his wife's death.

THE TRIAL OF BERNARD.

This protracted and most important trial came to a termination last Saturday afternoon. Lord Campbell, having summed up the facts of the case with great care and minuteness, concluded thus:—

"In the address of the learned counsel for the prisoner, it was not insisted that these balls were to be applied to any discovery relative to gas, and he said that they were not for the purpose of assassination, but to be used as instruments of war. He said that there was in contemplation a revolution in Italy; that Bernard, with others, was engaged in it; and that he was assisting in collecting instruments of war in Paris for the purpose of that revolution. Now, gentlemen, if these grenades were for military purposes—if that should be your opinion—I think your verdict should be Not Guilty, because, although it would be an offence against the laws of this country for either natives or foreigners residing here to plot or to prepare the means of invading a foreign country, still that is not the offence now laid to the charge of the prisoner. The offence with which he is charged is that of being accessory to a plot for assassinating the Emperor of the French, which produced the death of Nicholas Battie, one of the Garde de Paris, whose life was sacrificed upon that occasion; and, unless you believe that the prisoner was implicated in that conspiracy, I think he is entitled to your verdict. But if you believe that he, being acquainted with Allsop, and knowing that Allsop had got these grenades, assisted in having them transported to Brussels; if you believe that he bought the materials for making the fulminating powder; if you believe that he in this country—and again I warn you that you are only to find him guilty of acts committed in this country—if you believe that he, living in England and owing a temporary allegiance to our Sovereign, sent over on the 2nd of January revolvers, with a view to their being used in consummating the plot which had been formed against the life of the Emperor of the French; if you should believe that he engaged with Rudio to join the parties then assembled at Paris, they wishing to have a fourth man to assist them; and if you believe that he gave money for

that purpose—then it will be for you to say whether he had a guilty knowledge of what was intended. It is for you to draw your own conclusions from the facts stated in the evidence. The verdict must be yours and yours alone. You will, without considering our own Government at home or any foreign Government, draw your own conclusion from the evidence. You will likewise consider the letter in the disguised hand written after the assassination was attempted, and when all the circumstances were known; and you will consider whether that letter may not afford evidence of a bygone conclusion and bygone purpose on the part of the prisoner. I will only advise you not to allow yourselves to be led away by the notion that, if you come to the conclusion that the party accused had that guilty knowledge, that he was an accomplice in the conspiracy, a verdict in accordance with that opinion will interfere with that asylum which it has ever been the glory of this country to afford to persecuted foreigners. That glory, I hope, will always belong to this country. But, gentlemen, that asylum amounts to this: that foreigners are at liberty to come to our country, to remain in our country, and to leave our country at their own will and pleasure, and that they cannot be disturbed by the Government so long as they obey the laws. They are under the same laws as native-born subjects; if they violate those laws, they are liable to be prosecuted and punished in the same manner as any native-born subject of the Queen. Treat Simon Bernard exactly as though he were born in the metropolis of the empire to which you belong; treat him as you would a native-born subject; let his case be exactly the same, for I do not believe, in point of law, his being a foreigner makes any difference whatever. At all events, it will be your duty to treat him precisely the same as a native-born subject, as if it had been Allsop; and, if you find that he was implicated in this conspiracy, and that he had a guilty knowledge and guilty purpose, and did plot with others the death of the Emperor of the French, I think it will be your duty to find a verdict of Guilty. With these observations I leave the case in your hands. If you have any reasonable doubt of the guilt of the prisoner, give him the benefit of that doubt; but, if you have not, then, by the duty you owe to yourselves and your country, you will find the prisoner guilty of the offence with which he is charged in the indictment."

The jury were then about to retire, when Bernard, in a warm and excited manner, and with violent action, said—"I declare the words which have been used by the Judge are not correct, and that the balls taken by Georgi to Brussels were not those which were taken to Paris. I have brought no evidence here, because I am not accustomed to compromise any person. I declare that I am not the hirer of assassins; that Rudio has said at Paris, on his trial, that he himself asked to go to Orsini. I was not the hirer of assassins. Of the blood of the victims of the 14th of January there is nothing on my hand any more than on any one here. We want only to crush despotism and tyranny everywhere. I have conspired, and I will conspire everywhere, because it is my duty, my sacred duty, as it is of every one; but never, never will I be a murderer!"

The jury retired at twenty minutes to three o'clock, and returned into court at four. Their faces were very pale, and a deep silence testified to the solemnity with which all in court regarded the coming verdict, whatever it might prove to be. The Judges, who had retired at the same time as the jury, were sent for, and the Clerk of the Arraignment then put the usual question. To this, the foreman of the jury answered, "NOT GUILTY."

The scene that followed was one of the most extraordinary that has been seen in an English court of justice for many years. The audience burst forth into a loud and long-continued cheer, in which even some of the members of the bar joined; and this was repeated again and again. Men waved their hats, and ladies their white handkerchiefs, the latter standing on their seats to give greater emphasis to the ovation. Lord Campbell and the officers of the court in vain endeavoured to still the tumult; and the cheers were soon augmented by the glad vociferations of those outside, who had by that time heard the result of the trial. Bernard's eyes glistened and his frame trembled with strong emotion; and at length, when silence was restored, he said, in a loud voice and with energetic action:—"I do declare that this verdict is the truth, and it proves that in England there will always be liberty to crush tyranny. All honour to an English jury!" The cheering here burst out again, and Bernard was temporarily removed from the dock, when silence was restored, and he was brought back.

Mr. Simon: "There is another indictment against the prisoner, on which the evidence would be exactly the same. I presume the Attorney-General will not proceed with it."—The Attorney-General: "It is not the intention of the Crown to proceed further with that indictment."—Mr. Simon: "Perhaps the Attorney-General will allow a verdict of acquittal to be taken. That is the usual course."—The Attorney-General: "Understanding that the more usual, though not the uniform course is to consent to a verdict of acquittal under such circumstances, I will consent to that verdict being taken."—The Lord Chief Justice: "That is what I should have recommended."—The Clerk then read the indictment, charging the prisoner with the murder of Eugene Rignier. Bernard seemed somewhat astonished

at this proceeding; but his solicitor explained to him that it was only formal, and he pleaded "Not Guilty." The jury thereupon immediately returned a verdict to that effect.

The greatest excitement (say the daily papers) had prevailed in the court during these proceedings; and when the second verdict was returned, the cheering recommenced, and there was once more a general waving of hats and handkerchiefs in the galleries. The Judges were evidently quite disconcerted, and made a hasty retreat from the court, the Lord Chief Justice not even addressing one word to the jury or paying them any compliment for their long and patient attendance. The verdict, however, seemed to give satisfaction to almost every one, and the jurymen, when they got into the street, were loudly cheered.

The utmost excitement prevailed in the neighbourhood of the court during the whole afternoon. Men might be seen running along the chief thoroughfares, shouting, "Acquitted! acquitted!" Omnibuses stopped for a time, that the riders might learn the news; and there were wavings of hats and many exclamations of pleasure. In a very short time, the evening papers had distributed the result all over the metropolis, and the telegraph had flashed it across the land. The verdict has given general satisfaction.

Bernard, having been released on bail, was present at Wyld's Reading Rooms, Leicester-square, on Tuesday night. He was received with very warm congratulations, and made a speech on the occasion of his health being drunk. He said:—"Gentlemen, I thank you for this demonstration. You do not drink my health, but the health of your own country; you drink to liberty. But my mouth is shut until after my last trial; I must not speak. Yet I must express my gratitude to you and the jury who tried me. I relied firmly on a jury of Englishmen. I must speak no more. I thank you from my heart." This speech was received with cheers. Three cheers were then given for Mr. Edwin James, and three cheers for the jury. The scene was one of great excitement.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

WIFE-MURDER.—A woman named Mary Turner has been murdered at Rochester by her husband, a labouring man. Some feeling of jealousy had been excited in the mind of the husband by the fact of his wife being very much in the company of a young single man named Taylor; and the fatal act had its usual preliminary of drinking. The husband and wife had been carousing at a public-house for some hours, during which time they appear to have been on good terms. They left between twelve and one o'clock, and no quarrelling was heard in the course of the night by the other lodgers in the same house. At six o'clock, however, a heavy fall on the floor of Turner's bedroom was heard by one King and his wife, who slept beneath. King immediately got up, and was proceeding up-stairs when he met Turner coming down without his shoes, and the lower part of his clothes covered with blood. The latter remarked, "Bill, I have done it," and afterwards added, "I have murdered my wife." King went up into the room, and saw the woman lying on the floor with her throat cut. A razor also lay on the floor, and beside it was a poker broken in two, as if from a violent blow. The husband said he meant to give himself up to the police, and King went with him to the station. It appears that in the course of the night Turner missed his wife, and, going out, found her (in company with Taylor) at the public-house where they had been drinking during the evening. He returned home, and waited till she came in; and, on her entering the room, he attacked and murdered her. Afterwards, he again went to the public-house, and told Taylor of what he had done. The inquest has terminated in a verdict of Wilful Murder, and Turner has been committed by the magistrates for trial.

THE DOUBLE MURDER NEAR TAUNTON.—John Baker Bucknall, the young man arrested under suspicion of murdering his grandfather and grandmother at Creech St. Michael, as mentioned in our last issue, has been examined before the magistrates, and committed for trial. The coroner's jury have also returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against him. The prisoner had himself called the attention of a Mr. Morris, on the morning when the murder was discovered, to the fact of his not being able to get into the house. Mr. Morris, young Bucknall, and the father of the latter, went to the place, and found all the doors fastened. Smoke was seen to issue from the roof of a cellar where the body of the old man was afterwards found; and at length an entry was forced. The accused went in with his father and Mr. Morris. Old Bucknall was then found with his body lying on some hay, which was smouldering, and the clothes of the corpse were just breaking out into a flame. He had been shot through the head. Mrs. Bucknall was found in her bed up-stairs, with her throat cut, and her face and hands also wounded. The object of the murder seems to have been robbery; for the house bore evidences of having been rifled. The circumstantial evidence of several persons tends to implicate young Bucknall, who reserves his defence for the trial.

THE MURDER AT PORTSMOUTH.—We have already announced the capture (under suspicion of guilt) of a brother of Mr. Hart, or Howard, the person lately shot at his own door at Portsmouth. A long investigation

has taken place before the magistrate, and brought out some strong facts. The most important evidence is that given by Mrs. Emma Vich, in whose house the murdered man lodged. Her testimony gave a very striking account of the strange affair. She stated that on the night of the murder she opened the door to a man who asked to see Mr. Hart. She described this man as having a dark red face, with a peculiar look down the left side. "I did not see any whiskers. (This agreed precisely with the prisoner's description.) Mr. Hart came down in about five minutes. I was standing in the hall as he was coming down; and I said to him, 'Make haste, Dan; he is a strange man; he has gone now.' When Mr. Hart came down, he stood at the front door, and I remained with him. Before opening the door, which I had left on the latch, the deceased asked, 'What does he want with me?' I replied, 'I don't know; I think he is mad.' He opened the door, when I saw something like a gentleman's umbrella in a shiny case thrust in. As soon as I saw this, I turned round and went towards the parlour, and immediately heard a report. Mr. Hart was standing in front of the hall door as it opened. The man called out with the report, 'Mr. Hart!' It was all instantaneous. Mr. Hart called out, 'What has he done?—what did he do it for?' I said, 'I think he must have shot you, Dan.' He did not fall immediately, so that at first I thought he was not much hurt. He said, 'Oh, Dick! Oh, Dick! (meaning Barnes), send for Bloxam' (a surgeon). The report was like that from a boy's popgun. On Barnes coming down stairs, Mr. Hart again said, 'Dick, go for Bloxam.' He then gradually sank down on his knees; he did not fall." The witness here faints. The prisoner appears to have talked a good deal about the murder, and to have said frequently he knew the man who did it, the way it was done, and the motive. He had had some quarrel with his brother in connexion with money matters. The magistrates have committed him for trial.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.—A little girl, eleven years of age, living at Clifton Manor Farm, placed a baby, which had been left in her charge, in a horse trough, and afterwards cut her own throat. Death, however, has not ensued in either case, and the girl is in custody.

THE CASE OF THE REV. S. SMITH.—In the course of last week, a memorial, having for its object to obtain a mitigation of the severe sentence passed in this case, has received the signatures of the High Sheriff, several of the magistrates, and a great number of the clergy and respectable laity, and has been forwarded to the Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Earl Ducie, for presentation, together with others from Gloucester and Chipping Sodbury.

ATTEMPTED HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—A fly was being driven from Dover to Deal a few evenings ago, for the purpose of conveying five ladies to a ball. They wore necklaces and other valuable ornaments; and, as the vehicle reached a dark and lonely portion of the road, a scratching was heard at the back. The ladies called out to the driver, who drove on with greater rapidity. Shortly afterwards, the ladies raised a second alarm, and a gentleman who was riding on a box with the coachman got down; but the would-be thieves had escaped. They had left marks of their handiwork, however, in certain long incisions in the leather head of the vehicle; but the padded lining had barred all further progress. The attempt reminds one of what used to be successfully practised in London in the early part of last century, when thieves would make an opening in the backs of chariots, and pluck off the valuable perukes of the riders.

THE CONVICT LANI.—A statement has been made to the effect that Lani has made a species of confession. According to this, he did not seek the woman Thaubin with any intention of doing her an injury; but in the course of the night he detected her rifling his pockets, and, to prevent her succeeding in this attempt, he grasped her round the throat, after being scratched by her in the face. He states that he did not even then intend to kill her, but that he grasped her throat too hard. The robbery of her jewels, &c., was an after-thought.

THE MANSLAUGHTER AT ISLINGTON.—John Jones, the man charged with killing Thomas Blundell, near the New Cattle Market, has been committed for trial.

RIOT NEAR NEWCASTLE.—There has been a rather alarming feud near Newcastle-on-Tyne, between some English and Irish labourers employed at the iron-works in the neighbourhood of Blackhill and Consett. A public-house has been completely sacked and pillaged by the Irish, who have thrown the surrounding district into a state of great terror. The military have been called in, and some arrests have been made.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

VICE-CHANCELLOR STUART delivered judgment last Saturday in the case of *Brook v. Brook*, and decided that the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister, both being British subjects, performed in a foreign country, the laws of which recognize such marriages, is null and void according to the law of England.

The law Lords sat in the House of Peers last Saturday to hear certain appeals. One of these was

from a judgment of the Court of Exchequer Chamber affirming a judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, in the case of *Croft v. Lumley*. The action was an ejectment brought by the plaintiff, Faithful Croft, against Benjamin Lumley, and a number of nominal defendants, to recover possession of the Opera-house in the Haymarket. The questions at issue were as to whether Mr. Lumley had not broken certain covenants; whether the plaintiff had not thereby acquired a right of re-entry (he being the proprietor of the house, which he had demised to the defendant on stated conditions); and whether that right (if any) had not been waived by the plaintiff in error. The Court of Queen's Bench decided that there had been a forfeiture of the lease, but that it had been waived by the acceptance of rent. The Exchequer Chamber decided that there had been no forfeiture of the lease; and, on the 15th of February, the House of Lords, assisted by nine of the common law judges, delivered an opinion, by which it appeared that a majority of them agreed with the Exchequer Chamber. That opinion was now again affirmed by Lord Cranworth and Lord Wensleydale. Judgment was therefore directed for the defendant, with costs.

Another writ of error argued before their Lordships on the same day, was also an appeal from the Court of Exchequer Chamber, reversing a judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench. The action was for penalties under the "Corrupt Practices at Elections Prevention Act, 1854," and was brought by the plaintiff against Frederick William Slade, Q.C., for having paid the travelling expenses of a voter of the borough of Cambridge in order to induce him to vote for the defendant at the said election. Lord Cranworth was decidedly of opinion that, as the law stands, the giving money to a voter, to indemnify him for certain expenses incidental to his going to vote, is bribery. It might, he observed, be a question whether the law ought not to be altered; but, deciding judicially, the act is bribery. He had also no doubt that the act in question had been committed by the defendant. As the plaintiff had stated that he would enter a *nolle prosequi* as to one of the counts, he thought that judgment might be entered for the plaintiff on one count only. Lord Wensleydale concurred, and the judgment of the court below was reversed.

Arthur Glead, otherwise Prescott, and Richard Haigh—the two persons found guilty last week of obtaining goods by false pretences—were brought up for judgment at the Middlesex Sessions on Tuesday, and sentenced each to eight months' hard labour.

In a case brought before the Lord Mayor during the week, the attention of the civic magistrate was called to the disorderly state of Petticoat-lane on Sunday morning. Immense multitudes assemble to sell various articles; plunder and violence are resorted to; and the police are not strong enough to keep the peace. A detective officer said that on the preceding Sunday at least two thousand thieves were present, and that the inhabitants often assist the escape of malefactors.

The Lords Justices decided on Monday in favour of the appeal for a compulsory winding-up of the Northumberland and Durham District Bank.

Mr. Commissioner Goulburn, on Monday, gave judgment in the case of Baker and Green and Baker and Baker. The bankrupt, William Baker, was in partnership with Green as staymakers, of Newgate-street. He was also in partnership with his sister as milliners at Camberwell. The firm of Baker and Baker drew upon that of Baker and Green, and altogether there were accommodation-bill transactions to the amount of several thousand pounds. His Honour was of opinion that Baker had acted fraudulently in procuring the discount of waste paper. There would be a suspension of his certificate (third class) for twelve months, and protection would be withheld (unless the assignees consented) until the bankrupt had been three months in prison. The other two bankrupts (who were considered less blame-worthy) would receive third class certificates, after six months' suspension, with protection.

Alfred Gramolt, a well-dressed young man, has been examined at Bow-street, on a charge of forging and uttering cheques to the amount of 170*l.* upon the bank of Messrs. Coutts and Co. He had been a clerk in the employ of Mr. Montague Bernard, barrister-at-law, of Old Square, Lincoln's Inn; and, after being dismissed from his situation, he procured a blank cheque-book from the bank by means of a forged order in his late employer's name. He then filled up and uttered several cheques. He has now been committed for trial.

Samuel Benjamin, aged 52, described as a general dealer, but who afterwards called himself a dealer in bullion, was charged at Marlborough-street, last Saturday, with having in his possession a portion of silver plate, part of a bulk of 2000*l.* worth, stolen from No. 26, Grosvenor-square, the property of the Right Hon. Lord Foley, and disposing of the same with a guilty knowledge. The evidence against him is strong, and he has been remanded.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien, a well-known inspector of police, is under remand at the Hammersmith police-office, charged with having stolen two pieces of bacon from the shopboard of a cheesemonger in Westbourne-grove, Paddington. The evidence against him is rather strong; but he alleges that it is the result of a conspiracy, and it appears that he has recently made himself disliked by the tradesmen of the neighbourhood on account of frequently summoning them for obstructions. He has

received an excellent character, and bail is accepted for his future appearance.

In the Court of Bankruptcy, on Monday, the choice of assignees was perfected in the case of Messrs. Oak and Snow, of the Blandford Bank. The debts are stated to be 48,792*l.*; the assets, 18,267*l.*

A motion has been made in the Court of Queen's Bench for a new trial in the case of the late Royal British Bank Directors, on the grounds of misdirection, of the verdict being against the evidence, and of surprise. The Judges have intimated that they will consider the case before giving their decision.

A rule for a criminal information for libel was refused in the Court of Queen's Bench, on Thursday, to Mr. John Gough, the celebrated teetotal advocate, who complained that a certain Dr. Lees, also a teetotal apostle, had charged him with being habitually intoxicated with opium and other narcotics, which he denied on affidavit. Lord Campbell conceived that Dr. Lees was not actuated by malice, and that the case was not one for the court.—An application was also made for a rule calling upon the publisher of the *Times* to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against him for publishing a libel upon Mr. Edmund Denison, the Chairman of the Great Northern Railway Company. The alleged libel reflected upon Mr. Denison's conduct in regard to the competition going on between the Great Northern and the London and North-Western Railway Companies. This application (together with another having reference to a libel in the *Chester Observer*) was also refused.

Some secrets of the shop have come out in an action for libel tried in the Court of Exchequer. The plaintiff, a Mr. Goodson, and the defendant, a Mr. Lloyd, are rival mantle-sellers in Shoreditch. Fierce war has long raged between the two; and at last Mr. Lloyd sent a young lady to Mr. Goodson's to buy a mantle displayed in the window, marked, "Only one guinea!" This was afterwards displayed in the rival's window, crushed and creased, with the inscription—"As bought at Goodson's for 21*s.* Compare with ours at 19*s.* 9*d.*" Hence the action. In cross-examination, Mr. Goodson's shopman, and Mr. Goodson himself, coolly admitted that the young lady had not been served with the article in the window; that those articles are never sold even when asked for; that the things thus displayed as baits are dropped as the bamboozled purchaser goes out, that the trick may not be seen; and that the trade is all show, and could not exist without it. "The thing is so general," said Mr. Goodson, "that it is not worth taking notice of it. The defendant knows all about it, for he does just the same thing." This was denied by Mr. Lloyd. Mr. Baron Watson described this mode of procedure as cheating, for which punishment might be awarded at the Old Bailey. The jury found a verdict for the defendant.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

CAMP AT CHATHAM.—The authorities at the Horse Guards have decided on forming a camp on Chatham lines for a portion of the troops belonging to the East India corps now at that garrison. The camp will be formed early in the approaching summer, and it is proposed that about 1000 troops shall be encamped as soon as the necessary arrangements shall be completed.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.—The process of restowing the Atlantic cable is proceeding simultaneously on board the United States screw steam frigate *Niagara* and her Majesty's screw steamship *Agamemnon*, both in the tidal basin at Keyham.

COLLISION AT SEA.—The barque *Annie*, Captain Ballen, from Sierra Leone, came in collision, on Sunday night, the 11th instant, with the schooner *Forest Queen*, outward bound from Cardiff, with iron. The schooner went down immediately; but the crew were saved, though with the loss of all they possessed. The *Annie* suffered loss of bowsprit and jib-boom, and had her quarter bulwarks stove in.

A FRENCH CRUISER IN THE WELSH COAST.—"A shipmaster," writing to the *Daily Telegraph*, says:—"The French Admiralty yacht *Pelican* (the same that accompanied the Emperor Napoleon to England in 1855) arrived in Cardiff roads last night (the 9th inst.), and entered the Butte East Dock this morning, in command of Captain Hamelin, son of the French Minister of Marine, and a staff of hydrographers, for the purpose of replenishing fuel. This vessel has been in the Channel for some days, and was first seen, I am informed, on the Cornish coast, somewhere near Penzance; then she stretched away to the Welsh coast, and appeared off Swansea, carefully noticing the coast, and from thence stretched away to Bridgwater bay, and across to Cardiff roads. Her reappearance here had given rise to much speculation as to her errand. Many masters of vessels and Channel pilots that passed her took her to be, from the manner in which she hugged the coast, the Trinity steam-tender, or one of H.M.'s steam surveying-sloops, putting down buoys, and it was not until she anchored in Penarth roads, and unfurled her flag, that her real character was known."

ADMIRAL SIR HENRY CHADS, K.C.B., suddenly left for England to take command of the squadron ordered to Lisbon for the King's marriage. He will hoist his flag in the screw ship *Renown*, 91, Captain Forbes, now lying at Portsmouth.

OUR REGIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENTS.—Mr. W. Williams, M.P. for Lambeth, has got a detailed return respecting these establishments at home and abroad, including West India regiments and colonial corps. They comprise 9243 officers, 16,319, non-commissioned officers, and 196,676 rank and file; total of men, 222,238. There are also 22,825 horses. As to the expense of these regiments, the pay and daily allowance amount to 3,762,174*l.*, and the annual allowances to officers to 93,024*l.*; agency costs, 34,572*l.*; and clothing, 871,843*l.* a year. The total estimate for the present year is 4,261,113*l.*—*Morning Star.*

BURNING OF THE JAMES BAINES.—The celebrated clipper ship, James Baines, took fire on Thursday morning in dock at Liverpool, and the flames could only be got under by scuttling the vessel. The conflagration is supposed to have originated in the heating of the cargo. Many of the dock-sheds and an adjacent vessel were injured.

DINNER TO SIR JAMES BROOKE.

A PUBLIC dinner in honour of Sir James Brooke, K.C.B., Rajah of Sarawak, took place on Wednesday, in the Queen's Hotel, Manchester. The Mayor presided, and the company was numerous and distinguished.

Mr. E. Fairbairn proposed the health of Sir James Brooke, and in doing so narrated his achievements in the Eastern Archipelago, and highly praised his character.—The toast was warmly drunk.

Sir James Brooke, in returning thanks, said that the objects he always had in view in the East involved the happiness of a large native population, and were closely connected with the lives and fortunes of their fellow countrymen in a distant part of the world. "They were objects which might easily be lost by neglect and indifference, and which, if once lost, would as certainly be a source of continual, but unavailing regret to this country. The question was, whether Sarawak was in future to be supported in this country, as it once had been, or whether it was to be abandoned, as it is at present. After fifteen years of suspense—suspense which to him was more difficult to bear than misfortune—was it not reasonable that he should ask and expect that this question should at last be decided? (*Hear, hear.*) No Government could exist, as Sarawak is now existing, under a prolonged uncertainty of what was to come. Let them know the truth; and then, if they found neither sympathy nor encouragement from their countrymen at home, they would bear their lot as they best might, and trust to God and their own energies for the rest." (*Applause.*)

Sir James then proceeded to speak of the manner in which the aid of this country, once promised to Borneo, was suddenly withdrawn, and to point out in detail the advantages which, as the key to China, the middle point of the two great oceans, and the possession of ample fields of coal, that island offered to this country. In alluding to the opposition which he had met with in his efforts to promote what he considered to be the advantage both of England and of Borneo, he said, "He would do no more than assure them that, if any man had wronged him, he had forgiven him long ago, and to express his earnest hope that, if he himself had wronged any man, he too should be forgiven. Even of that veteran statesman now in his grave (Mr. Hume), who had so vehemently opposed him while alive, he would say, 'Peace be to him!' (*Loud cheers.*) May his errors be forgotten, and the services which he rendered to his country only be remembered!" Sir James concluded by again urging the advantages which this country would derive by forming an alliance with, and establishing a protectorate over the north-west coast of Borneo; and by exhorting the influential inhabitants of Manchester to consider the matter calmly and impartially, and to give their earnest assistance if they found, on inquiry (as he was satisfied they would do), that his claims for Borneo were founded in justice—were such as both the native population and the English residents there had a right to demand, and which the Government of this country would act wisely and patriotically in allowing.

OBITUARY.

JOHN CRAMER.—The oldest of contemporary pianists and composers for the piano, and one of the most celebrated musicians of his time, Jean Baptiste Cramer, died on Friday evening (the 16th inst.), at his residence in Kennington-terrace. He was born at Mannheim in 1771, and was consequently in his 88th year. If not absolutely a great man, Cramer was at least one of those to whom the art is much indebted. His chief master for the pianoforte was the admirable Clementi, and for composition C. F. Abel. Though he flourished contemporaneously with Woelfl, Dussek, and Steibelt, the reputation enjoyed by Cramer as a pianist was second to none. His school was that of Dussek, whom he is said not only to have emulated, but in some respects, and especially in the execution of slow movements, to have surpassed. He came to England at a very early age, and accomplished the greater part of his artistic career in London, where his lessons were more in request than those of any other professor. Nevertheless, he was renowned all over the Continent both as a composer and a pianist. Among his friends was Joseph Haydn, and among his chief patrons and warm admirers was that most musical of

princes, Ferdinand of Prussia, who, notwithstanding he was a prince, was justly esteemed as a musician. Cramer's last public appearance in this country was at one of the concerts of the Philharmonic Society, many years ago, when he took the principal part in one of Mozart's trios. His playing on that occasion showed no trace of his former excellence. Mr. Cramer was one of the original partners in the eminent firm of Cramer, Beale, and Co., from which he withdrew about twenty years ago with a handsome annuity.—*Times.*

MR. JOSEPH MALCOLMSON, one of the merchant princes of Waterford, the head of a cotton-manufacturing firm which had dealings with all parts of the world, and also of an establishment for the building of iron steamboats, died a few days ago in Ireland.

LORD HANDYSIDE, one of the Judges of the Court of Session in Scotland, as well as of the High Court of Justiciary, has died at the house of his brother-in-law in Clackmannanshire, whither he had gone to recruit his health. He was one of the three judges who, last summer, tried Miss Madeleine Smith on the charge of poisoning L'Angellier; and in the autumn he presided alone at the protracted Falkirk Bank trial. His Lordship was a Liberal in politics.

LORD DUNFERMLINE.—James Abercromby, Lord Dunfermline, the Speaker of the House of Commons from 1835 to 1839, died at Colington House, Scotland, last Saturday morning, in his eighty-second year. He was a son of the celebrated General, Sir Ralph Abercromby, and during his life filled several public posts. In politics he was a Liberal.

MR. ROBERT STEPHEN RINTOUL, the founder, proprietor, and editor of the *Spectator*, died on Thursday evening, of disease of the heart, accelerated by constant attention to the work of his paper. The journal which he created has always held as high a position as any in the ranks of the press; and Mr. Rintoul has been of service to the Liberal party to which he has consistently belonged.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen held a Court at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday afternoon, and a Drawing-room at St. James's Palace on Thursday afternoon. Her Majesty afterwards, on the latter day, proceeded to the camp at Aldershot.—Prince Albert paid a visit to the Crystal Palace on Wednesday afternoon, and both went and returned by the new line from the Pimlico terminus.—The Queen and Prince Consort attended at the grand annual spring meeting on Monday of the Horticultural Society. The meeting took place at St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, the brilliant colouring and gilding of which harmonized with the exquisite tints of the fruits and flowers. The Queen having left (previously to which she complimented Mr. Owen Jones, the architect of the hall), the business of the annual meeting commenced. The Prince Consort took the chair as the newly-elected President of the Society, and replied in a few words to the addresses made to him by various speakers. He then left, and the flower-show was formally opened to the public.—The Prince of Wales has been visiting, during the week, Killarney, Glengariff, Cahirciveen, Valencia, and other spots of interest.

THE WEST INDIES.—A most alarming riot (lasting five days) has taken place at Antigua. Thomas Barnard, a native of Barbuda, and Henry Jarvis, a native of Antigua, got into a quarrel, arising out of a preference shown by certain masters of vessels for Barbuda people. The two men had an encounter, and Jarvis was wounded by (it is alleged) a concealed implement. Barnard boasted of his victory; whereupon, the friends of Jarvis wreaked their vengeance on every Barbuda man, woman, and child they could meet with, and several were very roughly handled. This occurred on Monday, the 22nd of March. On the following day, Barnard's house was blockaded by the mob during the whole day; the police in vain endeavouring to disperse the rioters. Measures were taken for storming the house; but the exhortations of the Superintendent of Police and of Mr. Justice Loring moderated the fury of the rioters for a time. At night, however, they dispersed through the streets, attacking the premises of every one who had given shelter to a Barbudian. A great deal of damage was in this way done to property. Half a dozen policemen were then armed with muskets and bayonets, and they twice charged the mob, who received them with showers of stones. Four of the rioters were wounded by the bayonet, but no great effect was produced on the others. About midnight, Mr. Justice Loring endeavoured to read the Riot Act; but he was assailed with a shower of stones, twice knocked down, and forced to fly. The riots continued the whole of the next day, the authorities being very weak; and on Thursday the mob resolved to attack the police-station, where—Barnard—had—taken—refuge.—Previously to attempting this, they paraded the streets, and destroyed many houses. Special constables were sworn in; and on the following morning the mob attacked the station. The police remained inside with loaded firearms, and in the course of the night the Governor arrived. About four in the morning, the station was assaulted and forced; but the police and special constables charged vigorously, and the mob were driven out. Martial law was then proclaimed; two field-pieces were loaded and placed in position, so as to be

able to sweep the approaches to the station; mounted patrols began to arrive from all quarters; the streets were scoured, and several prisoners were brought in. At the last dates, all was again quiet, and it was not considered necessary to disembark some troops which had been sent from Guadaloupe. The number of casualties reported is—killed, eight; severely wounded, thirteen.

THE LATE SNOW-STORM IN THE NORTH.—Some details have been published of the severe snow-storm which, on the 7th inst., devastated the mountain district reaching from Skiddaw to the Caldbeck Fell sides. The snow was blown about in heavy drifts by a perfect hurricane of wind, and a great many sheep were buried alive. The wind was so strong that grouse and other game, and in some instances sheep, were blown away. For several days the snow lay about in large masses.

FIRES.—An extensive fire burst out on Sunday morning, in Great Titchfield-street, Oxford Market, when several houses were more or less damaged, and a vast amount of property was destroyed. The flames were discovered very early, and the engines were soon on the spot; but, owing to a want of water, the fire could not be checked so soon as it would otherwise have been. The origin of the calamity is unknown; but it is stated that this is the third time within the last few years that a fire has burst out on the same premises.

INDISCRETION OF EDUCATIONAL AGENTS IN INDIA.—The conduct of Mr. Chapman, Inspector of Education in Behar (India), has recently been censured by the Court of Directors in a despatch to the Governor-General in Council, dated the 13th inst. (No. 52.) Referring to certain passages in the reports of Mr. Chapman, embodied in a "General Report on Public Instruction in the Lower Provinces of the Bengal Presidency, for 1855-56," the Directors instruct the Governor-General of India to express to Mr. Chapman "the serious displeasure with which they have viewed his conduct in inducing the natives to believe that it was the order of the Government that their children should attend the schools under his inspection;" it being their intention that it shall be quite optional with the natives to avail themselves of the facilities for education afforded them or not. The "over-zeal" of Mr. Chapman is indirectly censured in a subsequent paragraph of the despatch. The directors declare that "the Government will adhere with good faith to its ancient policy of perfect neutrality in matters affecting the religion of the people of India," and they "most earnestly caution all those in authority under it not to afford by their conduct the least colour to the suspicion that that policy has undergone or will undergo, any change." The Governor-General is also ordered to rebuke Mr. H. S. Reid, of the North-Western Provinces, in the same manner, if it be found that he has pursued the same objectionable course.—*Times.*

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths in London registered in the week ending Saturday, April 17, were 1207, being nearly the same as those of the previous week. In the ten years 1848-57, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1102; but, as the deaths now returned occurred in an increased population, they should be compared with the average after the latter is raised in proportion to the increase, a correction which will make it 1212. The number actually returned, therefore, agrees almost exactly with that obtained by calculation. Whooping-cough and measles still maintain a high mortality, the former having numbered 77 deaths in the week, the latter 55. Two widows died at the age of 96 years—one at Walham-green, another in Islington workhouse.—Last week, the births of 1009 boys and 956 girls, in all 1965 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57, the average number was 1583.—*From the Registrar General's Weekly Return.*

STRAND THEATRE.—A "screaming" farce, entitled *Your Likeness for a Shilling*, the joint concoction of Messrs. Harrington and Yates, was produced at this little theatre on Thursday evening with great success.

PRESS PROSECUTIONS.—A lecture is to be delivered in defence of the free press of England and of the right of the people of England on moral, constitutional, and legal grounds, to discuss freely and declare their opinions concerning any efforts that may be made for the overthrow of arbitrary power, the restoration of national independence, and the establishment of liberty in any country. The lecture is to be delivered on Wednesday evening next, in St. Martin's Hall, by H. J. Slack, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, and the surplus proceeds given to the "Press Prosecution Fund."

ARTIFICIAL STONE.—The process by which Mr. Ransome, of Ipswich, has been enabled to produce an artificial stone, excelling in hardness and durability the natural material, promises to be of great use to builders and decorators. Stone ornaments may, by its means, be produced at a trifling cost; and the figures being moulded instead of cut by the chisel, great precision may be attained, and beautiful shapes be produced with a certainty hitherto unknown. The composition resembles a sandstone of the best quality, and is of a soft white or light buff colour. The late Dr. Buckland and the late Sir Henry de la Beche testified highly to the merits of the manufacture.

THE NATIONAL LORD'S DAY REST ASSOCIATION.—The first annual meeting of the members and friends of this association was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, on Thursday

evening; Mr. Robert Baxter in the chair. Mr. Lydall (the honorary secretary) read the report, which entered at great length into the history, objects, and operations of the society, and the steps which had been adopted to secure to the people the right of making the Sabbath a day of rest instead of desecrating it by Sunday bands, trading, newspapers, postal delivery, &c. &c. The balance-sheet showed the income to have been 57l. 7s. 8d.; and the balance in hand 2l. 8s. 3d. The report was adopted.

THE NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR.—The Duc de Malakoff, on his arrival in London, is reported to have telegraphed to his Government the following account of his reception in England:—"We were received with great cordiality at Dover, and at London with respect, but without enthusiasm."

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—The Vocal Association of 300 voices will give a Grand Performance at St. James's Hall, Regent-street and Piccadilly, on Friday evening, April 30. The programme will be of a most interesting character. Messrs. Benedict and Sloper will perform a Duet on two pianofortes, and other instrumental works of importance will be introduced.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—A public dinner in aid of the funds of this charity was eaten at the London Tavern on Tuesday evening. Lord John Russell presided, and stated that the institution is in want of funds. After dinner nearly 1500l. were subscribed for.

MR. BRIGHT ON THE NAPLES QUESTION.—Mr. Bright has addressed a letter to a gentleman at Glasgow, in which he attributes the long imprisonment at Naples of Watt and Park to the insolent menaces against King Ferdinand in which Lord Palmerston and his organs in the press indulged. It is they, he thinks, who should offer compensation to the engineers.

A LOCAL REFORM LEAGUE.—We are glad to learn political reformers in the metropolis are proceeding to carry out a suggestion we made some time ago, that a Reform Association should be established in each of the metropolitan boroughs. On Monday night, an association of this character was formed on the Surrey side of the Thames, under the title of the "South London Auxiliary to the Political Reform League."—*Morning Star*.

HIGHLAND CLEARANCES.—A correspondent of the *Inverness Courier* calls attention to some proceedings of the Duke of Leeds with respect to a property in Ross-shire, lately purchased by him. The Duke is clearing men off his estate, in order to extend his deer forests. Within the last week or two, the tenants of two whole townships have been ordered to quit both houses and land, and, says the correspondent, "what they are to do I know not, neither do they know themselves."—A case of equal oppression, of another kind, is reported from Ireland. Colonel Lewis, a Protestant landholder at Iniskeen, Leitrim, has turned a man named Byrne and his family out of his house because, being a Roman Catholic, he would not let his children go to a Protestant school.

BANQUET TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE DUKE OF MALAKOFF.—The Members of the United Service Club gave a magnificent banquet on Thursday evening to his Excellency the Marshal Pelissier, Duc de Malakoff, at their club-house in Pall Mall. The Duke of Cambridge, K.G., presided on the occasion, supported by the Duke of Malakoff. Covers were laid for one hundred and fifty persons, and the health of the Emperor Napoleon was drunk amid loud applause, as also was that of the new ambassador.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—War between the Orange River Free State and the Kaffir tribes governed by Moshesh has commenced. The courts and shops at Smithfield, a town in the Free State, are all shut. The Rev. Mr. Moffat has left the missionary station at Kruman for Cape Town to meet Dr. Livingston. The enlistment of Kaffirs for service in India is going on slowly, and the crops on the colonial frontier and in British Kaffraria are likely (it is said) to turn out a complete failure. The Kaffir chief Pafo has been tried and convicted of horse-stealing.

THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—A slight disturbance between the natives has occurred at Bonny, which has resulted in the death of one of the chiefs and the restoration of peace. Intelligence has reached Lagos of the Niger expedition at Geba. One death occurred among the whites; all the rest are healthy. The property pillaged from the French trader at Accra has been restored. The Monrovia treasury is in a low state. Dr. Livingston sailed for the Cape on the 31st ult.

A PASSPORT DIFFICULTY.—A statement has appeared in our contemporary, the *Morning Star*, to the effect that Mr. Cowen, senior, of Blyden, had been arrested in France, being mistaken for his son, whose democratic opinions and sympathies are, it seems, well-known to the continental police. We believe the fact to be that Mr. Cowen, senior, who has gone on the Continent for a few months for the benefit of his falling health, was detained for a short time, but not positively arrested, on the Belgian frontier of France, and that before his departure from London he had experienced the greatest difficulty in getting his passport *visé* by the consulates. The Austrian Legation, in particular, declined for several days to rest satisfied with the names of some twenty members of Parliament and two or three Ministers, who were ready to guarantee Mr. Cowen senior's personal identity.

Manuscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, April 24th.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ON the motion of the Bishop of Exeter, and after some discussion, a Committee was granted to inquire into the deficiency of the means of affording spiritual instruction and places of divine worship in the metropolis and other populous districts in England and Wales, and especially in the mining and manufacturing districts, and to consider the fittest means of meeting the difficulties of the case. No other business was done. The House adjourned at eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

In answer to Mr. GLADSTONE, Mr. DISRAELI said that the results of the Conference to inquire into the Union of the Danubian Principalities, would be submitted to the Paris Conference, and no papers could be produced before that occurred.

THE NORTH AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITION.

In answer to Mr. SCLATER BOOTH, Lord STANLEY said that accounts of the expedition to North Australia in its various branches had been sent to different learned Societies, but he was not aware that any general account had been printed.

THE GOVERNMENT INDIA BILL.

In answer to Lord GODERICH, Mr. DISRAELI said that it was his intention to suspend the Government India Bill until after the discussion on the resolutions which he had proposed; but he did not intend to withdraw the Bill.—Lord GODERICH said that he should oppose that mode of proceeding, and take the sense of the House upon it.

CHURCH RATES.—THE INDIA BILL.—OUDE.

Sir JOHN TRELAWNY asked if the Government would give a day for continuing the debate on the Church Rates Bill.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL expressed his regret that Mr. Disraeli had determined not to withdraw his Government of India Bill. He thought that was an unusual course, and hoped it would not be adopted, believing as he did that no resolutions would enable the Government to proceed with that bill. He trusted that the Government would reconsider the course of suspending the bill. He should be sorry to interfere; but the Government ought to go on either by resolution or by the bill.—Sir ERSKINE PERRY asked whether instructions had been sent to India that terms of amnesty, including protection to life and property, and full toleration in religion, should be held out to the inhabitants of Oude, except in gross cases of heinous crimes; and, if not, whether the Government did not think it expedient to do so.

Mr. DISRAELI, in answer to all these questions, said that instructions had been sent to India that, so far as was consistent with justice, full toleration should be given to the insurgents. As to giving a day for the debate on the Church Rates Bill, he was anxious to meet the convenience of the committee on that subject; but he did not think going into committee would lead to a settlement of that question. He would prefer the Government bringing in a bill with that view, and he should do so when the pressure of public business would allow. With regard to the India Bill, he was not aware that it was in the orders of the day. He thought that, if the resolutions he proposed were passed, it was in his power to adapt the bill to them; but on reflection he thought, as there was a probability of the resolutions being carried, it would be better to introduce a new bill founded on them.

Lord PALMERSTON thought the case taken by Mr. Disraeli was the only one open to him by the forms of the House. The two courses of proceeding at once by resolution and by bill were incompatible. He supposed the order for the second reading of the Government bill would be discharged.

Mr. BRIGHT said the course taken by the right hon. gentleman was clearly the most convenient, as the resolutions were intended to take the opinion of the House before introducing a bill; and he thought the House was now in a far better course of legislating well for India than before. He advised the Government to take a similar course with a view to the settlement of the church rate question.

Mr. VERNON SMITH referred to the statement of Mr. Disraeli, that instructions had been sent to Lord Canning to pursue a system of toleration towards the natives of India, and said that it must not be supposed that that had not hitherto been Lord Canning's policy; it had been his policy from the first. He hoped any instructions sent to Lord Canning by the present Government would be laid on the table.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON said that whatever opinion he had formerly expressed hypothetically with regard to Lord Canning, he had since had reason to modify from information received by the Government from India.

Mr. DISRAELI said that in his remarks, on stating that instructions had been sent out to India as to the policy to be pursued towards the natives, he had no intention of reflecting on Lord Canning. He thought that there ought to be a distinction drawn between Oude and the rest of India on the question of the revolt.

THE STAMP ON CHEQUES.

In Committee of Ways and Means, the resolution for a penny stamp on cheques was agreed to.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

On the motion to go into Committee of Supply, Captain VIVIAN and Mr. DRUMMOND complained that the greater part of the Army Estimates had been passed without any statement from the Minister for War. The latter gentleman made some strong remarks on the language still held in this country towards France, which he urged was calculated to lead to war, and he pressed the necessity of this country being prepared for it.—General PEEL said that any statement he might make could only be a recapitulation of votes which had already passed. There were votes yet to be passed with reference to other subjects which might be fully discussed.—Mr. HORSMAN objected to this piecemeal discussion of the Army Estimates without a general review of the condition of the Army.

DISEMBODIMENT OF THE MILITIA.

Colonel SMYTH complained of the course taken by the Government in disembodiment sixteen regiments of militia at a fortnight's notice, at a time when they could not obtain work, and without any gratuity to enable them to support themselves for a time. It was an abrupt and discourteous dismissal. He hoped the Government would consider the matter.

A discussion followed, in which Colonel KNOX, Mr. RICH, Colonel NORTH, and Sir DE LACY EVANS took part against the disembodiment of the militia.—Lord PALMERSTON urged that the militia was not a nursery for the line, but ought to preserve its character of a dormant force, ready to be called out on an emergency.—General PEEL explained that the militia was disembodied in consequence of the number of men in the regular army, and also on account of the sum voted for its maintenance being exhausted.

Lord A. VANE TEMPEST brought the case of the Land Transport Corps forward, and moved for a select committee to inquire into their case. After a discussion the select committee was provided.

The House then went into committee of supply on the Navy and Army Estimates, which occupied the rest of the sitting.

THE CONTINENT.

The revelations made by General la Marmora in the Turin Chamber, concerning the negotiations between him and the Republican Government of 1848, for French assistance in the war between Sardinia and Austria, have drawn a public letter from the pen of M. de Lamartine, strangely bitter in tone, in which he characterises most of the assertions of the Sardinian general, as far as he (Lamartine) was concerned, as direct falsehoods. He declares he never had any relations, public or private, with King Charles Albert, except through the Marquis of Bignole, the ambassador of that prince, near the Republican Government. His policy with regard to Piedmont, he says, consisted in dissuading the Piedmontese Government from an attack on Austria, in which the French Republic, considering itself bound by the treaty-law of Europe, could not assist them, while, on the other hand, his resolution was, in case the war should, nevertheless, be undertaken by Charles Albert, and a victorious march of the Austrians into his dominions should take place in consequence, as was to be anticipated, to let the French army, which he took early care to concentrate in the neighbourhood, cross the Alps, and interpose between the belligerents as armed mediator.—*Morning Star* (this day).

The Paris Conference is to meet on the 10th of May. Colonel Turr declares that the report about the treachery and condemnation of the Hungarian Bangza, in Circassia, is unfounded.

It is hoped that General Verdugo, the Spanish officer stabbed in Madrid, will recover. His wife has published a pamphlet, in which she ascribes political motives for the attempt; but the publisher has been fined for issuing it.

A bill has been presented to the French Corps Legislatif for definitely reversing to a considerable extent the decree of the Provisional Government of April 27, 1848, which rendered French citizens incompetent to be slave-owners even in foreign countries.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent*.

Pending the approaching Paris elections, many thousand voters have been struck off the lists without any pretext.

M. Renee, the political director of the *Constitutionnel* and *Pays*, has been dismissed from his post for the article about England and the Bernard acquittal, in the former paper, quoted in another column. He is to receive an indemnity of 50,000 francs.

THE PULSE OF FRANCE.—A New York paper (the *Tribune*), of the 10th instant, says:—"All French commercial houses having funds in the United States to be forwarded to Europe, had ordered their correspondents there to make the transmission in bills of exchange on London, instead of Paris, as usual." They have no confidence, adds the New York journalist, in the permanence of Louis Napoleon's government, and take this means of making their money sure.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The letter on "Mahomedanism" is under consideration.
ERRATUM.—In the article on the Navy last week, by a *lapsus calami*, KERTCH was substituted for KINBURN. Several articles are unavoidably postponed this week.
 No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. 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, APRIL 24, 1858.

Public Affairs.

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

MR. DISRAELI'S BUDGET.

MR. DISRAELI'S financial programme, announced by a windy and pompous exordium worthy of a better cause, may be stated in a very few words. Two millions of Exchequer Bonds issued for money raised for a temporary purpose during the war are to be renewed; for another million and a half of war expenditure the bill is also to be renewed; Ireland is to pay the same duty on spirits as England and Scotland—this will produce an increase of half a million; all cheques are to be on penny stamps—this will yield 300,000*l.*; and lastly, the income-tax is to come down to fivepence in the pound.

The objectionable part of all this is the introduction of the system of renewing accommodation bills drawn upon posterity; the evasion of our solemn engagement to pay off annually a portion of our late war expenditure, an engagement that might be most easily met by continuing the income-tax at sevenpence for another year. A straightforward, manly, and natural course like this has been abandoned in order to achieve a little temporary popularity by the remission of taxation. The bonds falling due this year are "not to encumber 1860 or 1861"—such are the honeyed words worthy of MICAWBER himself—but they are to be postponed until 1862 and 1863; the bonds falling due next year are not even alluded to, and are no doubt intended to be postponed *sine die*, upon the principle of "making things pleasant." The million and a half is not to be paid off at all, the act providing for the extinction of this portion of our debt is to be repealed, and we are to go on adding to the mass of our already enormous debt, without making the slightest effort to bear the burdens that most justly belong to the present generation. Such a course, if pursued by any private individual, would obviously end in his ruin; it is complacently proposed in an English House of Commons, without even an apology, and for the sake of political expediency it is acquiesced in almost without a murmur. Point out a man in private life who is constantly increasing his debts, and meeting his engagements only by renewed promises to pay at some more convenient season, and all will at once feel that his short career must end in degradation and distress; but when a British House of Commons wishes to save a ministry that exists by sufferance, it refuses to see the analogy; and as it is always agreeable to avoid paying taxes,

the nation is indulgent enough to forgive them so venial a fault.

It requires little penetration to perceive that if this Budget is finally accepted, not only will the special sinking fund be abolished, but the Exchequer bonds, due next year as well as this, will ultimately be converted into a permanent debt. There is no ground whatever for believing that we shall be better able to pay our debts in 1862 and 1863 than we now are; long before that time new emergencies will probably arise, demanding new efforts from a nation as little willing to pay taxes then as now. In 1863 the five million loan just contracted on the security of our Indian Empire will fall due; and, however much we may pretend to the contrary, it will have to be met out of the British Exchequer, if the Indian revenues fail to provide it, as probably may be the case. In 1863, if we are to believe Mr. DISRAELI and the obsequious House of Commons, the income-tax will have ceased to exist, and will be merely a sublime historical recollection. Whence are we, then, to derive the funds to provide not only for the just burdens of five years hence, but for the obligations of 1858 and 1859, deferred till then? How can we with anything like common honesty refuse to contribute in our day a fair share towards the repayment of the debts we have personally contracted and personally engaged to discharge?

An alarming feature in connexion with this indisposition to meet just claims, is what Mr. DISRAELI calls the "almost reckless liberality" of the present House of Commons; within the last seven years our internal expenditure, apart from war obligations, has increased between seven and eight millions of money. Our educational department, that began with 30,000*l.* a year, has now reached a million per annum, and will shortly swell to at least three or four millions, if it be not carefully watched. All sorts of demands are made upon the Consolidated Fund; it must be a very Gibraltar of finance to stand out so long as it has against the combined attacks of Tory, Whig, and Radical—English, Irish, and Scotch—all anxious to share the spoil.

Many of the representatives of provincial towns and boroughs are sent to the House of Commons expressly charged to get as many local rates as possible transferred to the national exchequer. They would have harbours built and enlarged, lighthouses erected and maintained, and a score of other works undertaken for the individual benefit of their own localities, not to be paid for out of their own rates, but by the votes of a profuse House of Commons, which, like most spendthrifts, is ready to put its name to a bill, but unwilling to pay when it falls due.

These are the objections we have to Mr. DISRAELI'S Budget. It is an unpopular task to oppose the remission of taxation, but all honest men must feel that just debts ought to be met; and there is no reason whatever why, in the present instance, at least two millions might not have been raised by the continuance of the income-tax at sevenpence for one year.

For the future, retrenchment is possible and absolutely necessary. The nation is willing to give its warm support to any Ministry that will honestly set itself to the work of cutting down all jobbery and extravagance. A wise and economical expenditure of the public means is just as possible as in the establishments of private individuals. There are hundreds of well-regulated households in this country where comfort and abundance co-exist with prudence and economy, and it is to this individual thrift that we owe our national wealth. Let the House

of Commons bring this same spirit honestly to bear on our national expenditure, and there will be no difficulty in paying out of our existing taxation all our just debts as they fall due, and keeping a balance on the right side of the account.

TRIAL OF BERNARD AND TRIAL OF THE ALLIANCE.

An attempt was made in the last century to define, or, in reality, to limit, the powers of juries in State prosecutions. It was held, in prosecutions for libel for instance, that the jury had no competence when a libel was alleged, except to find the gross corporeal facts of the writing and the publication, with the identity of the things and persons referred to, but that to infer the intent and tendency of the words in which the whole criminality consisted lay exclusively within the province of the judge. The effort broke down, because it was impossible to pass a law compelling juries to justify their verdicts, and thus a natural power was left in their hands which, it must be said in fairness, they have not generally shown a disposition to abuse. A scheme for confining the moral effect of evidence upon the minds of twelve Englishmen responsible only to public opinion, was necessarily a failure. Whatever may be laid down in the statute, the jury will judge of malice in cases of murder, and felony in cases of stealing; in fact, they will interpret the doctrines as well as enforce the technicalities of justice. What is strictly juridical is sometimes overridden, with a most excellent result, by what is constitutional. Nor has it been recorded that many scandalous contentions have thus arisen between the bench and the jury-box. A hundred years ago, indeed, a member of Parliament told the House of Commons that, being upon a jury, he had once convicted a man in whom he personally recognized no guilt, merely under the terror of "an awful judge delivering oracularly the law;" but in our times, at least, the rule is that judges and juries concur, and, when acquittals are pronounced against the sense of the summing-up, we do not know of the exception in which the verdict has been morally an injustice.

In Dr. Bernard's case there has been an endeavour to show that the jury, if to be justified at all, must be justified upon the ground that they conceived their right to be to look beyond the evidence, their spirit, in the language of an old jurist, operating their own jurisdiction. No such defence is necessary. They refused to convict upon imperfect and suspicious testimony; they fixed upon distinct flaws in the statement for the prosecution; they found Dr. Bernard not proven guilty of complicity in the crime of the Rue Lepelletier, and, upon their oaths, they were bound to acquit him. The matter, so far, was one of ordinary criminal inquisition, and in this respect the acquittal of Dr. Bernard differed in no degree from the acquittal of any other accused person whom the evidence had failed to convict.

But there was more than a flaw in the evidence; there was a taint. The jury would listen doubtfully to the sworn evidence of English spies and French police agents. They took cognizance of the fact that a prodigious concentration of political influence had been brought to bear to promote the conviction of Dr. Bernard, and they felt that, with these prejudices weighing upon him, he claimed in some sort their protection as being, although an alien, their peer in the criminal court of the county. This consideration undoubtedly operated in his favour. But there was another point. The condemnation of Dr. Bernard would have established a dangerous precedent upon which the Government was prepared to act, and we do not go too far when we say, that had the prosecution succeeded it would have invalidated the right of asylum in Great Britain. The London police were ready to pounce upon M. Mazzini; the libel trials would have been inaugurated amid the glow of an imperial triumph, and the sacrifice of national and judicial principles would have been complete.

The event is in all respects fortunate. It has immeasurably raised the reputation of this country abroad. It is in itself a Channel fleet, and a fortified coast. Through the hypocrisies of diplomacy, the public opinion of Europe discerns the solidity and strength of the British character. It is now understood on the Continent, that whatever may be affected by the members of the diplomatic guild, the nation is disposed to concede nothing beyond simple justice, and if we are in need of powerful alliances, this is the spirit in which to seek for them.

In France itself, the influence of Dr. Bernard's acquittal must be in the highest degree conducive to a cordial understanding between the two countries. They who were insulted when we followed, shouting, the car of success—they who heard us congratulate the man who had his foot on their necks—they who saw us abased in our adoration of blood-stained purple, now know that the homage was offered as much to France as to the French Emperor.

We are no longer alienated, as a nation, from the men of the future in France; what was dilatorily done at Westminster was done decisively at the Old Bailey. The country that seemed the home of immoral ambition, that deputed its Court, aristocracy, statesmen, Church, municipalities, literature, journals, and mobs to swell the imperial procession, has explained away those demonstrations, inconsistent with its history and its renown, by protesting against the persecution of a solitary refugee. We have knelt at Juggernaut, but we have not taken Juggernaut into our councils. The manly enthusiasm of 1858 may be balanced against the brawling sycophancy of 1855. Twelve jurymen at the Old Bailey have been the representatives of this expiation; but they only embodied the general opinions and sentiments of the country. The public voice went with them into the jury-box, and ratified their verdict when they emerged from it. The *Univers* is right:—"The cheers raised in triumph for Simon Bernard were the heart of England herself." The *Univers* is again right. The cheers of the London multitude were "far preferable to the dull compliments with which the municipal council of Dover fatigued the frankness of the Duke of Malakhoff on the preceding day." But when the *Univers* says that the British people have "decided in favour of assassination," it feebly perverts the truth, and when Paris gossip counts the guns at Cherbourg and the fleets in the French ports or hovering on the French coast, they resort to a very childish endeavour to frighten our juries into acquiescence. All this rhodomontade is very insincere, besides being very ridiculous. The Imperialist writers perfectly well know that the jury which exonerated M. Bernard from the charge of felony acted upon their consciences, independently of the judge, the bar, the Government, and of military demonstrations abroad. Mr. Edwin James had described to them the intrinsic meaning and purport of the prosecution, and, taking his view, and considering the weakness and inconsecutive irregularity of the evidence, they drove the prosecution out of court. What next, and next? The *Univers* is rabid; the *Constitutionnel* declares that a dishonest jury has given a perjurious verdict. But it is fortunate that, at least on this side of the water, the *Constitutionnel* is read parallel with the criticisms of the *Times* correspondent, who, with admirable wit and à propos, under cover of the Prisoner of Ham's works, shatters the sycophants of the Emperor. We think it is worth while to incur the displeasure of two or three Imperial prints in order to re-establish our relations of reciprocity with the virtue and intelligence of France.

THE ROTTEN LIBERAL BENCHES.

THERE is a section in the House of Commons which entitles itself supremely The Liberal. Its members are returned by constituencies where the majorities are in favour of a large and free suffrage, the ballot, religious liberty, and all else that comes within the scope of the Reformer's ordinary creed. From ninety to a hundred of these gentlemen sit on the benches distant from the Speaker's chair, and claim to be ranked as independent of party, and purely devoted to the popular interest. Occasionally one of the number hesitates a remark upon a passing topic, moves for leave to bring in a bill, is outvoted, and retires to his isolation unsupported by those who profess to share his opinions. When, on Tuesday, Mr. Cox raised the question between septennial and triennial parliaments, fifty-seven members of the House of Commons permitted themselves to be clamoured down by an impatient majority—clamoured themselves down, it is hinted. They voted; but what of that? They could not hope to carry the measure. They might, however, have drawn on a debate instead of being routed by Mr. Walpole. Would a speech from Mr. Cox and a speech from the Home Secretary have beggared the discussion had there been the slightest unity, plan, or spirit among the independent Liberals? They

never co-operate; they dangle upon the skirts of the two great parties; they oscillate between one Whig and another; they are cowed by social influences; they are petrified by some agency not present on the hustings; and in Parliament they are worse than useless. The last election returned several men on trial, who cannot too soon be carted out of Westminster and restored to local fussiness and obscure activity. An Imperial Legislature is clearly not the place for them, nor will it be possible, when another general election occurs, to explain this explicitly to the body of voters without analyzing the personal history of Liberalism in Lord Palmerston's Parliament. There are some curious contrasts upon the roll—contrasts between one session and another, contrasts between the platforms of town-halls and vestry-rooms and the green benches of the House of Commons.

There is, however, one cry against the Liberal party as a whole in which we will not join. It is, that they are disorganized. This is a Tory exclamation of ancient date, resulting from a total incapacity to comprehend the conditions essential to a Liberal party. Toryism is naturally square and solid. It moves slowly. It inherits traditions. It is the rearmost bulk of the political army. But Liberalism throws out its skirmishers on every side, marches in open columns, occupies scattered heights, is influenced by gradations of opinion. While its rear-guard is quitting the Conservative camp, its advanced guard is leading forlorn hopes, and suffering continual repulses. This is inevitable, and not to be regretted. If the Liberal party is to obey one leader, who shall that leader be? Lord Palmerston? Lord John Russell? Mr. John Bright? Shall he be Sir James Graham or Mr. Horsman? Mr. Roebuck, or any other member celebrated for breaking the force of Parliamentary collisions? Or shall a rabble of Parliamentary vagrants, who have imposed themselves upon credulous constituencies, be dignified as the independent Liberal party, when their services are given to faction, and their slippery politics are merely identical with their fickle personalities? If it be impossible, and undesirable, as we believe, that all the Liberal elements in Parliament should be subduced to one level, thus eliminating the very principles of expansion and growth, and rendering the Liberal party only an advanced parallel of Toryism, it is degrading to the country that the most pretentious Liberals in the House of Commons should be the most silent, servile, and incapable, without the energy of a faction or the cohesion of a party. The courage that swaggers upon the hustings is consumed by the dry rot of Parliamentary cynicism, and when the young members bawl "Divide!" Liberalism sinks into the lobby with its train of mutes.

If we are far from regretting that the Parliamentary Liberals are not lumped together like the Tories, it is impossible not to confess that the advancing section appears hopelessly composed. Their own explanation is, that they want a leader; but they cannot lead, and will not be led. They think their work is done when they have appointed committees and issued manifestoes; and their conscience is clear if, attending sedulously, they vote for Liberal measures. Some of their number, no doubt, are troubled by the ambiguity of their position, and by the compromises they are compelled to make, in order to conciliate their constituents. Here cometh a champion of religious liberty, who defends ministers' money in order that he may not be compelled to attack Maynooth. There is a fearless Radical who, morally dissatisfied with the timidity of Liberal journalism, yet persuades himself to wear the Palmerston crest. Now, emerging from the House of Commons, forty members fly off at as many tangents, not even assembling at the same club or concerting their political plans together. We will not include all in one category. There are those who have initiated careers of careful vigour; there are those who have been deterred from action by peculiar circumstances. But there are others, the most worthless flotsam and jetsam, flung into Parliament by shifting winds and frothy waves. This political drift-wood, we hope, will be burned-up-at-the-next-electoral-conflagration; the pretenders have been tried, and are failures. They are without purpose, courage, or conviction; and while they encumber the benches of the House of Commons, no wonder that Parliamentary liberalism is a farce, and that Ministers are expected to be supercilious, and members to laugh when a reply is made from the Treasury bench to a proposal from the Reformers below the gangway. What, during the present and the past sessions, have been the labours of the hundred

gentlemen who call themselves Radicals? Did they defeat the Conspiracy Bill? Did they even force the Premier to treat them with ordinary courtesy? Did they influence one point in the diplomacy of the Cabinet? They did nothing; and while they are what they are, nothing will be done for the Liberal party except to enfeeble and humiliate it.

SARDINIA'S DANGER, ENGLAND'S DISGRACE.

SARDINIA is about to be betrayed by England, and with her will be betrayed the dearest interests of this country. We shall be glad to find our assertion wrong, but it simply expresses the probable result if we leave matters as they now are. Unless the influence of the people be used to prevent the calamity, our Government, in the name of England, will play the traitor to our most faithful ally.

The chance which is impending springs out of the case of the Cagliari, the importance of which, as well as its true position, is scarcely perceived by the public. There is a general impression that Lord Clarendon played fast and loose with it. Mr. Disraeli has advertised that his Government intended to demand reparation from Naples on "the national question," that is, in the interests of Park and Watt; and Lord Malmesbury has reassured the Peers that Government are still debating what they shall do on "the international point," that is, on the question whether Naples has or has not broken the law of Europe. Upon that point, however, with all due deference to the Law Officers of the Crown, there is no doubt whatever. Those eminent individuals, both the past and the present, have raised some question whether, since the Cagliari steamer was *de facto* engaged in the service of the insurgents under Nicotera, the armed servants of the King of Naples had not the right to seize her within Neapolitan jurisdiction, or to pursue her even beyond the water-boundary of that jurisdiction, the chase being one unbroken proceeding. But, luckily for us, Naples has not left the question in that position. The Cagliari has been seized, condemned, and disposed of as "prize," although the Law Officers of this country, and the Law Officers of any other country, must admit that, like the Carlo Alberto, which conveyed the Duchesse de Berri to the coast of France, the Cagliari was not prize. The Neapolitan Government has also claimed to condemn the vessel on the score of "piracy." Thus the acts at Naples have entirely stultified the plea which our own Law Officers advanced on behalf of the Neapolitan officials; and whatever may be the refinement of doubt as to the right of Naples to capture the Cagliari in a particular method, it is admitted on all hands that the actual conduct of Naples has constituted a total violation of law.

It is of course impossible to separate this particular question from the general relations between Naples and Sardinia. Naples represents the most corrupt and despotic government in Italy, Sardinia represents constitutional government. Lord Palmerston, and other men not suspected of subversive ideas, even Count Walewski, have thought it necessary to remonstrate with the Government of Naples for its intolerable tyranny; at the same time that these very statesmen have appeared in Congress as the allies and coadjutors of the Sardinian Government. The progress of Sardinian influence in Italy necessarily threatens to destroy Neapolitan influence in its present condition. The two, in fact, represent incompatible elements. Our Government, not without some countenance from others on the Continent, has, to a certain extent, patronized the efforts of Italian Liberals; and the Italian Liberals have repaid that favour by looking to us for sympathy and support. When we were in want of allies in the Crimea, Sardinia did not find her pecuniary resources, or her population, too scanty to afford us substantial aid. The English Government undertook that at the next European conference the question of Italy should be brought forward; and it was brought forward—only to be shelved. When the case of the Cagliari became known in England, our Government delayed interference until at last some steps were unavoidable; and then Lord Clarendon restrained himself to little more than correspondence and inquiries. In the course of this correspondence, Sir James Hudson, our representative at Turin, was instructed to inquire whether the Sardinian Government intended to oppose the proceedings at Naples in the case of the Cagliari? The Secretary of Legation

construed this note of inquiry into a positive statement to the Sardinian Government that our Government intended to oppose the proceedings of Naples in the case of the Cagliari; and by the act of our servant we thus incited Sardinia to take the advanced position which she did. Lord Malmesbury is no doubt quite in the right when he points out Mr. Erskine's error, and disclaims the statement ascribed to Lord Clarendon. But does this explanation exonerate this country? If Sardinia has been induced to take a more forward position than she would have done by the representations of our public servant, are we not bound to repair our injury as inflicted upon her? Undoubtedly! But even independently of that consideration there is the higher ground, that a great service can be rendered to freedom and to civilization by England, and that therefore we are bound by every obligation which power, intelligence, self-respect, and sympathy for our kind can enforce, to stand by Sardinia in the struggle.

The question is becoming practical. Sardinia has not faltered in her own path. A little more obstinacy on the part of Naples must compel Sardinia to take some step which will lead to hostilities. Down to this point it is understood that the advice of Austria to the Ministers of King Ferdinand has been moderate and judicious; but a general disturbance in Italy will necessarily bring risks upon Austrian influence, if not upon Austrian possessions; and troops are accumulating at Piacenza on the Sardinian frontier. We may impute any motive to the Government at Vienna, but we will abstain, and regard only what are become apparent necessities. A general outburst in Italy, especially if it be stimulated by the extreme Republican party, and left to work itself out by the Western Powers, might be diverted from the legitimate course of this quarrel into an attack upon Austria. The successors of Radetzky are not unlikely to anticipate any aggressive movements by taking the initiative in the field; and they might calculate that the most economical strategy would lie in crushing Piedmont. It is, indeed, not probable that Russia would view with satisfaction the annihilation of so great a counterpoise as Piedmont to the power of Austria in the East, and in Germany; even Prussia could scarcely be indifferent on that point; but France has half declared herself. It is Austria which has been chiefly instrumental in diminishing the strength of the French and English alliance; and there is no doubt that in the Tuileries that offence is one of the reasons for the strong grudge against Austria. After the affair of January the 14th, France addressed demands to various countries for the reconsideration of the penal law, with a view to the restraint of conspiracies. The Cavour Government has been accused of too humbly bowing to this request, but the Prime Minister has himself explained with what independent language he has answered. At the same time, however, he did avow that, whether as Emperor or as President of the Republic, Louis Napoleon has always shown himself well disposed towards Piedmont.

What, then, is the position of Sardinia at the present moment? She is engaged in a quarrel with a Government in Italy possessing larger territory and apparently greater resources. The Empire which broods over Italy is raising its force to interpose. England contents herself with disclaiming any pledges in the affair. And it is France alone that shows any signs of answering to the summons when she is called to sustain an ally against injustice. Now, is this position of the English Government consistent with the opinions of the English people? Are we devoid of sympathy with Sardinia? Are we blind to the practical interests which are involved in the quarrel? It is true that some of our popular politicians have counselled "non-interference," and that official gentlemen take up that cry when it suits their purpose; but, if we stand back, will the quarrel in Italy be left to the doctrine of non-interference? If it were so, if all foreign powers stood aloof, who can doubt the result? But it will not be. On the contrary, already we see a combination of great armies to crush a single state; and it is to neutralize that conspiracy of imperial courts, and to balance the ambitions of another imperial court, that England is called upon to enter into the litigation. Such is the balance of power in Europe, that the honest and straightforward declaration by England that she remembers her obligations and is prepared to stand by her ally and justice, would suffice to secure the equitable treatment of the combatants, and a happy result for the conflict. Surely Englishmen are not so degenerate from their fore-

fathers as to shrink either from the responsibilities of such an enterprise, or from calling their Government to its duty. Indeed, no statesman could make himself more popular than he who should stand forth at the present moment, and address to Sardinia the language of courageous friendship in the name of the English people.

PALMERSTON AND RUSSELL.

"CODLIN's the friend, not Short." Palmerston is the leader, not Russell. The "pure Whig" papers keep up this cry with a pertinacity rather suspicious. Truly, when people remember Park and Watt in Naples gaols, and the "masterly inactivity" of the late Premier *in re* Reform, they are apt to forget the rather odd fact that Lord Palmerston was once the leader of the Liberal party. The Russellites, on the other hand, are making a vigorous effort to persuade Palmerston that he has abdicated, and that there is a short Tory interregnum, preparatory to a restoration of the natural leader of the party. Mr. Disraeli waits with patience until his enemies are agreed upon his death; and he may outwit the rival chiefs. "The hunter who sold the skin of the bear was devoured by the bear." In this case we have two hunters, but one protecting the bear because the sale of the skin has not yet been settled.

Loud are the laments over the "disorganization" of the Liberal party. It is disorganized, ay, almost as dissolved as the Anti-Corn law League. But if the Liberal party has lost office, have Liberal principles lost power? We find a Government in office doing the work of the Liberal party. Disorganized as the party may be, Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli bow down to it and obey its wishes. The Liberal party wished Lord Palmerston to do its work, but Lord Palmerston with patrician insolence declined. And not alone did he violate the great principles of Liberalism by his miserable foreign policy, but he outraged the minor instincts of the party by the nepotism of his patronage. In strong contrast to his defiance of the party we have a Tory Cabinet acting as the ministers of a Liberal policy. They stand by Watt and Park, and demand compensation; they drop the Conspiracy Bill; they send their leader of the House, and the son of the Premier, and their three "whips" to vote the abolition of church rates; they frame a Radical India Bill, and withdraw it before the opinions of the press, and they are ready "to receive any suggestions" as to how the Government of the country is to be carried on. Old party men stand aghast at this spectacle, and talk of the Ministry as "degraded." That is not our business. If a set of gentlemen, once called Conservatives, choose to fetch and carry for the Liberal party, we accept their services, simply because our natural Ministers struck work.

The time may come, perhaps next year, when a Liberal party must be organized to carry out in good faith and with thorough effect some great Liberal measure, too broad and weighty for that narrow Derby gauge on which the business of the nation now runs. When that time comes, the "natural leader" will arise. We do not advocate any forgetfulness of "past services;" independently of all sentiment, past services are a kind of promise of future good work. But the work of a nation is too momentous and too mighty to be given away to "past service" men. Unless the present "consular men" of the Liberal party show consular capacity for the present and future work of Government, we cannot afford to give them salary and place—retirement and pension are their due. For the immediate present, we see no cause for any uneasiness amongst the Liberal party. They have lost, it is true, patronage and place for the time; it is a chastening for having surrendered themselves, vote and thought, to Lord Palmerston for a season.

As to the old and young Whigs who discuss with pitiful gravity which of the ex-leaders shall be the new chief, we must ask them, Why not leave the party to decide?—Instead of convening ministerial gatherings at Lansdowne House, why does not Lord Palmerston call a meeting of the Liberal party? When Lord John went out of office in 1852 he adopted that natural course, and he was compelled to listen to some home truths from the advanced Liberals. Is Lord Palmerston afraid that the same home-brewed draught might be too bitter for his lips?

THANK HEAVEN WE HAVE A HOUSE OF LORDS!

Lives there a democrat so hard of heart as to dispute the useful as well as the ornamental functions of a House of Lords in our great constitutional machinery? Lord Derby, it is true, laments that the bill for the abolition of church rates should add one more to the list of bills that have passed the Commons only to be thrown out by the Lords; but when we remember that on that question at least Lord Derby represents the majority of the Lords, and Lord Stanley the majority in the Commons, we are disposed to define our present paternal Government as a Tory father tempered by a Radical son.

On Wednesday evening, Lord Redesdale moved, "that the House will not read any bill a second time after Tuesday, the 27th of July, except bills of aid or supply;" the whole House meanwhile being so severely occupied, that its sittings on an average extend from five P.M. to six P.M., just enough to give our hereditary legislators an appetite for dinner. But the House of Lords can be in earnest *à la printanière*. On the same evening, the Marquis of Westmeath rose to present a petition from four hundred of the denizens of Belgravia against street organs, and supported the petition in a strain of uncommon eloquence. May we not exclaim, Thank Heaven we have a House of Lords! Lord Malmesbury throws Sardinia into the arms of France, and Lord Westmeath threatens a pack of poor homeless Savoyards with all the terrors of an Act of Parliament. The noble marquis has seldom, we fancy, had charge of a public question so well adapted to the display of his powers. For really, to men who live by their brains a barrel-organ is a serious nuisance, and no doubt the noble Marquis sympathizes with his fellow sufferers. Poor literary man, on the third or fourth story in a quiet street, and poor gouty peer, on the ground-floor in a lofty and spacious square, are equally persecuted by the remorseless Savoyard, who is incessantly breaking out in a fresh place. Certainly, we have no disposition to deny the nuisance to thinking men in working hours. But if an Act of Parliament is to put a stop upon these barrel-organs (a stop, we trust, not introducing a new tune), may we not interpose a saving clause against their total and absolute extinction? Supposing that every organ were silent, and every Savoyard suppressed to-morrow, would this metropolis, already not extravagantly gay, be much the better or the happier for the change? Remember that to large numbers of people these organs are the only form of music accessible; they are the Italian Opera, the Philharmonic, the Vocal Union, the Chamber Concert of the poor. Surely they may sometimes soothe the savage breast; if they do not make a Pluto relent, or reclaim a Eurydice from beyond the Styx, if every Savoyard is not an Amphion; still in the quiet evening air, after the toil and turmoil, the fret and fever of the day, some melody of Donizetti or Verdi, or some fond old English tune, may shed we know not what vague and unacknowledged sentiment of peace, and hopefulness, and tranquillity upon many a worn, and seared, and sullen breast. May not the sound of some old forgotten tune reclaim for a moment a brutal husband, and make him beat time to the memory of his childhood instead of to the wife of his manhood? Any release, however transient, from the dull, dreary, cheerless, ugly round of thrall and care, is like the visit of a good angel, a glimpse of something happier and purer—a glimpse of an ideal world.

Would it be possible for police regulations to limit the performances of street organs to certain hours, say from six to ten of an evening? Perhaps not; but it is as well that we should feel that even the barrel-organ question leaves something to be said on both sides. We respectfully commend our hesitations to the senatorial and hereditary wisdom of the noble Organ of Pinalico and Belgravia.

MANCHESTER AND BORNEO.

SIR JAMES BROOKE has proposed the definite settlement of Sarawak under a British protectorate. He has offered this country a territorial position commanding the great maritime highway to China, the internal commerce of a vast island, and the whole of the Indian Archipelago trade, with ample supplies of coal, and every facility for the shelter and anchorage of shipping, besides being the national point of junction for the electric telegraph between Hong-Kong and Singapore. In exchange for the Imperial

rights thus guaranteed to Great Britain, the Rajah of Sarawak proposes that this country shall become the creditor of his principality, indemnifying him for the private fortune which he has expended in fertilizing, civilizing, and protecting the north-west of Borneo. Upon this stipulation, however, he does not insist. With the public spirit and singleness of purpose that have uniformly characterized his chivalrous career, he is willing to abandon all personal claims, provided that Sarawak be placed under the permanent protectorate of England. The Government, we trust, if it considers the project at all, will not for a moment entertain the idea of accepting these valuable privileges as a free gift. Nations gain nothing by parsimony, and it would be a national disgrace were Sir James Brooke, after his heroic efforts, attended with so many beneficent results, to see the last of his fortune sunk in the very moment and act of handing over his sovereignty to the British Crown. As affecting our Eastern interests, we have everything to hope from the attachment of Sarawak as a protected territory. A great commerce passes and repasses through the channels of the vast Malayan Archipelago, from Port Essington in Australia, and Port Montague in New Britain, to Timor, Flores, Sumbawa, Java, Borneo, and Celebes, and beyond these groups to the China seas. Sarawak, therefore, is a favourable field for British enterprise, commercial and industrial. Its climate is as suitable to the British temperament as that of the Australian colonies, except in the low and swampy districts, or the localities encumbered by dense and rank vegetation, while it is preferable to that of the Philippines, Java, or Singapore. It is not to be expected, perhaps, that European mechanics and labourers should emigrate thither in large numbers, since the native inhabitants are numerous and available for every branch of mechanical and agricultural industry. Therefore, any British settlement in Borneo must always bear a nearer resemblance to Singapore than to Victoria, the great bulk of the population consisting of Malays and Chinese, the latter not very tractable, but far from being indolent. We have little doubt but that, with such supervision as Sir James Brooke might bestow upon Sarawak, the settlement under a British protectorate would ultimately attract a trade worth from ten to twelve millions sterling a year. The position is central, many of the native inhabitants are ambitious of becoming shipowners, merchants, planters, manufacturers, and builders, and every step taken to abolish piracy and slavery is an encouragement to independent enterprise. Sir James Brooke has set the example. In his noble exposition to the commercial community of Manchester, he told the story of his efforts and his successes with simple dignity, and explained to his hearers what advantages might arise to the people of Great Britain from a constant and influential intercourse with the races of insular Asia.

The position of Sarawak is central, and the best in the whole Indian Archipelago, not only in relation to the island trade—a trade into which thirty millions of people may ultimately enter—but in relation to the seas and ports of China. The southernmost point of Borneo is within a day's steam of Java, the easternmost within a day's steam of Celebes. The entire island is intersected by navigable rivers, and the most important of these are under the jurisdiction of the English Rajah, extending a hundred miles every way from the town of Sarawak.

The question is now before the Colonial Office, and it may be hoped that a matter of so much national and commercial importance will not be neglected. An Englishman who belongs to the same class, historically, as Drake and Raleigh, has prepared almost a new Indian Empire for this country, and it is now to be decided whether the most commanding position in the Malayan waters shall be incorporated with the mass of British dominion, or abandoned to uncertainty.

PUBLIC FEELING IN PARIS.

There is very little to say on the reception of the news of Dr. Bernard's acquittal in France. As was to have been expected, the Government papers, sublimely unconscious that there are such things as right and wrong in this world, are indignant that some satisfaction has not been given to Imperialist requirements; and discuss the question as if the English nation, perfectly aware that Bernard was a regicide in intention, had deliberately declared itself in his favour. We need not point out the absurdity of this view. It is only necessary to say that, for

our part, we believe the verdict was perfectly honest; and though we should think it highly improper to compliment the jury for doing what was simply their duty, we may certainly be proud that England possesses institutions which enable public opinion to defeat complaisant Governments, and make the life and liberty of a foreigner as sure as those of a citizen. As to whether M. Bernard was guilty or not, it is mere impertinence to discuss henceforth. The two most powerful governments in the world have used all their efforts against him, and have been unable to satisfy twelve honest men that there is a shadow of a presumption in favour of his guilt. We most sincerely believe that if a single word, a single scrap of writing, a single act that went to show that Bernard had regicidal intentions had been produced, the jury would have hastened to find a condemning verdict. It may be true that they belong to a democratic class; but they belong to a class which sets truth above opinion, and which is incapable of being intimidated as it is incapable of perjury.

We must confess, however, that if the verdict of the English jury has been misunderstood by the French official classes, it has been equally misunderstood by the opposition. By them it is regarded as a hostile demonstration against the Empire. We have seen several letters, and spoken with several persons, whose words leave no doubt on this matter. Never was the enthusiasm of the Liberal party in France for England and her institutions greater than it is at present. "Let me see you and compliment you on your noble country."—"Glory to England and her juries."—"Honour to English opinion." We copy phrases from letters before us. Our own countrymen in Paris report that the delight of the real French public was almost extravagant when the news of the verdict was circulated. Every Englishman over there feels a cubit added to his moral stature.

The truth is, that the whole interest of Bernard's trial was domestic. If anything more was meant by the verdict than that insufficient proofs were brought forward, it was simply that we are sick of French interference, of French diplomacy, of French exigencies. This was certainly the only interpretation that could be given to the acclamations of those who witnessed the trial. The lesson may be thrown away. If not, the Imperialists over the water will learn that, with the finest army in Europe, the most submissive population, and the highest-paid police, they are bound to defend themselves at home; and that England, at any rate, which has vaster concerns on her hands, cannot be pestered by continual demands to support a tottering Empire, and that she will not attend to such demands even should that Empire threaten to fall upon and crush her.

THE "REVIVAL" IN AMERICA.

Those who sneer at this religious agitation forget that at the worst it is better than a mania for rotten banks, or for railway shares. Anything that takes away New York men from their dollar worship for an hour during the busiest part of the day, must incidentally, if not directly, do some good. Beyond this there is no doubt that some of the prayers and preachings they hear during the hour have in them much nobility of thought, and much of the spirit of true religion. One can easily pick out ludicrous passages, though, considering the general excitement, they are marvellously few. The poor negroes singing,—

"The debbil and me we can't agree,
I don't like him, and he don't like me;"

the announcement one day that "Burton is converted," which Burton, owner of a theatre, "flatly contradicts" the next evening on his own stage; the "prayers for the conversion of James Buchanan;" the telegrams announcing "thirty-four conversions, this day;" the thought of recording angels solemnly suggested to one speaker by the sight of the penny-a-liners,—these, and a few more less notable, comprise all the oddities that may be discovered in columns of report and comment. As a compensation, we have from Ward Beecher and others some fine words that would be no dishonour to a Wesley or a Whitfield.

There is however about the whole movement an element of intellectual intoxication that gives room for the fear of a very painful reaction. Religion is too subtle to be moved by monster meetings; religious habits are too real and too grave to be instilled by resolutions. The Divine Spirit was best likened by the old inspired writer to "a still, small voice;" would it be heard amid the stir and sound of these public-prayer meetings? But more painful to our

mind than any fear of reaction or distrust of efficacy is the evidence that many old habits still cling even to the foremost men of the movement. A "Coloured Man" writes to the *New York Tribune*, which seems a kind of official organ of the agitation, giving an account of a visit he paid to one of the prayer meetings. Shortly after he seated himself, he and "a coloured lady" were affectionately invited, by one of the leaders of the meeting, to take a seat in another room. He led the way up to the top of the building, on the third floor, where he halted on the landing, and turning to the lady, said:—

"I presume you are a sister in Christ?"

"I am," said she.

"To what church are you attached?"

"To Mr. Garnett's," she answered.

"Ah!" said he "I am happy to see our coloured friends taking an interest in the salvation of their immortal souls." Then, turning to me, he said:

"You are also a dear brother, I suppose. To what church do you belong?"

I told him that I was a member of the Episcopal Church.

"I am very glad to hear it," he added. "We have sometimes very interesting meetings up here."

After placing a chair in the far end of the room, near the window, and requesting the lady to be seated, leading her to it, he said to us:

"I hope you will not think anything, my dear sister and brother, of my inviting you up here; you know how it is!"

"Yes," said the lady; "I know all about these things."

"I had been spoken to," said he, "by a couple of the brothers down stairs, and we thought you would like to come 'up' here. The coloured people have good meetings 'up' here, and we generally lead them ourselves."

He then, after placing a chair near the lady, and asking me to be seated, turned to leave, remarking that while we were waiting we might like to have a little religious conversation by ourselves, but when near the door was brought up by the lady saying,

"I hope these are about the last days of 'these things,' and when we get in the other world, for which we all profess to be striving, this distinction will be done away."

"Oh, yes," he replied, "there will be no more of it there, I hope."

Shall we say that we English, thank God, are not like those Republicans yonder? Shall we say that in our churches no Christian lady or gentleman would object to sit side by side with the poorest brother or sister in Christ? Shall we say that free sittings are universal, and that there are no little drawing-rooms called pews, where the select elect are cut off from communion, even in praying, with the whole Church?

WANTED A FREE LIBRARY IN THE CITY.—What would it cost? Attend without alarm, ratepayers, everyone; it would cost you almost nothing to establish one of the noblest institutions of which this wealthy city could boast. Under the Act, the rate cannot be more than a penny, and even that cannot be levied without your consent. "Suppose the Mansion-House proposition to have been carried," says Mr. Reed, "the utmost burden would have been the cost of a *Times* newspaper once a year for every 10*l.* householder, and the price of a lawyer's fee for the 160*l.* trader. The rating of this City shows that there are 16,761 persons rated for properties at 10*l.* and upwards; and the total amount of property rated under the Act, would be 1,116,019*l.*, which at one penny would give 4650*l.*, and at one half-penny (the probable annual amount required), 2325*l.*" For a halfpenny in the pound, every citizen, whether rich or poor, could have access in his leisure hour to a grand library of amusement and reference, and the use of books at home for the pleasant beguiling of evenings at the fireside, and, besides this, the use of newspapers, maps, and globes; and if a Museum were added, there would be a legitimate home provided for thousands of curiosities that are now huddled away in cellars and dark corners, unseen and almost unknown, though of the greatest local and historical interest.—*City Press.*

THE CHURCH-RATE CONTROVERSY.—A church rate has been refused by the vestry of St. Mary, Truro, by 208 votes to 188.—A majority of 35 has effected the same result in the parish of Charlbury, Oxfordshire.—A deputation of members of Parliament and other gentlemen waited on Monday on the Earl of Derby at the Treasury in reference to the bill now before the House of Commons, introduced by Sir John Trelawny, for the abolition of church rates. After hearing statements from several members of the deputation, the Earl of Derby said that he saw no such solution of the question at present as he should think fit to adopt, and that, until he did so, he should continue to oppose any measure for the abolition of the rate.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—New rooms, containing the most valuable of the collections made by the department since its origin, have been opened by the Queen, and are now free for public use and inspection.

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*.

"TIME," says the Grecian sage, "is the wisest of all things," and it is of the essence of wisdom to be just. We may fairly expect, therefore, that all wrongs will eventually be righted. The particular period, however, at which justice will in any case be done is fluctuating and uncertain, being usually expressed by that elastic phrase, "the long run." There are many pauses, too, before the true goal is reached. For while time really does try all, the early judgments are not unfrequently reversed before the decision, even of time, can be accepted as final. The present age seems fast becoming a court of appeal against all the partial and erroneous decisions of the past; many of our most distinguished writers and critics being mainly occupied in reversing the moral judgments of their predecessors. This deeper criticism of character we certainly owe in great measure to CARLYLE, who, both by precept and example, is the greatest living apostle of historic truth. His influence has insensibly diffused itself through nearly the whole of our current literature, and traces of it may be found in quarters where we should least expect it to be felt. The first article of the new number of the *Quarterly Review*, on BOSWELL and JOHNSON, supplies an illustration, though in relation to a comparatively humble hero. The first part of the paper, that devoted to BOSWELL, is simply an expansion, point by point, of CARLYLE'S noble vindication of the wine-loving laird's good qualities both of head and heart. We have space to illustrate by quotation only a single point of the parallel. CARLYLE had well exposed the absurdity of the paradox repeated by successive critics, that the *Life of Johnson* was a clever book because its author was a fool. "Sometimes," he says, "a strange enough hypothesis has been stated of him; as if it were in virtue of the same bad qualities that he did his good work; as if it were the very fact of his being among the worst workmen in the world that had enabled him to write one of the best books therein! Falsely hypothesis, we may venture to say, never arose in human soul. Bad is by its nature negative, and can do nothing. Whatever enables us to do anything is by its very nature good." The writer in the *Quarterly* gives a detailed exposition of this. Of BOSWELL'S rare faculty of strictly and minutely truthful portraiture the writer says:—

The value of Boswell's graphic narrative is vastly increased by the minute fidelity of the representation. Sir Joshua Reynolds observed of the voracious Johnson, that, admirable as he was in sketching characters, he obtained distinctness at the expense of perfect accuracy, and assigned to people more than they really had, whether of good or bad; but to Boswell's book the great painter gave the remarkable testimony, that every word of it might be depended upon as if delivered upon oath. Though many persons, when it appeared, were displeased with the way in which they themselves were exhibited, no one accused him of serious misrepresentation, or of sacrificing truth to effect. He never heightened a scene, exaggerated a feature, improved a story, or polished a conversation. His veneration for his hero could not entice him into smoothing down his asperities. Hannah More begged that he might be drawn less rudely than life. "I will not cut off his claws," Boswell roughly replied, "nor make a tiger a cat, to please anybody."

The article, which is marked by good sense, good feeling, and minutely accurate information, is thoroughly interesting throughout. The second paper is a slight and sketchy account of a kind of literature and life better known at Paris than in this country—that of the Arabs of social life. Of the remaining articles, that on "Italian Tours and Tourists" is full of pleasant, instructive gossip, and one on "Public Speaking" of seasonable advice.

The present number of the *Edinburgh Review* has also an article on the subject of public speaking, which seems just now to be exciting a good deal of attention. The complaint is, that everything like oratory is extinct amongst us, and even decent speaking rare; yet the speaker that both the *Edinburgh* and the *Quarterly* justly rank as amongst the most distinguished of British orators still sits on the benches of the Upper House—Lord BROUGHAM. The article in the *Edinburgh* is a review of the edition of his collected speeches recently published. The *Edinburgh* also reviews Mr. BUCKLE'S *History of Civilization in England* favourably, so far as the ability displayed in the work is concerned, unfavourably, in relation to its plan and guiding principles. The author's defective sympathy with literature and life, with popular influences and national action, is no doubt a serious disqualification for his work—one of the results of which is pointed out in the following extract:—

This want of sympathy for the elements of heroism and lofty character, when they happen to be separated from high intellectual attainments, or to manifest themselves in an age of intellectual obscurity, renders Mr. Buckle entirely incapable of appreciating the spirit of the Middle Ages. Because the era of scepticism had not begun, because letters were still chiefly in the hands of the clergy, because (as he asserts) "the art of writing directly encourages the propagation of falsehoods," because men still believed in an overruling Providence,—he represents the annals of those ages as a tissue of childish absurdities; and he quotes in support of this opinion a multitude of old wives' fables, extracted from the chronicles of the time. Nor does he introduce a single remark to denote that these legends are not a fair test of the intellectual condition of the Middle Ages. His learning, vast as it appears to be, does not embrace any of the great lights of mediæval philosophy, history, or art; he has not a word, save of scorn, for the stupendous labours of the great churchmen, for the dialectics of the schools, or for the genius which never shone more brightly than in the immortal verses of Dante. We appeal from this narrow and partial decision to the energy of those great minds, and to the Middle Ages themselves. There, and nowhere else, is to be found the root and foundation of those great institutions from which the laws, the liberties, and the government of modern Europe spring. There are still to be

distinguished through the gloom of ages those gigantic figures of Charlemagne, Alfred, and Norman William, whose strength and wisdom moulded the empires of their posterity; and to convey an opinion of the Middle Ages solely by a loose statement of their ignorance and their credulity, is to overlook the existence and extent of powers and truths of the utmost importance to the subsequent history of mankind. One might infer from Mr. Buckle, that the records of our race begin with the seventeenth century of the Christian era, because he then first applies his method of interpreting them.

The *Edinburgh* is defective this quarter in purely literary articles, that on "Edgar Allan Poe" being slight and superficial.

One of the most remarkable of contemporary publicists, ISKANDER (M. ALEXANDRE HERZEN), whose contributions to the *Leader* on the question of Russian Serfdom may be in the remembrance of many of our readers, has written, in French, a striking and significant pamphlet (published by Mr. TRÜBNER), under the following title:—*France or England? Russian Variations on the Theme of the Attempt of the 14th of January*. This strange and suggestive title smacks of the humour peculiar to Russian writers—a humour singularly wild and pungent in quality. But the pamphlet itself is eminently worth reading. Reviewing in a few vivid and brilliant pages the characteristics of Russian policy, foreign and domestic, since PETER THE GREAT, M. HERZEN concludes on behalf of his country against the French, and in favour of the English alliance. "Russia," he says, "occupies an exceptional position. She belongs neither to Europe nor to Asia. A change of dynasty in China does not imply an intervention on her part. The fall of BONAPARTE and the accession to the throne of France of BAROCHÉ or of PÉLISSIER could neither weaken nor strengthen the power of the CZAR. Russia, in a word, forms in herself a new part of the globe, developing herself in her own manner, assimilating the Western civilization in the upper strata of her society, but remaining perfectly national at the base." At the death of NICHOLAS there were two policies open to his successor—a policy of compression à outrance, and a policy of decisive amelioration. ALEXANDER II. having chosen the latter, his alliance is naturally with England.

A great people with a small army and vast conquests, she will disabuse us of uniforms, of parades, of police, of arbitrary government. A country without centralization, without a bureaucracy, without prefects, without gendarmes, without restrictions of the press, without limits to the right of public meeting, without revolutions, without reaction—just the reverse of Russia and France. And what a part she plays! After the fall and decadence of the Continent, alone, upright, with head erect, tranquil, full of security, she contemplates from the midst of the waves the horrible spectacle of despotic terrorism and espionage.

M. HERZEN, being entirely unconnected with any conspiracy, was in no way menaced by what he calls *la loi sur le meurtre . . . des libertés anglaises*. In the last resort he would have embarked with his printing-press for America. But on the first reading of the Conspiracy Bill, his shamed and indignant feelings told him that *he loved England*. But the rejection of the Bill reassured him, and he rejoiced even when he was pursued and pelted by London-street boys as a *French spy*, for "a people that has the strength to hate a political police is free for ever." In another chapter, M. HERZEN turns to the condition of France, its hopeless oscillations from one extreme to another, its revolutionary jargon, and its essential propensity to "strong government." With a truthful severity which we commend to the attention of French Liberals, he says:—

"The Empire would not last two days if it did not find some sort of *point d'appui* in the French character. It corresponds necessarily to certain elements perfectly national. Say what you will, the election of the 10th of December, 1848, was free and popular."

"Can a Bonapartist England be imagined?" he asks. Again he acutely remarks: "The degrading regime of Imperialism is detested: *for France loves only the poetry of Bonapartism and not its prose*." France requires a process of thorough-searching self-examination; unfortunately her deepest thinkers are not sufficiently imbued with "the revolutionary tradition" to be listened to by their countrymen. The French need to be emancipated from "*the France of Béranger*:"—

C'est peu de ne pas sympathiser avec la St. Barthélemy, il faut aussi ne pas sympathiser avec les jours sombres de septembre. C'est peu de ne pas vouloir se venger de Waterloo, il faut ne plus se complaire dans le souvenir d'Austerlitz.

How true is the following passage:—

She has but shaken off with a vigorous hand the gothic dust and the powder of Versailles, she has not entered into a normal state since '89, and she is still the prey of a convulsive agitation, and of all the incoherence of a struggle which has twice already resulted in the negation of every right. Loving riots and centralization, void of the instinct of liberty, and anxious to emancipate the other peoples, intolerant in the name of independence, France has not yet been able to fix the cardinal points of her social edifice.

How profoundly observed is the following, which we transcribe in the original:—

Si on veut suivre le fil rouge qui passe à travers les *corsi e ricorsi* révolutionnaires, on trouvera un élément constant dans toutes les variations, même dans les plus contradictoires; c'est le vieux péché romain—c'est le grand ennemi de la liberté—le gouvernementalisme, la réglementation d'en-haut, l'imposition forcée par l'autorité. Chaque nuance qui arrive au pouvoir devient aussitôt Eglise, et—malheur aux schismatiques.

Is not this true of all parties in France—Legitimists, Orleanists, Republicans, red and moderate, and Socialists?

Considering the profound disrespect for personal liberty, M. HERZEN ceases to be surprised that "LOUIS XIV., having passed through the Phrygian cap fashion, should become NAPOLEON." But "Imperialism, with its persecution

of all thought, all feeling, all aspiration, with its spies at every window, and its listeners at every door, cannot last. If it could last two generations, it would be incurable. The cure is to be found in its own principle. The wish of CALIGULA is accomplished at Paris: he wished that all Rome had one neck—all France has now one head." This pamphlet, remarkable in substance for its profound political sagacity, is scarcely less so for its brilliant form. It recommends itself to French readers by its unsparing severity, and to English readers by its generous love of England.

We have received from Paris EUGÈNE PELLETAN's new volume, *Les Droits de l'Homme*, and after reading and re-reading it, we cease to despair of a better future for France. EUGÈNE PELLETAN is one of those noble and disinterested men, who, if a country could be saved by a few isolated virtues, might be the regenerators of French liberty and of French society. He is one of those men whose absence from the ante-chambers of the Tuileries is more conspicuous than the presence of a thousand DE MORNYS and BAROCHES. He is one of those men who prefer the severity of circumstances to the affluence of degradation, a "dinner of herbs" with honour, to the livery and licentiousness of servitude.

Interdicted from writing in the independent press, because of the great influence which his name and writings have won among the youth of France, EUGÈNE PELLETAN devotes his lonely and saddened leisure to the duty of teaching his fellow-countrymen the rights and duties, the privileges and responsibilities of the freedom they have never yet known how to practise or preserve. The title of the work has something revolutionary in its sound; but the book itself is neither that of a sectary nor of a professional agitator; it is the solemn thought and chastened experience of a man of blameless life and character, exalted intellect, and noble heart, who has traversed a period of storm and danger, broken by fitful gleams of light and darkening into the gloom of despotism, and who has stood in the breach of civil conflict, and, with his hand on his sword-hilt, prayed for peace.

Under the form of conversations with representatives of every phase of French politics and society, M. PELLETAN discusses with infinite courage, a sustained strength of reasoning, and brilliant eloquence, all the perplexities that cloud the coming future of his country, and all the problems that await solution. As we propose to speak at length of the contents of this volume, we do little more at present than announce its appearance as a happy augury. To unpolitical or indifferent readers, the exquisite charm of the style is sufficient to recommend these pages; but English Liberals will be glad to find a French writer condemning every form of arbitrary government, whether it be imperial despotism or revolutionary dictatorship, appealing from force to right, and constantly invoking the sanctity of equal and protecting law.

HISTORICAL REVELATIONS OF 1848.

"1848."—*Historical Revelations*. Inscribed to Lord Normanby. By Louis Blanc. Chapman and Hall.

LORD NORMANBY's volume of the French revolution of 1848 was so singularly full of indiscretion and inaccuracy that M. Louis Blanc would have found it an easy task to have criticised the whole statement into tatters. But he has chosen to correct the Marquis by superseding him. This book consigns Lord Normanby's to eternal repose. What was wanted, and what we have here, is a clear explanation of the political events that took place in France at and for several months after the fall of Louis Philippe—events which have been variously misunderstood and described with more or less party bias from different points of view. M. Louis Blanc, of course, has his own bias, and never loses sight of the theories which characterized his policy as a minister; but that policy was not what Lord Normanby represented it to be; and the valuable and interesting memoir now in our hands lucidly develops the entire course of circumstances from the overthrow of the Orleanists to the ostracism of the republican leaders. Written in English, with surprising force and flexibility, it abounds in revelations of real historical value; and the preface is a masterpiece of temperate remonstrance. In the body of the narrative M. Louis Blanc deals ironically with the mass of tittle-tattle called *A Year of Revolution*, and pleads that, not being a nobleman or an ambassador, he is compelled to employ the language of a gentleman, and is, therefore, not upon a level with his high-bred antagonist. In the first chapter he presents a brilliant picture of Paris during the formation of the Republic; and future historians will contrast the cheerful light and congratulations of those days with the hideous gloom and taciturnity that followed the Napoleonic Coup d'Etat. M. Louis Blanc, as he advances, breaks up Lord Normanby's version, and scatters the fragments right and left. He shows, moreover, by the quotation of debates and decrees, that to himself was largely attributable the generous act of the Republic which reversed the sentence of banishment against the Bonaparte family and enabled Louis Napoleon to occupy a legal position in France; and to this explanation he adds a remarkable chapter on his personal relations with the prisoner of Ham, when in captivity. Louis Napoleon wrote urgently to Louis Blanc, almost petitioning for a visit from the distinguished historian and liberal leader, and the intercourse that then took place was curiously characteristic. Preliminarily we read:—

I knew of the Bonapartist party something more than was generally known, owing to my acquaintance with Mrs. Gordon, the real framer of the conspiracy at Strasburg, in which two persons only cut a figure: she and Lieutenant Laity. Mrs. Gordon was a handsome woman, too much addicted to meddling, but warm-hearted, naturally eloquent, full of perseverance and courage. I have heard from her own lips that the conspirators of Strasburg wanting an old-soldier whose rank and name might toll on the garrison, she hastened to Dijon, where Colonel Vaudray lived, then in utter ignorance of what was going on, and so powerfully forced upon his hesitating mind the necessity of a prompt determination, that she hurried him away to Strasburg *adante tenante*, without, so to speak, allowing him time to put off his slippers. Her devotion to the memory of Napoleon was heedless and boundless, but she did not make much of the Bonapartist party, which she thought was defunct both in men of intelligence and energy, with the exception of MM. Laity, Aladenise, and Fallin. M. Fallin, who went by the assumed name of *De Persigny*, and who had chosen for

his motto these two words, "*I sers*"—*Je sers*, was, in Mrs. Gordon's opinion, the pillar of the party. As to Louis Bonaparte, she did not make much of him neither. I remember that one day I asked her in jest whether she loved him. "Well," she said, with a smile, "I love him *politically*. To tell the truth, *il me fait l'effet d'une femme*."

The first thing which struck M. Louis Blanc was that Louis Napoleon had in him nothing of the Napoleonic type—that he spoke with a foreign accent, and that he had less command of language than any man he had ever conversed with. It was afterwards that he remarked the difference in features, manner, and deportment of the prisoner of Ham from the other members of the Bonaparte family. However, the conversation became free, and Louis Philippe's conduct was unanimously condemned. Then arose the question of the future. Louis Napoleon declared in favour of universal suffrage, but said, "My creed is the Empire;" and when his visitor asked how an hereditary empire could be reconciled with the sovereignty of the people and universal suffrage, turned the point, deserted his argument, and plunged into professions of Socialism. At times, Louis Napoleon broke into a passion of tears; at others he defended the Roman despots against Tacitus; then he expatiated on the infamy of the spy system; lastly, he clasped M. Louis Blanc in his arms, and said farewell with moistened eyes. Afterwards, when Louis Blanc was in London, an exile, his first visitor was Louis Napoleon, who inveighed against the tyranny of proscription; but, even then, he was a conspirator, and endeavoured to dupe his republican friend even as he deluded the Count d'Orsay, whose letter on the invasion of Rome is one of the most interesting among the historical revelations of M. Louis Blanc. The entire volume, however, is one of disclosures and explanations which will constitute the light of French history at a period to come when the story of the Republic and the Empire of the nineteenth century shall be broadly and impartially told. The political and social character of the revolution of 1848, the process by which it prevailed in popular confidence, the discussions on the right of labour, the theoretical and practical developments of Socialism, the establishment at the Luxembourg of the Corporative Associations, the opening of the National Workshops by M. Marie, in spite of M. Louis Blanc's most strenuous opposition, the foreign policy of the Provisional Government, its judicial operations, the alarms, intrigues, and contests that arose, and the elections, pass under close review, and contribute to the picturesque variety of the relations. The chapter entitled "The Insurrection of Hunger," illustrates the stupendous difficulties with which the Republic had to deal, while those which describe the personal acts and progress of Louis Napoleon expose with singular effect the under-current of duplicity and craft in the Emperor's character. Finally, M. Louis Blanc writes:—

So was the *coup d'état* of December made not only possible but easy. There was no need, for its success, of deep calculation, of plans long matured and skilfully framed; there was no need of cleverness: the only thing required was that the man in whose hands all the forces of the State had been foolishly concentrated, should be one of those men who are fettered by no scruple, trammelled by no respect for justice, and determined to shrink, in the attainment of their object, from no kind of violence. Now, thanks to French administrative centralization, Paris once manacled, France could not fail to be enslaved.

Nor can the maintenance of the Empire to this day be ascribed to the skill of the Imperial ruler. It certainly requires a great deal of talent and a high intelligence successfully to govern a mighty nation, despite any such impediments as may be created by the liberty of the press, the fact of every political step being submitted to parliamentary control, the free and public discussion of all the schemes devised, the disclosure of all the blunders committed, and the necessity of observing the laws of the country as well as the principles of justice. But where no such impediments are to be dealt with, the task of governing is one to which the first comer is equal, provided he may have at his disposal a sufficient number of police spies and bayonets. In these cases, brute force supplies the deficiency of genius. Let, therefore, the low-minded worshippers of success kneel down before the Empire; let them call "a great man" him whose greatness consists in the permanent violation of all that is held sacred amongst men; let them, after mistaking might for right, mistake also the power of the sword for that of the mind, and the efficiency of an unopposed will for the triumph of a keen intellect—pitiful as misconceptions of this kind may be, they are hardly to be wondered at, so little are most men capable of forming a sound judgment of anything that glitters.

A perusal of this book, written in English, "the vernacular of freedom," is necessary to a right comprehension of 1848, the year of revolution in France.

A LADY'S STORY OF LUCKNOW.

A Lady's Diary of the Siege of Lucknow. Written for the Perusal of Friends at Home. Murray.

THE originality of this volume consists in its descriptions of scenes that came seldom under the military or civilian eye during the siege of Lucknow. The narrator has little to say of the incidents noticed by Mr. Rees, the Staff Officer, or Captain Anderson; her pictures are of those interiors in the Residency where the women and children were crowded, where round-shot, shattering the walls, struck off the limbs of infants, and rendered it the surgeon's frequent task to amputate the limbs of the delicate and the helpless. One of the author's first impulses is to enter in her simple and naturally written diary an expression of joy that she is childless. Upon the outburst of the siege, she, with most of the ladies and children, was hurried down into a subterranean room, the gloomy, damp, and dark sepulchral Tye Khana, remaining there until nightfall, while the enemy thundered at the gates in enormous masses, and with powerful artillery. Then occur the melancholy entries:—"Poor Miss Palmer's leg was shot off this afternoon." "Mr. Ommaney died this evening." "Mr. Polchampton was shot through the body this morning." "A little girl at the Begum Kotee was killed to-day by a round-shot." "Poor Mrs. Thomas died of small-pox." "Four round-shot came through our house to-day." Almost every page is characterized by one or more similarly heartrending records. In the midst of these deaths it is curious to read of a birth at Lucknow: "A little siege baby cousin came to-day into this stormy world." But the infants withered away like flowers, and one of the writer's occupations was to close their eyes, to

wrap them in night-dresses, to tie lace handkerchiefs over their faces, and to sew them in white cloths and prepare them for burial. There was no fortitude upon the ramparts, no heroism at the batteries, more trying to human virtue than this. The women in Lucknow were consolations to one another, and became a sisterhood during their five months of affliction and terror. The tragedy is reflected with all its terrible lights and shadows in the lady's diary, which contains also some very interesting passages illustrating the incidents that occurred after Sir Colin Campbell's arrival. When he was within a thousand yards of the besieged force—

It was very exciting listening to the sound of the battle going on so near us. The gentlemen spent most of the day on the top of the house looking out; but could not distinguish anything clearly on account of the smoke. They saw our horse artillery and some of the lancers galloping about, which must have been a truly delightful sight. Our artillery must have made tremendous havoc to-day among the enemy. The big guns have been at work incessantly.

Then came the march to Cawnpore:—

The confusion of the march is perfectly indescribable; such a crowd of waggons, carts, camels, bullocks, elephants, loaded with baggage of every description, sick and wounded women and children, all moving along in one huge mass, without the smallest appearance of arrangement or order, could never be pictured by the wildest flight of imagination. Every ten minutes we came to a stand-still; and waited perhaps an hour before the mass was in motion again, without knowing what caused the obstruction; the dust was suffocating, the heat of the sun sickening, and when we reached the place appointed for encampment, where not a tent was pitched, and no prospect for the weary and hungry body presented itself, one felt inclined "to lie down and die" from fatigue and exhaustion; only it seemed ungrateful and wrong to grumble now at any hardships after our merciful preservation, and before long our circumstances brightened; the camels arrived, and we found our tent, got it put up, and while that was doing received an invitation to the Artillery mess, which made quite new creatures of us; and though the ponies with our bedding had not found us out, we were so tired that we slept very soundly on the ground, and had quite wraps enough to keep us from feeling very cold.

After all that has been written on the siege of Lucknow, this diary reads freshly, because the writer's sketches are taken from an entirely new point of view.

NEW NOVELS.

Sir Guy d'Esterre. By Selina Bunbury, Author of "Our Own Story," &c. 2 vols. (Routledge).—In her new novel Miss Bunbury reopens the romance of Elizabeth's reign, and ventures to repeat the tragedy of Essex and the queen. This is to be regretted. Miss Bunbury writes well, and her inventive faculty is not slight; but it would be impossible to revive the interest of passages worn by a hundred chroniclers into dust and dulness. Everything in the career of Elizabeth that is fit for the romancist's use is threadbare, stale, and dry, so that Miss Bunbury has fallen into a decided error in attempting to cast in a new form the drama of Devereux, the ring, the queen, and the treacherous jealous lady. But this portion of her plot is not the most conspicuous. The real hero is Sir Guy, and the heroines are Isabel and Hilda, while the scene lies in Ireland at a time when knights were carried off to the strongholds of wild chiefs, when maidens in antique costumes conversed daintily with their courtly captives, and when the bard struck his harp from the highest seat in the banqueting hall. From these materials, with a series of loves and adventures, battles, surprises, and escapes, conspiracies and coincidences, Miss Bunbury constructs a graphic tale, deep in colour, full of change and movement, intelligent as a study of manners and character, and only rendered commonplace when a transition takes place from the theatre of chivalry and melodramatic situation to the court of Elizabeth, which has been described to nausea, with its central figure, a vain, fierce, coarse old woman, made up of false hair, pigments, jewelled stomachers, ruffles, and all the other frippery starched below her shoulders and turreted above.

The Rich Husband: a Novel of Real Life. By the Author of "The Ruling Passion." 3 vols. (Skeet).—The author of "The Ruling Passion" attempts in *The Rich Husband* to describe the social fashions of to-day. Two varieties of life are depicted, the poor and the proud, with dashes of vulgarity in both, and a strong spice of modern melodrama to keep the narrative in motion. The result is that, while somewhat tediously elaborating her pictures, the author writes a vivacious and amusing story, sprinkled with happy hits of malice against the flying follies of our generation, and so developed as, at the end, to impress a most proper moral, and to enforce heroic justice by shutting up the grand mansions hitherto maintained, regardless of expenditure, by heartless and opulent men, and driving the villains abroad to end their careers penally. At the same time, it is proved that innocence is the best policy, and it is shown that gentle readers may be entertained by a novelist without having their morals corrupted.

Ursula: a Tale of Country Life. By the Author of "Amy Herbert, Ivors," &c. 2 vols. (Longman and Co.).—Here we have a sweetly written story of domestic life, a book to warm the family affections of English homes, a tale that paints the purity of religious earnestness, and that is altogether excellent for the young to read. The author has a delicate and graceful hand as a novelist, and there is a Gainsborough truth and richness in her delineation of English country landscapes, with their cheerful glimpses of ancestral as well as of cottage interiors and their living groups drawn tenderly from nature. Some of the family scenes are exquisite in their warm simplicity, and it is high praise to say that, with a distinctly religious purport, *Ursula* is neither didactic nor wearisomely serious. The author, though capable of real pathos, writes often with a gay heart that gladdens the reader.

The Day after To-morrow; or, Fata Morgana. Containing the Opinions of Mr. Serjeant Mallet, M.P. for Boldborough, on the Future State of the British Nation and of the Human Race. Edited by William de Tyne. (Routledge and Co.).—Announced as a political novel, this is not a novel at all. With something of originality in its plan it is one of the most fatiguing books ever published. The Mr. Serjeant Mallet whose opinions are set forth might overflow the zenith with his prolixity. And this garrulous abundance of solemn talk seldom contains a suggestion. The shallowness of platitude meanders sluggishly through four hundred pages, evidently wrought

with intense labour but frequently unreadable. Not that *Fata Morgana* is destitute of ability. It has its points of merit, and is no doubt the production of a zealous mind, but the form of the work is repulsive, while its substance is of little solidity or lustre. It would be easy for any writer having read a selection of histories and essays to construct a volume on this plan and call it a political novel. Mr. William de Tyne prophesies fearlessly, and in a free, liberal, confident spirit, and there is much in his view that entitles him to respect and sympathy; but, unfortunately, this large disquisition would be a burden upon the patience at least of indolent readers.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPUBLICATIONS.

A RATHER remarkable new edition is before us—*Letters, Conversations, and Recollections of S. T. Coleridge*, edited by Thomas Allsop (Groombridge and Co.).—We reserve it for notice next week, but it may be as well to mention that the editor's brother, Mr. Robert Allsop, republishes the work as a presumptive proof of Mr. Thomas Allsop's innocence with respect to the crime of the 14th of January.

A second edition of a very different character is Mr. Edward Kemp's useful and pleasant volume *How to Lay out a Garden: intended as a General Guide in Choosing, Forming, or Improving an Estate with Reference both to Design and Execution*. The work, published by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, has been greatly enlarged, and is illustrated with numerous plans, sections, and sketches of gardens and garden objects. What Bacon called "the joy of a garden" is doubled by the possession of a manual like this.

There is to be a new current of emigration from the British Islands to the Cape of Good Hope. Thousands of persons, therefore, may be supposed to be interested in knowing what manner of country South Africa is. They could have few more experienced or trustworthy instructors than Mrs. Ward, who, to give her pictures a popular colour, has painted them as *Hardy the Hunter: a Story for Boys* (Routledge and Co.), dashing and graphic, with illustrations by Harrison Weir.

The following titles explain themselves:—*The Street Preacher: being the Autobiography of Robert Hockhart*, edited by Dr. Thomas Guthrie (Edinburgh: A. and C. Black). *The Familiar Epistles of Mr. John Company to Mr. John Bull*, reprinted from *Blackwood's Magazine* (William Blackwood and Sons). *The Speech of Edwin James, Esq., Q.C., in Defence of Dr. Simon Bernard*, carefully revised and edited by Mr. James Gordon Allan, and published by Effingham Wilson.

The Web of Life is the title of a tale in one volume by Allan Park Paton, published this week by Messrs. Longman and Co. By a glance we ascertain that it is a work of peculiar tone and form; but we must delay our criticism.

Mr. Mead's volume, *The Sepoy Revolt: its Causes and Consequences*, has been republished in a cheap form by Messrs. Routledge and Co.

Mr. Churchill sends us a volume of peculiar interest to medical and physiological readers—*The Ganglionic Nervous System: its Structure, Functions, and Diseases*, by James George Davey, M.D., M.R.C.S., who appears to have studied minutely and exhaustively the special subject of the present treatise from the earliest period of his professional career.

The Arts.

THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

We have a generally accurate knowledge of what we are going to see when we go, every spring, to the Suffolk-street exhibition. British Art in Suffolk-street is a more distinct affair even than in Pall-Mall; and the nationality of these British artists is more sectional than that of the National Institution, which Promotes the Fine Arts, in its peculiar way, at the Portland Gallery. Of course at all these exhibitions will be found a family likeness in the conventionalism which makes up more than three parts of the tale of contributions. We shall see Interiors at this gallery which we can almost swear to having seen at that. Very still life will remind us (not, alas! forcibly) of a stillness which we have met often and often before. Dead game will appear as dead, and as such entitled to be buried, in one place as another. Cavaliers and Puritans will be humorously contrasted; Cardinal Wolsey, Boadicea, Shylock, and Sancho Panza will probably be found among other well-known characters; and scenes from the *Decameron*, from *Gil Blas*, the *Vicar of Wakefield*, *Paradise Lost*, the *Bourgeois Gentleman*, the *Faerie Queen*, and Pinnock's *Goldsmith's Abridgments of Roman and English History*, will be correctly represented in one particular set of rooms, just as the same thing is annually accomplished over the way or round the corner. But turning from the level dulness to the salient points of each exhibition, we find that these last are to be counted upon with much greater certainty in the case of the Suffolk-street Britons than in the case of any other body British and artistic. We know that we shall find several of Mr. Hurlstone's compositions looking as if they had been left over from last season, and had not been dusted. We know that Mr. Woolmer's gossamer gaieties, and Mr. Zeiter's mad pranks of colour, and Mr. Hawkins's portraits in this style two guineas, and Mr. Salter's ineffable reminiscences of ENFIELD'S 'Speaker,' and Mr. Buckner's fashionable ideals, and Mr. West's mealy torrents, and Mr. Earl's terriers, and Mr. Pyne's learnedly unlike landscapes, and Mr. Shayer's comatose cows, and Mr. Connett's fresh-coloured peasantry (in clean rags chosen with a fine natural sense of harmony and contrast), and Mr. Boundington's 'Tourist's Companion' stereotypes, and the doleful additions to the comic and sentimental departments of domestic art, by Messrs. Buss, Piddine, and Clater, will all be true to us, and will have undergone no change of any kind since last year's exhibition.

It is customary to refer to some imaginary standard in noticing these annual displays, and to say whether or not the 'average merit' of the gallery has been

sustained. For the reason already shown this form is one that we may permit in the case of the Suffolk-street Society, which is not liable to important fluctuations. The cause of the British artist's constancy to a fixed scale of qualities may be worth knowing. The Society was formed, thirty-five years ago, by certain painters disaffected to the supreme rule of the Royal Academy, and has ever since remained in open rebellion. Banded in a desperate defiance of R.A.-dom, these mutinous artists are avoided by all who desire to stand well with the superior powers. The president of the Suffolk-street body, Mr. HURLSTONE, joins officially in all attacks on Sir CHARLES EASTLAKE, 'jobbery,' picture-cleaning, 'vandalism,' and other established respectabilities. On the other hand, the Royal Academy does not scorn reprisals. When Mr. ANTHONY, a man of undoubted genius, transferred his contributions from Suffolk-street to the great exhibition in Trafalgar-square, he was but coldly welcomed; and he now seems to have been discouraged from any attempt to get a great picture well hung. His loss to the rebel side is immense; but he will never be pardoned by the Academy for having, while in opposition, distinguished himself by painting well.

The first picture that calls for notice—going by the catalogue—is a 'grene wode' scene by Mr. GOSLING (13), with figures in old forest dress. It is a pity that a picture so near being clever should not be something more. The first effect of the bright masses of foliage is decidedly agreeable; but this effect loses greatly on acquaintance. Before you have stood five minutes before the picture, you will be painfully aware that the distance is only a muddle of blue, white, and green, and is no more distant than the top branches of the nearest trees. The artist's capacity is exhausted in the clever slap-dash of his foreground; and here, too, we observe that he has the trick of a bad school, and 'puts in figures as carelessly as dock-leaves and nettles; which, to be sure, ought not to be put in carelessly either.

"While the army was encamped before Arded a conversation arose in the tent of SEXTUS." Probably the passage in Roman history may be in the reader's recollection and we need not continue the extract from the catalogue. Mr. WATERHOUSE has caught a faint tinge of the spirit of ANGELICA KAUFMANN in his picture of 'Lucius Junius Brutus' (34), and if any NIEBUHR of art should object that the scene is utterly untrue to nature, probability, sentiment, or artistic romance, to say nothing of history, he would not in the least degree interfere with the production of such works for the future. We have not got clear yet of the most ridiculously false conventions in Art; as witness the picture by Mr. WATERHOUSE, as well as those pictures 'The Moor of Venice' (263), by Mr. SALTER, the 'Cavalier and Puritan' (269), by Mr. HALL, and 'The Death of Lord Marmion' (97), by Mr. MONTAGNE. Mr. SALTER's work is quite worthy his fame. Anything more solemnly stupid in purpose and weaker in execution it would be difficult to imagine. The scene is that in which OTHELLO speaks his famous apology before the Duke. Everybody who knows Mr. SALTER's style may guess that the expressions of the faces are all absurdly wrong; but to tell how wrong they are it will be necessary to see the picture. The 'Cavalier and Puritan' is a joke which is repeated by certain painters with a constancy quite wonderful. A sallow and sour-faced man, in extravagantly hideous black garments, is walking in some public gardens with a damsel who, like himself, is one of the elect, and whose hand a waxy young gentleman is wickedly kissing, unseen by the sallow person. The time is that unexplored period of CHARLES II., which we have often thought would furnish a good subject for a novel or a play. A Cavalier lover and a Puritan mistress would supply a great deal in the way of original incident. 'The Death of Lord Marmion' is simply the worst painting on a large scale that we ever saw, here or elsewhere.

'The Ladies' Valley' (109) is Mr. WOOLMER's chief production this year. Vide *Decameron*, sixth day, in the note attached to its title in the catalogue. Mr. WOOLMER has a certain eye for natural beauty; but he invests it with artificial graces, dressing it in the most bewitching *négligé*, and touching it here and there with just the slightest soupçon of rouge. A dimpled arm, a plump little coquettishly turned bit of sleek shoulders, a milk-white neck and bosom, a tiny bare foot saucily peeping forth, a face all innocence and pearl-powder, derive wonderful piquancy from the studied carelessness of rich brocade and of delicate linen. Can there be a more abrupt transition than from WOOLMER to HURLSTONE? It is like turning from champagne to black draught. What grim ugliness has Mr. HURLSTONE set before us this season? 'The Modern Silenus' (196) is an old Italian peasant teaching a young one to play on a pipe, which has not, apparently, any stops. Is this painting, Mr. HURLSTONE? Had you any particular fabric in view, serge or leather, or stained wood or brown paper, when you daubed in that flat surface, which is meant to represent part of a cloak? The ruins in the background are simply disgraceful. They are literally nothing but uncertain smudges, which a sot might have executed with his grimed fingers dipped in beer. It is an insult to common sense to show such a picture as this. Can anybody point out one redeeming feature in this mass of sheer slovenliness? Lips like that boy's were never seen; they are dots of staring red paint, as utterly without form as are other dots of the same colour, distributed over the knee—such a knee!—of the old man. There are three pictures besides by Mr. HURLSTONE; and, though neither is quite so hideous as the one we have described, they are all daringly bad specimens of painting.

Mr. NOBLE should confine himself to the class of genre pictures with which his name has been creditably associated. It is not easy to guess how he was tempted out of his depth by a prize of no greater value than the statement, in D'AUBIGNÉ's *Histoire de la Réformation*, that "about this time ALBERT DÜRER presented a fine picture to his friend LUTHER." Mr. NOBLE's design (64) does not betray any peculiar inspiration or proof of a special call to paint this presentation scene. The picture which ALBERT DÜRER is showing to his friend is as unlike anything of DÜRER's painting as could very well be. Altogether this is the least satisfactory work of Mr. NOBLE's with which we are acquainted.

Among the landscapes, Mr. BODDINGTON's 'Windings of the Wye' (188) is the most happy in selection of scenery and standing-point; while two or three of Mr. SYERS's works are the most indicative of painstaking. But, if we were asked to guess which landscape had been most nearly brought to perfection out-of-doors, and with the actual objects before the painter's eyes, it would be 'The Studio, Foss Twynn, on the Conway, North Wales' (139), by Mr. J. L. FERRIER, that we should name as that oxygenic production. A few of the details in this rocky nook of Welsh scenery are unsurpassably truthful; and in particular we will point to the close-fitting character of the moss which clothes the huge boulders in the foreground; but we are unable quite to make out the intention of certain red dots which are sprinkled in several places—on the foliage, on the ground, and on the water. The 'Fruit' (72) exhibited by Miss RUMLEY has less bloom than might have been bestowed with a little extra care and finish; but it is very pulpy and fruitlike. There is a melon, the rough

rind of which is painted with much force of truth; and, indeed, that is the general characteristic of the lady's work. She seems to know her way perfectly well as far as she cares to go; and we should say it would be easy for her to go farther, and to give her pictures the charm of refinement as well as of natural force.

KING LEAR AT THE PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

MR. CHARLES KEAN has now closed and completed the magnificent series of Shakspearean revivals which have made a dramatic epoch of his management of the PRINCESS'S THEATRE. Hypercritical objectors have denounced the brilliant illustration of *Richard II.*, *Henry VIII.*, and the *Tempest* with all the scenic accessories suggested by antiquarian research and all the mechanical 'properties' supplied by modern invention, as something base and excessive, and betokening the rank luxuriance of dramatic decadence and decline. Certain enthusiastic formalists, jealous of the purity of SHAKSPEARE's text, have attacked Mr. CHARLES KEAN unmercifully for improving upon the stage management to the days of JAMES I., and for making the 'Elizabethan' drama attractive to the nineteenth century. These formalists insist upon SHAKSPEARE being presented in his original simplicity without the aid of factitious ornament, and had they been Athenians of the age of SOPHOCLES, they would have insisted upon the *Antigone* being performed from a waggon. But it is only fair to add, that while demanding an anachronism with all the courage of fanatics, they would as soon go to see a play of SHAKSPEARE's as to hear a sermon, unless in the one case it were a spectacle and in the other a SPURGEON. May it not be worth consideration whether SHAKSPEARE himself, were he now living, would not be the very man of all men to approve of "the introduction of these illustrative adjuncts" in the performance of his plays, which Mr. CHARLES KEAN believes to be "not only necessary but advantageous to the stage?" Certainly he would not allow the drama itself, as an "exhibition of human feelings and passions," to be submerged in canvas and upholstery, but he would tell us that if the machinist and the scene painter were too much for the actors, it must be the fault of the actors and not of the dramatist or the manager. Even hypercritical objectors, however, can find no fault with the manner and degree in which Mr. CHARLES KEAN has scenically illustrated *King Lear*. Indeed, no scenic wonders can compete with the transcendent power of the poet in this sublime tragedy. It would be simply impossible to overlay the majestic desolation of the old king and the loving truth and tenderness of his child *Cordelia*. The scenic representation of a chamber in *King Lear*'s palace is an admirable picture from the life of our rude forefathers; but who remembers the ingenious fidelity of the antiquary in the presence of that old man sinking on his knees in the agony of desertion, and calling on Heaven to curse a thankless child? The storm on the heath is a marvellous illusion, but who can gaze at the cloud-rack and the haggard gleams of the lightning, in the sight of that awful human loneliness in the foreground of the picture? Mr. CHARLES KEAN, therefore, while employing upon his illustration of *King Lear* at his theatre all the resources of decorative and mechanical art, under the direction of his own fine taste and discrimination, and in a spirit of due reverence for the dramatist, relies on the drama itself and upon the personation of the great central figure of the drama for the success of the revival, and we are glad to record that his high ambition has been nobly justified. It is easy to perceive that Mr. KEAN has bestowed upon his personation of *Lear* the most careful and devoted study, and that every tone, look, and gesture is the result of a strong conception, wrought out with an ardour and concentration of purpose that lends to art the semblance of instinct, and to elaboration the communicative sympathy of irrepressible impulse. Needless to say that no point was lost, and that the great traditional passages brought the house down; we confess, however, that the profounder subtleties of the character appeared to us to be most happily seized by Mr. KEAN, and most skilfully presented. Here and there, in a performance challenging not mere eulogy but positive criticism, we might have desired a different modulation, so to speak, in the actor's voice, a different sense in his reading; but, such as it is, Mr. KEAN's personation of *Lear* completely masters the emotions of the audience, and in its most minute details satisfies the critical by its exquisite filling-up of a majestic outline. The general performance of the play is careful and creditable, especially Mr. RYDEN's *Edgar*, Mr. COOPER's *Kent*, and Mr. GRAHAM's *Gloster*. We cannot say much for Miss HEATH and Miss BUFTON's *Goneril* and *Regan*, except that they present the "strong-minded woman" in an attractive shape; and Miss KATE TERRY's *Cordelia* would be more pleasing if she could be persuaded to renounce a spiral movement of the arms, which befits the dainty *Ariel*, but is tiresome in gentle creatures of flesh and blood. We should be false to the duty and purpose of honest criticism if we forbore to mention Mr. WALTER LACY's assumption of the part of *Edmund* in the most unequivocal terms of condemnation. Either Mr. WALTER LACY sinks under the part, or he presumes to consider it unworthy of his powers. In either case he deserves censure, not unmixed with pity. The part of *Edmund* is an admirable part for an actor of spirit, grace, and impulse; and it has been played by the best dramatic artists known to the annals of the English stage. It is, moreover, evidently a favourite character with SHAKSPEARE himself. Mr. WALTER LACY slurs it and draws it as if he either had not the slightest notion what to do with it, or deemed it beneath his genius; at all events, he plays it like a tenth-rate man about town, or perhaps like a barber's apprentice aping a TALLEYRAND. In short, Mr. WALTER LACY's *Edmund*, instead of being spirited and gallant, is sly, awkward, and sneaking in his air and gait, fatuously cunning, and cynically dull.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

MADemoiselle PICCOLOMINI reappeared for the season as *Norina* in *Don Pasquale* on Tuesday evening, and was received with a spoiled darling's welcome. She played the coquettish widow with infinite archness and most bewitching airs, and warbled like the first bird of spring. Signor BELART, the light tenor who made so agreeable an impression at the close of last season, was the *Ernesto*, and confirmed the prepossession of the audience in his favour.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.

A LITTLE comedy from the French, under the title of *A Doubtful Victory*, was brought out at the OLYMPIC, on Monday evening, and has been played during the week with equal spirit and success. It is sparkingly written, but its success may be considered due to the lively and finished acting of Mrs. STRUANA in the part of a fascinating widow, and to the capital make-up and perfect ease and naturalness of Mr. GEORGE VINING as a bluff but sensitive, and slightly victimized Colonel, and lover of middle age. Need we add that it is put on the stage with all the care and elegance that distinguishes the OLYMPIC of the present (as of a former) day.

THE STATE PROSECUTIONS OF THE PRESS.—Subscriptions have been entered into at Manchester in aid of the defendants to these prosecutions, and the committee report a fair amount of success both among the middle and working classes.

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.—The three Directors nominated by the Crown—viz., Lieutenant-General Sir George Pollock, G.C.B.; Major-General Sir John Robert Hussey Vivian, K.C.B.; and John Pollard Willoughby, Esq., M.P.—took the prescribed oath, and their seats as Directors of the East India Company, on Friday week.

COMPLETION OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S TOMB.—The final slab was placed on Thursday week over the remains of the late Duke of Wellington in the crypt at St. Paul's Cathedral, in the presence of the present duke; of Lord John Manners, Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works; Dr. Millman, Dean of St. Paul's; and Mr. Penrose, the present architect to the cathedral.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS. HUTCHINS.—April 20, at Hanover-square, Mrs. F. L. Hutchins, a daughter. MUNDY.—April 18, at Hollybank, Haunts, the wife of Major E. M. Mundy, a daughter.

MARRIAGES. BAGEHOT—WILSON.—April 21, at Claverton, near Bath, by the Rev. W. Hale, M.A., W. Bagehot, Esq., son of Mr. Bagehot, of Herde-hill, near Langport, to Elizabeth, daughter of J. Wilson, Esq., M.P., of Claverton Manor.

DEATHS. DOWKER.—April 18, Jesse, wife of T. Dowker, Esq., of Huntingdon, near York, aged 71. EASTWOOD.—April 20, R. S. Eastwood, Esq., M.A. of Eastwood, near Todmorden, J. P. for Lancashire and Yorkshire, aged 42.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, April 23.

THE appearance of the money market is somewhat firmer than last week. The Budget, as expounded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday, is considered on the whole negatively satisfactory.

The funds during the week have been 96½ to 96¼. There have been several transfers from Consols into Reduced and New Three per Cents, which are now bought with advantage; to effect this Consols have been sold.

In mining shares there has been rather more business. Wheel Freilwyny, Edward, Mary Ann, Tolvaddon, and Herodsfoot are inquired after.

Blackburn, 9, 10; Caledonian, 84½, 85½; Chester and Holyhead, 35, 37; Eastern Counties, 58½, 59; Great Northern, 102½, 103½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 90, 101; Great Western, 56, 56½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 89½, 89¾; London and Blackwall, 6, 6½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 105, 106; London and North-Western, 93½, 94; London and South-Western, 92½, 93½; Midland, 92½, 92¾; North-Eastern (Berwick), 91½, 92½; South-Eastern, (Dover), 70, 70½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6, 6½; Dutch Rhonish, 4½, 4½; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 27½, 27¾; Great Central of France, 37; Great Luxembourg, 7½, 8; Northern of France, 37½, 37¾; Paris and Lyons, 31½, 32; Royal Danish, 15, 17; Royal Swedish 4, 4; Sambre and Meuse, 81, 8.

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

Table with columns: Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Frid. Rows include Bank Stock, 3 per Cent. Red., 3 per Cent. Con. An., Consols for Account, New 3 per Cent. An., New 2½ per Cents., Long Ans. 1860, India Stock, Ditto Bonds, £1000, Ditto, under £1000, Ex. Bills, £1000, Ditto, £500, Ditto, Small.

FOREIGN FUNDS. LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.

Table with columns: Foreign Fund Name, Price. Rows include Brazilian Bonds, Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents, Chilean 6 per Cents, Chilean 3 per Cents, Dutch 2½ per Cents, Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf., Ecuador Bonds, Mexican Account, Peruvian 4½ per Cents, Portuguese 3 per Cents, Portuguese 4 per Cents, Russian Bonds, Spanish, Spanish Committee Certf. of Coup. not fun., Turkish 6 per Cents, Turkish New, 4 ditto, Venezuela 4 per Cents.

CORN MARKET.

WHEAT has fallen 2s. per quarter, and Flour has declined 2s. per sack. Barley is in good demand, and last week's prices have been fully supported. French Barley has brought an advance of 6d. per quarter and Oats are firmer at last quotations.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.—ABRAHAM MARK COHEN, Commercial-Place, City-road, paper-stainer—CHARLES M'KINSELL, Great St. Helen's, merchant—CHARLES POWELL, Leather-lane, Holborn, cheesemonger—JOHN PIERCE, Ironmonger-lane and Liverpool-street, Bishopsgate, carpenter, and Coleman-street, licensed victualler—DANIEL TIDEX, Buckland-crescent, Belsize, St. John's-wood, and Queen's-gardens, Bayswater, builder—SPILSBURY BUTLER, CHRISTOPHER BAKER, and CHARLES EDWARD BUTLER, Birmingham, wire drawers—BENJAMIN STARKER, Sheepshead, near Huddersfield, woollen cord manufacturer—WILLIAM THOMAS SENIOR, Hortury-bridge, Yorkshire, fellmonger—THOMAS WAINWRIGHT, Dunham-o'-th'-Hill, Cheshire, cattle salesman.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. NICOL, Aberdeen, merchant tailor—J. GRAY, Glasgow, engineer—J. CHRISTIE, Aberdeen, auctioneer—A. SWERLES, Arbroath, carrier—J. BOAK, Lundin-mill, near Largo, Fifeshire, draper—J. HENDERSON, Glasgow, coachbuilder—J. MILLER, Glasgow, warehouseman—R. CRAIG, Saltoats, horse dealer—W. B. and A. T. ADAMSON, Leith, merchants.

BANKRUPTS.—JACOB FRANKENSTEIN, Devonshire-street, City, commission merchant—JOHN ANTHONY, Plymouth, grocer—WILLIAM TYACK, Camborne, Cornwall, innkeeper—JAMES WILKINS, Kettle, Salop, draper—WILLIAM COOPER, Harvills Hawthorn, West Bromwich, coach axletree spring-maker—WILLIAM WELDON, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, haberdasher—JAMES PONTNEY, Manchester, licensed victualler—JOHN BARRY, Bath, milliner—MATTHEW FIRTH and WM. FIRTH, Manningham, Yorkshire, plasterers—WILLIAM CAMPING and SAMUEL BROWNE, Norwich, shoe manufacturers—FREDERICK WILLIAM HOOPER and CHARLES W. WASS, 3, New Burlington-street—THOMAS EVERSHED and CHARLES B. WHITCOMB, Gosport, soap manufacturers—THOMAS HEBARD, Broad-street-buildings, merchant—FREDERICK PRIDGON, King's Lynn, corn merchant—BENJAMIN M'CLEISH CAREES, 180, Hoxton Old Town, draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. CRAIG, Kirkton-toll, Renfrewshire, wright—J. MACLEAN, Glasgow, hotel keeper—G. MACDONALD and Co., Campbell-town, Inverness-shire hotel keepers—W. CHRISTIE, Elgin, cabinet maker—J. KAY and Co., Glasgow, tea merchants—J. MATTHEW, Kirktown Mills, Dundee, flax spinner.

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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. TITIENS, ORTOLANI, GIUGLINI, ALDIGHIERI, VIALETTI, and BELLETTI. LES HUGUENOTS. Tuesday, April 27.—LES HUGUENOTS. Thursday, April 29—EXTRA NIGHT. LES HUGUENOTS, and the new Ballet Divertissement, CALISTO, OU LE RENVOI DE L'AMOUR, by Mesdmes. Pocchini, Annetta, Pasquale, Bioletti, and Morlicchi. A limited number of Boxes have been reserved to the Public, price 21s. and 31s. 6d. each, and may be had at the Box Office at the Theatre.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN. MR. GYE has the honour to announce that THE NEW THEATRE will open on Saturday, May 15, on which occasion will be performed Meyerbeer's Grand Opera LES HUGUENOTS.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD'S Second Soirée of Classical Pianoforte Music (Second Series) on WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 28th, 1858, at WILLIS'S ROOMS, when she will be assisted by M. SAINTON, Herr GOFFRIE, and Signor PIATTI.

PROGRAMME.—Part I. SONATA DUO in A—Pianoforte and Violoncello (Op. 32). W. S. Bennett. PRELUDE CON FUGA, in A Minor—à la Tarantella (by desire). J. S. Bach. GRAND SONATA in F—"No Plus Ultra" Woelfl. Part II. GRAND SONATA in A Flat, "Plus Ultra" (Op. 71). Dussek. GRAND QUARTET in B Minor, Pianoforte, Violin, Viola, and Violoncello. Mendelssohn.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.—THE FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of PICTURES by Modern Artists of the French School is NOW OPEN, at the French Gallery, 120, Pall-mall, opposite the Opera Colonnade.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL MUSEUM, 3, Tichborne-street, opposite the Haymarket. Open daily. Admission, One Shilling. Lectures by DR. KAHN at Three and Eight. Dr. Kahn's Nine Lectures on the Philosophy of Marriage, &c., sent post free on receipt of 12 Stamps.

THE RECENT CHANGES OF TEMPERATURE.—It is very important that such changes as have recently taken place in the temperature of the atmosphere should not be treated with indifference. The public should be watchful of the effects which they frequently have on the body.

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