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The Leader.

82

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW, MERCANTILE JOURNAL,

AND

RECORD OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, BANKS, RAILWAYS, MINES SHIPPING, &c.

VOL. X. No. 458.]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1859.

PRICE {UNSTAMPED...FIVEPENCE.
Stamp.....Sixpence.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COAL MINING COMPANY

(Limited).

Capital 40,000*l.*, in 40,000 shares of 1*l.* each (with power to increase). Deposit 2*s.* 6*d.* per share. (To be incorporated under the Joint-Stock Companies Acts, 1855 and 1857, and liability limited to amount of subscription.)

DIRECTORS.

George Cavendish Bentinck, Esq., 48, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, London.
John Dunnington Fletcher, Esq., 12, Westbourne-terrace, London.
George Glennie, Esq., of 43, Upper Thames-street, London, and Blackheath.
James Lawrie, Esq., 33, Lombard-street, London.
John Romanes, Esq., of Hollymount, Blackheath.
Captain F. Stewart, of Surbiton, Surrey.
John W. Williamson, Esq., 4, Gloucester Villas, Hyde Park, London.

Auditor—William Moates, Esq., Accountant, 19, King's Arms-yard, Moorgate-street, London.

Solicitor—Walter Federat Nokes, Esq., 11, George-yard, Lombard-street.

Bankers—The City Bank, Threadneedle-street, London; Branches of the National Provincial Bank of England.

Brokers—Messrs. P. W. Thomas, Sons, and Co., 50, Threadneedle-street, London.

Consulting Engineer—Joseph J. W. Watson, Esq., C. and M.E., F.G.S., &c.

Secretary—George Grant, Esq.

Temporary Offices—72, Old Broad-street, London.

PROSPECTUS.

Coal is a staple article of constant and increasing consumption, and the demand which exists for it may be said to be limited only by the quality that the producer can offer, and the price at which it can be supplied. In the year 1857, upwards of 3,000,000 tons of coal were exported from Great Britain, while the home consumption at first sight appears almost fabulous, so immense was the quantity. It is obvious, however, that the wants of the country, as respects coal, may be regarded as constantly and rapidly augmenting; and it is not a matter of surprise, therefore, that a good colliery, well situated and well managed, has uniformly proved a lucrative investment. A reference to the statistics of the day will show that there is far less risk and a greater certainty of large and profitable results in working collieries than in any other mineral property.

This Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing and working the coal in the four grants from the Crown, comprising about 360 acres, on which four well-known collieries, called the True Blue, Newham Bottom, Woodside, and Birchen Grove Collieries are situated, immediately contiguous to the village of Ruislip, in the Forest of Dean, in the county of Gloucester, in England; together with the railway, plant, steam-engines, tram waggon, pit carts, machinery tools, and all other necessary appliances which, at great expense, have been lately placed on these important properties.

These four grants adjoin each other, as shown in the enclosed plan, and for all practical purposes, therefore, may be considered as forming one extensive but very compact estate; they contain about 2,000,000 tons of coal, which is of first-class bituminous character, and much valued for household purposes, for gas, ironworks, smelting, and especially for raising steam. To get this quantity, at the rate of 250 tons per day, for 300 days in the year, will, it may be observed, occupy a period of about 27 years.

Nos. 1 and 2. The True Blue and Newham Bottom Collieries.—The grants which contain these collieries are 184 acres in extent, of which at least 100 remain unworked. The seam is 5 feet 8 inches in thickness, and is free from partings, hitchings, or troubles, and, with the exception of the horse, which is of little practical importance, of any faults; the yield per square fathom is from 3 to 34 tons; there are two drawing pits of the respective depths of 50 and 45 yards now in use at these collieries; also two powerful steam-engines, with boiler and the attendant machinery, more than adequate to the requirements of the work, together with all the necessary plant, including tram waggon, and pit tubs, drawing tackle, landing stages, pit stalling, rails, timbering of the main roads, &c., in the most efficient and perfect order. The coal yard, with loading bank, weighbridge, smith's shop, storehouses, &c., is well arranged both for sorting and despatching coal. The collieries are, in a word, in full working order, and do not require any further outlay. At True Blue Pit operations have not yet been carried further than driving out the roads, which, however, are already sufficiently advanced to earn stalls when 30 tons per day may be raised, the yield, of course, progressively increasing as more stalls shall be earned. At Newham Bottom Pit the roads and stalls have been well devised for winning purposes, and from 60 to 70 tons per day are now being raised. Both pits are connected

by well-laid tramroads with the main line to the Churchway Station on the South Wales and Great Western Railways, and are in the best possible maintenance. These collieries are held in perpetuity from the Crown, subject to the very low royalty of 2*d.* per ton.

No. 3. The Woodside Colliery.—This grant contains about 60 acres of unworked coal, from 4 to 6 feet thick, of the Coleford High Delf Vein. The coal is raised through two well-made pits. A substantial engine-house, with a superior 50-horse power steam-engine, and two 30-horse boilers, pumps, and all requisite shafting and gearing, foreman's dwelling-house, carpenters' and smiths' shops, walled-in coal yard, and other convenient buildings, the whole of which, with the necessary plant, both under and above ground, consisting of tram waggon, pit carts, rails, working tools, &c., are in good repair. The workings under ground are extensive, and there are a sufficient number of stalls turned to raise 150 tons per day. A well-laid tramroad connects both pits with the main line to Churchway. This colliery is held under the Crown for 1000 years from 19th May, 1853, subject to a royalty of 2*d.* per ton.

No. 4. The Birchen Grove Colliery.—This grant contains an entirely maiden coalfield, and commands from 116 to 120 acres of untouched coal, of the high delf vein, of the same quality and average thickness as the coal in True Blue and Newham Bottom; it adjoins those collieries on the west, and can be drained and worked most economically through the present workings in them, thus obviating the expense and delay of sinking a pit from the surface and erecting separate machinery. It is held under the Crown in perpetuity, subject to a royalty of 1*d.* per ton.

A railway two miles in length has been laid from the collieries in connexion with the Bullo Pill branch of the South Wales and Great Western lines, thereby effecting an economical and important transit to the adjacent towns and villages, and by vessels from Bullo Pill Wharf, on the river Severn, to towns on the coast and to all parts of the Continent. The construction of the railway, with the erection of engines, sinking pits, the underground works, the purchase of plant, machinery, tools, &c., and the bringing the collieries to their present excellent working condition, has been accomplished at a cost exceeding 30,000*l.* of actual outlay judiciously expended.

Two hundred and fifty tons of coal per day may be raised at the commencement of the operations of the Company, and with the help of certain contemplated improvements in the Woodside Colliery, this quantity will in a short period be considerably increased. The cost, delivered into the railway trucks at Churchway, will be 3*s.* 8*d.* per ton, and the average selling price 4*s.* 6*d.* per ton, giving a net profit, after deducting every possible expense, of 718*s.* 6*d.* per annum, on a yield of 250 tons per day (as shown in the accompanying statement of profits), equal to an annual dividend of upwards of 20 per cent. on a capital of 35,000*l.* The daily yield of coal will continually increase, as more ground is opened in the several collieries. It is important to observe that this rate of profits is not derived from a calculation made on hypothetical estimates, but is the actual result of the present workings of the collieries.

In addition to the trade now attached to these collieries, all the further coal that can be raised will find a ready market at the ports of Gloucester, Lydney, and Bullo Pill, on the Severn; and as an inland trade at the various towns on the South Wales and Great Western Railway, including Cheltenham, Oxford, Reading, Windsor, Abingdon, Basingstoke, Brimscombe, Cirencester, Marlborough, Maidenhead, Newbury, Pangbourne, Swindon, Slough, Stroud, Stonehouse, Uxbridge, Wallingford, and Wycombe; to all of which places the coal from these collieries is regularly supplied.

The Directors of this Company have conditionally contracted for the acquisition of the coal in the foregoing properties, with the railway and all the machinery, plant, &c., attached to the said collieries, at the price of 30,000*l.*, to be paid partly in money and partly in shares.

If it should appear that 5000*l.* (reserving 5000*l.* not proposed to be called up on the 40,000 shares of the Company) is a small working capital, it must be remarked that the property acquired is not an undeveloped property, but on the contrary is producing a large yield of coal at present; and that capital is only required to continue a trade (already in operation) to the extent of producing 250 tons a day, for which purpose 5000*l.* is amply sufficient.

It is contemplated gradually to extend the operations of the Company, by the purchase of other coalfields in the neighbourhood, which may be acquired on reasonable terms, and which can only be profitably worked by the use of this Company's railway and other approaches. It is right also to observe that the Railway is in itself a real property, inasmuch as it has a right to tollage from all minerals passing over it, under the provisions of the Dean Forest Act.

No shareholder will incur any liability beyond the amount of the shares allotted to him.

The Directors do not propose to proceed to carry out the objects in view until such an amount of capital as they are assured will justify the undertaking has been subscribed for.

Applications for shares must be made in the annexed form. Each applicant will be required to pay in to the

bankers of the Company 2*s.* 6*d.* per share on the number of shares applied for, in exchange for which a receipt will be given, and to make a further payment of 10*s.* per share on such shares as shall be allotted to him on allotment. In the event of the Directors allotting less than the whole number applied for, the amount paid in to the bankers will be applied towards the further payment of 10*s.* per share payable on the number allotted; but in case no allotment be made, the money so lodged will be forthwith returned in full.

The balance of the capital will be called up in instalments of not more than 5*s.* per share, and at intervals of not less than three months.

Prospectuses, mining reports, forms of application for shares and of bankers' receipts for deposits, may be had of Messrs. P. W. Thomas, Sons, and Co., Threadneedle-street, London, brokers to the Company; of the solicitor; at the City Bank; at the various branches of the National Provincial Bank of England; or the offices of the Company, 72, Old Broad-street, London, where plans of the properties may be seen and examined, and where every information as to the Company may be obtained.

Price 6*d.*

RAILWAY MANAGEMENT:

The OFFICIAL VIEW REFUTED; being a Reply to Objections urged against a Plan for the Government and Working of a Railway. By THOMAS WREIGLEY.

London: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, and Co.; Manchester: JOHNSON and RAWSON, 89, Market-street; GEORGE SIMMS, St. Ann's Square.

Established in the reign of Queen Anne, A.D. 1714.

UNION ASSURANCE OFFICE.

FIRE AND LIFE.

Offices—81, Cornhill, and 70, Baker-street, London; and in Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Dublin, Hamburg, Berlin, and Berne.

Receipts for fire insurances falling due at Christmas are now ready at the Head Offices, and with the respective agents in the country.

WM. B. LEWIS, Secretary.

ESTABLISHED 1838.

VICTORIA & LEGAL & COMMERCIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

No. 18, King William-street, City.

DIRECTORS.

BENJAMIN HAWES, Esq., Chairman.

THOMAS NESBITT, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

Charles Baldwin, Esq.
George Denny, Esq.
J. C. Dimsdale, Esq.
William Elliott, M.D.
Robert Ellis, Esq.
J. P. Gassiot, Esq., F.R.S.
John Gladstone, Esq.
Aaron Goldsmid, Esq.
Sidney Gurney, Esq.
W. K. Jameson, Esq.
John Jones, Esq.
John Nolloth, Esq.
Meaburn Staniland, Esq.
Daniel Sutton, Esq.
Walter Charles Venning, Esq.
O'B. Bellingham Woolsey, Esq.

The business of the Company embraces every description of risk connected with Life Assurance. The assets of the Company exceed 255,000*l.* And its income is over 60,000*l.* a year.

Advances in connexion with Life Assurance are made on advantageous terms, either on real or personal security.

WILLIAM RATRAY, Actuary.

LAW PROPERTY & LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

30, Essex-street, Strand, London.

Capital, 250,000*l.*

DIRECTORS.

Ralph T. Brockman, Esq., Folkestone.
Edward Wm. Cox, Esq., 30, Russell-square.
George Frederick Fox, Esq., Bristol.
E. B. P. Kelsey, Esq., Salisbury.
J. Mead, Esq., 2, King's Bench-walk, Temple.
H. Paul, Esq., M.P., 33, Devonshire-place, Portman-square.

EIGHTY PER CENT. OF THE PROFITS

divided among the Assured. At the first division of profits in May, 1858, a bonus was declared, varying from Two to Eleven per cent. on the amount assured, and amounting, in many cases, upwards of Fifty per cent. on the Premium.

At the Second Division of Profits in January, 1859, a PRO RATA BONUS was declared.

Next division of profits in 1861.

* Every description of Life Assurance business acted on.

EDWARD S. BARNES, Secretary.

PROSPECTUS.
THE
SUB-SOIL & COTTAGE IMPROVEMENT
COMPANY (Limited).

(Incorporated under 19 and 20 Vict. cap. 47.)

Capital 40,000*l*.

In Shares of 1*l*. each; deposit, 4*s*. per share. Liability limited to amount of share.

DIRECTORS.

Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading, Coroner of the County of Berks.
Stephen J. Prescott, Esq., Walworth and Ringwood, near Deal, Kent.
Daniel Green, Esq., 11, Finsbury-circus.
Walter Newall, Esq., Clapham.

(With power to add to their number.)

Two seats at the Board will be reserved for election from the shareholders at the First General Meeting.

AUDITORS.

George Daniel, Esq., 18, Cannonbury-square.
Henry William Sewell, Esq., Stoke Newington.

MANAGER—Edward Wilkins, Esq.

BANKERS—Union Bank of London.

OFFICES—Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

The advantages attending the employment of capital in the improvement of land are justly acknowledged; capital thus employed is, at the same time, the means of great social benefit, and productive to the investors of the highest rate consistent with perfect security.

Opportunities, however, for employing, individually, the smaller amounts of capital in this channel are necessarily limited. This advantage the present association will supply. The object proposed is as follows, viz.:

The working of a plan for increasing with certainty the produce of the soil, and by such means to bring into cultivation and render profitable lands hitherto entirely unproductive.

The value of the plan of sub-soil manurage, invented by Mr. Wilkins, has been fully tested, and it is especially applicable to the poorest lands. By the carrying out of this system Nature's own increase may, in many cases, be rendered twofold, and the crops, in a great degree, guarded against loss from the uncertainties of season and of temperature, whilst large annual crops may be taken from land now considered worthless.

Results already obtained form a basis of the fullest confidence for the project now brought forward.

The present company propose to carry out the plan, on an extended scale, for the growth (chiefly) of flax and hemp, Mangold Wurzel, and potatoes, being crops specially suited to this cultivation, and of an assured demand.

The former of these are crops of a very remunerative character, and of a great national importance. Farmers, however, are not induced to cultivate them, as they tend too much to impoverish the soil. Grown on the present principle, the soil is in no wise impoverished, and they can be produced year after year on the same land with unflinching success. Mr. Wilkins has even had two crops of flax in one year. For any quantity cultivated an immediate and certain market is open.

The Mangold Wurzel on this principle is a perfectly superior root to the ordinary mangold. From it the patentee has produced an excellent WINE, which can be sold at the rate of Two Shillings per gallon; and leave a net profit of over thirty per cent. Also (in mixture with flour) a wholesome and nutritious Bread, at one third less than the usual price. Neither of these important purposes can the ordinary mangold suffice.

His weight of this crop has reached the unprecedented amount of sixty-nine tons per acre. Of the last mentioned (potatoes) little need be said. They would be produced in greater weight, with almost certain immunity from disease; and (by means of Mr. Wilkins's patent process for extracting the germs for planting) of a large and uniform size.

NOTE.—This patent has been purchased, independently, by the directors, and is the property of the company. It is submitted that certain and assured returns of a very remunerative character may thus be realised on the capital of the company.

The operations of the company will be as follow, viz.:
1st. The purchase or leasing, at a low rate, of land adapted to their purpose;
2nd. The preparation of such land on their system of drainage, whereby it will be rendered highly productive; and
3rd. The cultivation—or the resale at enhanced prices—of the land thus prepared.

Thus the advantage of a combination of capital and resources in such an enterprise is obvious; and after making a careful allowance for all contingencies and expenses, it is estimated a net profit of twenty to twenty-five per cent. may be realised.

The directors have selected, and obtained the offer on very advantageous terms, of a plot of 600 acres of land well suited to this purpose, and which could be laid down at the minimum price. On two-thirds of the shares being taken up, the contract will be completed; and operations on the first portion at once commenced.

A further adaptation of the same principles to the construction of Vine Boxes and Flower Vases has also been patented.

These patents also are vested in the company, and the eminent success which has attended the manufacture and trial of these articles affords further warrant for confidence in success on the larger scale.

The Directors can state that this branch of the business is already organised, and first-class agencies appointed in various parts of the country (England, Scotland, and Ireland). Every preliminary expense has been paid, and considerable orders, both for home and export, are obtained.

These articles are calculated to command a large and very remunerative sale, and will realise a handsome profit to the shareholders.

Improved Model Cottages will be built upon the company's property in connection with allotments of land. This obtains a fair and certain interest for such capital, and would prove of inestimable social advantage to the tenants.

DANIEL GREEN, Junr., F.S.A., Secretary.

December 5th, 1858.

Applications for shares must be made in the annexed form, accompanied with a payment to the bankers, or to the secretary, of the deposit of 4*s*. per share.

If a less number be allotted than applied for, the amount so overpaid will be returned in full. Interest at the rate of five per cent. will be allowed on shares paid up in advance.

By the provisions of the Act 19 and 20 Vict., the liability of shareholders is limited to the amount subscribed for. Prospectuses forwarded on application.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of the Sub-soil and Cottage Improvement Company (Limited), Great Scotland-yard, Whitehall.
Gentlemen,—Having paid to your credit at the Union Bank of London (or remitted herewith) the sum of _____ *l*. I request you will allot me _____ shares of one pound each in the above company; and I hereby agree to accept such shares, or any less number which may be allotted to me, to pay all calls thereon, and execute the deed of settlement when required; or in default of this to forfeit the deposit now paid.

Name in full _____
Address _____
Date _____

THE MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY

(Incorporated by Special Act of Parliament, With Limited Liability.)

For Constructing, Maintaining, and Working (under the sanction and with the support of the Government of India) a comprehensive system of Irrigation Works and Navigable Canals throughout the Presidency of Madras and the neighbouring territories of Berar, Cochin, Hyderabad, Mysore, Nagpur, Orissa, the South Mahratta Country and Travancore; and also throughout the Lower Provinces of Bengal, when the necessary powers shall have been obtained.

First capital, 2,000,000*l*. (with power to increase). First issue thereof, 1,000,000*l*. in 50,000 shares of 20*l*. each.

Upon which a perpetual minimum interest of 5*l*. per cent. has been guaranteed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, all surplus profits being divisible equally between the Government and the Company; which arrangement is subject to be determined only by the Government purchasing the works constructed within six months after the expiration of each period of twenty-five years, at a sum equal to the market value of the shares of the Company on an average of the three preceding years.

Deposit 1*l*. per share, to bear interest at the guaranteed rate from the day on which the same shall be paid into the Indian Treasury.

DIRECTORS.

CHAIRMAN.—JAMES THOMSON, Esq. (Messrs. Line and Co., Madras), Deputy-Governor of the Agra Bank, and late Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, and President of the Madras Bank.

Colonel PHILIP ANSTRUTHER, C.B., Madras Artillery. The Hon. PHILIP PLYDELL ROUVIERE, M.P. (Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co.).

Lieutenant-Colonel GRIMES, Madras Army, Chairman of the Oriental Inland Steam Company. Colonel ATWELL LAKE, C.B., late Superintending Engineer of the Kistnah Irrigation Works.

Lieutenant-Colonel OSLOW, late of the Commission for governing Mysore.

Lieutenant-General Sir GEORGE POLLOCK, G.C.B., F.R.G.S., &c.

Major-General WESTROP WATKINS, Madras Army. Consulting Engineer.—Colonel J. T. Smith, Madras Engineers, F.R.S., &c.

Auditors.—James Bonar, Esq. (Messrs. Small and Co., Old Jewry). Bankers.—Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., 1, Pall-mall East.

Solicitor.—John Mackrell, Esq., 34, Cannon-street West. Secretary.—John Westwood, Esq., Offices—27, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

For full prospectus see the "Commercial Daily List" of the 16th inst.

Prospectuses and forms of application for shares may now be had at the Company's offices, 27, Cannon-street, E.C., London; of the bankers, Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., 1, Pall-mall East; and of the solicitor, John Mackrell, Esq., 34, Cannon-street West, E.C., London; but no application will be considered unless a deposit of one pound on each share applied for is previously made to Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., Bankers of the Company. The deposit will be returned if the application is not acceded to.

Extract from Minutes of Consultation transmitted by the Government of Madras on the 15th May, 1858, to the Court of Directors of the East India Company:—

The Government express their unanimous, strong, and earnest advocacy, that all irrigation works which, on a comprehensive view of the wants of the country, may be deemed necessary to develop its undoubtedly great resources, be commenced at once boldly and on a large scale, be pressed forward throughout all times and under all circumstances, and be looked on and be practically treated, as in fact they really are, as the most economical, because the most profitable, undertakings in which the Government could possibly engage. It is needless now again to bring forward the innumerable instances in which money has in the Presidency been most advantageously invested in irrigation works. The proceedings of Government have, in this respect, been only too desultory and vacillating, and it is confidently asserted that India could be placed in a position to pay all her own expenses and gradually discharge her debt far more readily and speedily by a judicious expenditure than by any scheme of retrenchment or reduction.

THE MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

27, Cannon-street, E.C., London.

No applications for Shares in this Company will be received after WEDNESDAY, the 5th JANUARY, 1859.

By order,

JOHN WESTWOOD, Secretary.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH,

USED IN THE ROYAL LAUNDRY,

And pronounced by HER MAJESTY'S LAUNDRESS to be

THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED.

Sold by all Chandlers, Grocers, &c. &c.

HANWELL COLLEGE, MIDDLESEX,

Is still retaining its high character.—United Service Gazette.

A Prospectus will be forwarded on application to the Rev. Dr. Emerton, the principal.

NOVEL METHOD OF CONNECTING AND FILING PAPERS, &c.

THE NEW FRENCH PATENT EYELET MACHINES,

Supplied by Command to Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and now used in Her Majesty's Treasury Chambers, by the principal Railway, Insurance, and other Public Companies, by numerous professional and literary gentlemen; by the Library Committee of the Junior United Service Club, &c. &c., are to be had only of

MR. A. F. WALDEN,

2, Stratford-place, Camden-square, N.W., London.

Cash price 15*s*. each, complete with all cut catenas.

Orders by Post punctually attended to.

See Leader, October 30th.

FOR MUTUAL ASSURANCE.

METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

No. 3, PRINCES STREET, BANK, E.C. (Established 1835.)

DIRECTORS.

Peter Cator, Esq. James Lloyd, Esq., Birmingham.
Francis Fox, Esq. Sir J. Paxton, M.P., Chatsworth.
Richard Fry, Esq., Liverpool. George Pearce, Esq.
Robert Grant, Esq. Joseph Pease, Esq., Darlington.
William Grant, Esq., Portsmouth.
George Harker, Esq. Henry Sturt, Esq.
Sir Benjamin Hawkes, K.C.B. J. Ingram Travers, Esq.
Frazer B. Henshaw, Esq. Joseph Underwood, Esq.
John Laurence, Esq. George Vaughan, Esq.
William J. Lescher, Esq. (By rotation.)

EX-DIRECTORS. Daniel Burgess, Junr., Esq., Bristol.

James Dawson, Esq.

The ENTIRE PROFITS are applied exclusively to the reduction of the ANNUAL PREMIUMS of Members of Five Years' Standing.

The SUM ASSURED exceeds.....£3,000,000

ANNUAL PREMIUMS.....105,000

ACCUMULATED CAPITAL.....840,000

ANNUAL INTEREST thereof (clear of Income Tax).....36,000

REDUCTION OF ANNUAL PREMIUMS already allowed.....390,000

The Rate of Reduction for the Current Year is FIFTY-ONE PER CENT.

HENRY MARSHAL, Actuary.

1st Dec., 1858.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

ROYAL-EXCHANGE ASSURANCE,

August, 1858.

Life Policies effected during the present year on the participating scale will entitle their holders to share in the division of Profits at the end of the year 1860, provided the assurances continue in force.

FURTHER BONUSES will be declared at the end of EVERY FIVE YEARS.

ACCIDENTS ARE OF DAILY OCCURRENCE.

Insurance data show that ONE PERSON in every FIFTEEN is more or less injured by Accident yearly.

An Annual Payment of £3 secures

A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF £6 PER WEEK

IN THE EVENT OF INJURY, OR

£1000 IN CASE OF DEATH, FROM

ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

By a policy in the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,

Which has already paid in compensation for Accidents £37,000.

Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had at the Company's Offices, and at all the principal Railway Stations; where, also, Railway Accidents alone may be insured against by the Journey or year.

NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.

CAPITAL, ONE MILLION.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

Railway Passengers' Assurance Company.

Offices, 3, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

LOANS AND INVESTMENTS.

WELLINGTON LOAN & INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION

(Limited), 3, Chatham-place, Blackfriars, London.

Deposits received at 6 per cent. Interest, payable half-yearly.

Loans granted at moderate rates

Particulars of CHARLES W. ROE, Secretary.

N.B. Agents required in town and country.

DEPOSIT AND DISCOUNT BANK.

FIVE PER CENT. on sums for fixed periods or at seven days' notice, or Three per Cent. at CALL.

The Right Hon. the Earl of DEVON, Chairman.

G. H. LAW, Manager.

Offices, 6, Cannon-street West, E.C.

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND.

BANK OF DEPOSIT, -

No. 3, Pall-mall East, London, S.W.

The WARRANTS for the HALF-YEARLY Interest, at the rate of 5 per Cent. per Annum, on Deposit Accounts, to the 30th instant, will be ready for delivery on and after the 10th proximo, and payable daily between the hours of 10 and 4.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

December, 1858.

Prospectuses and Forms sent free on application

THE LEADER.

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Review of the Week.

IN the teeth of those who assert that the country cares nothing for Reform we may throw the little fact, that even during this week of holidays the Reform movement has known no rest, so lively is the popular feeling, so conscious are those who have Reform claims to urge that they have much work to do, and after all, little time to do it in before the opening of the next Parliamentary session; so serious is the interest at stake, that politics have held their way during the festive week in spite of the blandishments of beef, and the seductiveness of pudding, mince-pie, and mistletoe. At Hull, on Monday, there was a large meeting at which the voice of the working men was heard to advantage. Moderation was still the law, and as Mr. Clay, one of the borough members, reminded them, they were agreeing to ask no more than had been asked by Lord Durham thirty years ago: triennial Parliaments, the ballot, a more equal distribution of representatives, and a suffrage something short of manhood suffrage, the idea of which is rapidly losing way. Of the need for Reform, the town of Kingston-upon-Thames has furnished the latest example. It is the town next in importance to Croydon in Surrey, and it is unrepresented, while towns like Reigate and Guildford send their one and even two members to Parliament. The Metropolitan Boroughs Committee has not allowed Christmas to interfere with its proceedings, but has been active during the week with its work. The week, too, has brought forth Reform rumours as well as Reform activities. It is whispered—only whispered—that there will be no Derby Bill in readiness for the opening of the session! A thought to which, probably, a wish is father, both originating with the party who have the most lively interest in making the worst of all matters for which Lord Derby and his coadjutors are responsible.

This party insists upon it that Ministers have committed an enormous blunder in sending Mr. Gladstone out to Ionis. His position is clearly one of difficulty, and the very marked expressions which have been addressed to him in favour of a severance of the ties which bind the seven islands to England were not foreseen as the probable leading consequences of his mission. But though Mr. Gladstone can do nothing but listen to the protests of the Ionian Islanders, and exhort them to indulge in no impracticable aspirations, his mission will have the direct good effect of putting the Ionian question in the clearest possible light for future handling. It is not in the power of the English Government to consent to the annexation of the Ionian Islands either to the kingdom of Greece or to any other European State; that is the only answer Mr. Gladstone can give, and that is Sir

Edward Bulwer Lytton's answer to the address of the representatives of Corfu; the Treaty of 1815 cannot be abrogated without the consent of the whole of the contracting Powers, and to those Powers the English Government has no thought of appealing. The opportunity now offered to the Ionians is to place before the British Lord High Commissioner Extraordinary a temperate statement of whatever may stand in the way of the harmonious working of the Ionian Constitution: all other schemes, the Colonial Secretary warns them, will prove to be merely visionary and impracticable.

Recent intelligence from Canada informs us that Lord Bury is making great way in furtherance of the object for which he went over there. He spoke to a very large and influential meeting at Halifax on the subject of the proposed intercolonial railway to unite the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The feeling evoked by his frank and clear exposition of the advantages and even necessity for the undertaking was highly favourable to it, and his announcement that he believed the Imperial Government would be induced to guarantee interest on the necessary capital when it was embarked was warmly received. There would, therefore, appear to be good hope of the speedy achievement of this great undertaking, the enormous commercial and political advantages of which both the Colonial Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have borne witness to.

Though not the most important item of the foreign news of the week, the renewed pardon of the Count de Montalembert seems naturally to take the foremost place. The foolish and iniquitous drama is played out, the last act being a weak homage paid to public decency, outraged so grossly in November. Count Montalembert is pardoned, and with him the publisher of the *Correspondant*, and one of the immediate results of the persecution is that the Magazine's influence is doubled and trebled. As an example, the Secretary of the French Academy, Monsieur Villemain, has just joined the ranks of its collaborateurs, and contributes an article to the number which is to appear next week.

We hear nothing further of the reported movement of French troops into the valley of the Dappes. The news from Italy also is scant. One point, however, seems to bear upon the question of the probability of peace or war in that country. It is stated in private letters from Naples that the Government was believed to have ordered an additional levy of 18,000 men, and that there was great activity in all the arsenals in the manufacture of arms.

The most remarkable item of foreign news is that of the Servian revolution, begun and ended in the course of a few days. The National Assembly, on the 21st of December, called upon the reigning Prince to abdicate. The Prince consulted the Senate, who advised him to yield to the demand of

the popular Assembly; but the Prince hesitated, and finally put himself under the protection of Turkish troops garrisoning a fortress in Belgrade. By this act he is declared to have vacated the throne, and the National Assembly have proclaimed Prince Milosch in his stead, and sent a petition to the Porte in favour of that Prince. Prince Milosch Obrenowitch, who has before sat upon the throne of Servia, has strong leanings towards Russia, and, almost necessarily, warlike tendencies against Turkey; at the same time, he is the favourite of the democratic party in Servia.

The Irish arrests appear likely to bring Government into hot water. Already we have one part of the English press comparing the proceedings of the Irish executive with the lawless tyranny of Neapolitan despotism, and not without reason. It is almost impossible to conceive what the motives of the Belfast magistracy—who are suspected of acting under order from Dublin Castle—can be, if not to foster the "ould hatred" of the Irish against their rulers. An examination of one party of the men in custody took place at Cork at the end of last week, and resulted in the committal of six, and the release of the rest on bail. The principal evidence against the men was given by the approver, Sullivan, who swore that he himself had been a member of the Phoenix Society, and bound by an oath to take up arms at any moment he might be called on to aid a French and American force which was expected to have landed in Ireland about Christmas-time for the purpose of snatching it from the English Crown, and erecting it into an independent republic. He states that upon going to his confessor for absolution, the priest refused to give it to him until he had broken the secret oath he had taken. In the case of the Belfast prisoners, the determination of the magistrates to conduct the examination within the walls of the gaol, has caused as much astonishment in England as it has caused indignation in Ireland. At the termination of the Cork proceedings, the solicitor for the prisoners thanked the Bench for the entire fairness with which they had acted; in the Belfast police-court, on the other hand, the advocate of the prisoners vehemently protested against the unconstitutional exercise of magisterial power to which his clients are being subjected, and he declared his intention to throw up his brief rather than plead in any place other than a court of justice.

In the Bankruptcy Court, on Thursday, the name of Colonel Waugh was once more brought before the public. Some time since, there was a talk of prosecuting him, but it appears that his creditors have now come to the conclusion that, much as they would like to see him punished, they cannot make up their minds to pay the expenses of a criminal prosecution out of the estate. So they take their rod out of pickle, and henceforth Colonel Waugh will probably breathe a little more freely.

Two inquests have been held upon victims of the Victoria Theatre catastrophe of Monday, and in both instances the verdict was the same, namely, that the cause of death was accidental. It seems only humane to believe that no direct blame can be laid at the door of any of the authorities at the theatre; the manager, indeed, has shown such an anxious desire to alleviate the distress of the parents and friends of the victims as will win him well-deserved esteem and gratitude. But the evil remains out of which another and another catastrophe like that of Monday afternoon may spring. This is in the utterly wrong construction of the Victoria Theatre with reference to the ingress and egress of the audience. A lucifer-match by some means ignites and sets fire to the pocket of a man or a boy in some part of the house, and the word "Fire!" or, "He's on fire!" is spoken; there is a commotion; the word "Fire!" is passed from lip to lip; the excitement becomes panic, and there is a rush to the stairs. The stairs are steep and narrow; every moment the panic-race for life becomes wilder; the six-foot-wide staircase is choked by some hundreds of struggling men, women, and children; and loss of life, more or less tremendous, is inevitable. And this may occur any night. It is impossible to foresee or to avert it, for with an audience like that of the Victoria Theatre it is impossible to prevent alarm from becoming panic fear, and there are no provisions for the safe dispersal of a crowd under such circumstances. The Victoria Theatre is upwards of forty years old, and does not meet the requirements of the present day. In fact, it is only by comparing the old theatres of London with the new that we entirely realise the abominations that we have so long quietly put up with.

TALK OF THE STUDIOS.—"If you wish to make a mess of everything, have a committee," said the *Times* a short time ago, and it has never been better exemplified than by the Committee for the Havelock Statue for Trafalgar-square. Two or three advertisements were issued, each contradicting the former, and at last, after dallying about for seven months, there appears a final request for "a statue to correspond with General Sir Charles Napier," the sketches to be two feet high;—ciphers, mottoes, sealed letters containing the estimate of cost, and all the usual humbug. It was only when artists began to inquire where such sketches were to be received, that it occurred to this wonderfully wise committee that there ought to be some place provided for the purpose, and the Suffolk-street Gallery was at length fixed upon, and two months are occupied about the selection, when it might have been accomplished in two days. The result is, as we stated last week, Mr. Behnes has been chosen, after having violated every condition laid down in the advertisement. Mr. Behnes sent not only a three-foot model, but a life-sized bust, upon which he boldly affixes his name. Another—who always runs Mr. Behnes very hard—also sent a three-foot model and life-size bust, and he as boldly affixes his prices. Statues at per foot! The manly and honest course to be pursued was to have excluded such works, to mark their contempt at such proceeding. But no! the committee divided their votes between the two, and passed entirely over the one admirable sketch marked "Volta," a work that should have had their suffrages, fulfilling every condition, and the only work eminently fitted to be cast in bronze. London will therefore have an inferior statue, and a thoroughly competent sculptor has been treated with neglect.—Mr. G. Adams, we are told, is engaged upon a model for a marble statue of General Napier for St. Paul's; and, remembering the one in bronze at Charing-cross by him, we certainly do not look forward very hopefully.—Mendelssohn is to have a bronze statue, and, it is said, to be erected in one of the parks; the model is complete, and will rival the worst work in the metropolis. How monstrous this is, when Baily is obliged to leave the profession, having literally no employment—Weeks, Foley, Marshall, Woodington, and others, some not half employed, others without a commission, and whose every production is a gain to art.—*Critic.*

SCOTTISH TALENT IN PARIS.—The young Scotch girl, Miss Thompson, who recently gained the first prize for singing at the Conservatoire, has been engaged by the directors of the Grand Opera, and has made her *début* within the last few days; she has obtained a very flattering success. *Guillaume Tell* is the opera in which she has performed. Foreign singers—especially British—are so rarely seen upon the boards of the French Opera, that the appearance there of Miss Thompson may be noted as remarkable.

ANTI-SLAVERY MEETING.—A very interesting *soirée* has been held at Leeds on this subject. Lord Carlisle delivered a graceful speech, and Mr. Baines and Mr. W. E. Forster bore their testimony to the unscrupulousness of the American slave power, and the rapid growth of anti-slavery principles in that country.

Home Intelligence.

POLITICAL FORESHADOWINGS.

THE EARL OF CARLISLE.—At the opening of the new Mechanics' Hall, Holbeck, near Leeds, on Monday, Lord Carlisle, in speaking of the opportunities which educated men had of raising themselves in the scale of society, thus alluded to Mr. Bright's diatribes against the aristocracy. This was the only point (he said), however obliquely, he would touch upon in connexion with current topics—topics on which men's minds were so busily engaged outside; but he felt it his duty to say that there was no rank or class, he could assure them, however exalted in position, however it might sometimes be represented to be in feeling—no, not our gracious and beloved Queen on the throne—not the nobles in their ancestral halls—not the clergy in their venerable cathedral—not the gentry in their comfortable homes, who to any possible extent—of course there were sometimes queer exceptions—who would grudge to the great body of their countrymen that advance and superiority which they may make by their own talents, or deserve by their own conduct.

MR. MONCRIEFF, M.P.—This gentleman has made another speech to his constituents at Leith. He said, referring to the measures of the former Government under which he held office:—"I own I don't quite understand what a rating franchise is or is to be; but I know that in 1852 we were very anxious to find some mode by which upon the valuation already in existence the franchise might be determined, in order, if possible, to avoid the necessity of parties giving in claims and proving the value of their subjects, and in order, if we could, to assimilate the mode of registration to that which was adopted in England, where the overseers for the poor, both in county and borough, made out the lists of voters. Well, that bill of 1852, as you know, met with a very cold reception from the country, and the resignation of Lord John Russell's Government necessarily put an end to it. Lord Derby's Government intervened in 1852; but in 1853, under Lord Aberdeen's Government, this question again came to be considered; and in 1854 Lord John Russell brought in another bill, in which, as I have already stated, he proposed to reduce the county occupancy to 10%, and occupancy in burghs to 5% of a rating franchise in England; and he also proposed to enfranchise every man who paid 40s. of assessed taxes to the Government. Gentlemen, I regret to say that that bill met with no more support from our now ardent Reformers than the former one had done. What is the reason that the gentlemen, who come down from the London Reform Association, choose to encumber us with a rating franchise which it is utterly impossible to carry out, while they have ready made to their hands a machine infinitely more convenient and infinitely more perfect than any they have had in England for that very purpose? I will tell you why, because the proposition was made by men who probably knew nothing earthly of what Scottish poor law was, and who never had heard of the Scottish valuation roll. The question is apparently household suffrage—at all events, a suffrage dependent upon the occupation of tenements in burghs. Well, then, I say, let us fix where the line is to be drawn. I am not disposed, and not prepared to go the length of a household suffrage. I don't think that would be beneficial to the people. It is impossible to deny that outside the pale of the present franchised class there lies a vast amount of intelligence quite as able to wield that political weapon, and from independence also, peculiarly well fitted to wield it. I say the upper classes of our working population—of the artisans, especially the skilled artisans—are persons of as much mental cultivation certainly, and often of more than those who are now within the magic circle of the franchise."

MR. CLAY, M.P.—At a Reform meeting at Hull, the member for the borough attended, and urged that its resolutions asked nothing more than Lord Durham had asked for thirty years ago. Mr. Clay intimated, in his speech, that there was a strong feeling in the meeting in favour of manhood suffrage, but he was glad it had consented to waive the point, for he was convinced that at present it would be impossible of attainment. The honourable gentleman also stated that neither he, nor those with whom he was acting, wanted such a system of electoral districts as would deprive the counties of their legitimate influence in the Legislature. As to the ballot, he said, I cannot believe that any man like myself can have represented a large town like this for many years—that he can have gone through very severe and exciting election contests, without being convinced of the necessity of the ballot for the protection of some of its voters. He continued, I do not know what Lord Derby proposes, but I do know that he is a very able man; and I do know that he has one at least most sagacious colleague. I believe that the present Government contains many good and honest men. I will not say that Lord Derby's Reform Bill must of necessity be a sham Reform Bill, or a trick or delusion. On the contrary, I believe it very likely that it will be an improvement of the present system. If Lord Derby will

introduce all that the Radical party require, I take it that I and every honest man will support him fully. But I do not think it is too much to believe that any Reform Bill coming from the present Government must fall short of that which we conceive we have a right to ask. Referring to Mr. Bright, he remarked, that gentleman had pledged himself not to found his bill upon any particular programme, but it might safely be understood that the bill would be pretty much like the resolutions which the meeting had accepted. The Radical party, said Mr. Clay, in the House of Commons are not very powerful in numbers; they have no influence at all unless they have you at their backs, but with you at their backs I believe that they are irresistible. Let your voice then be decided, and let it be heard. It will be easy to make it heard in the House of Commons, but let it also speak in such tones of thunder that it makes its way through the deaf doors of the House of Lords.

THE BALLOT SOCIETY.—The weekly meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Tuesday; Major-General Thompson, M.P., in the chair. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Baines, of Leeds, for his explicit declaration in favour of the ballot at the recent Reform meeting. Mr. Miles was examined by the committee as a witness to the working of the ballot in his native state, New York. In reference to the recent articles in the *Times*, "On the American Elective System," he admitted the existence of electoral corruption in New York City. He said that in the rural districts the political system was much purer—that the *Times* was wrong in assigning as the cause of such corruption the ballot, or the failure of the ballot. A letter was read from Mr. Berkeley, M.P., suggesting that a ballot meeting should be held in Kidderminster, to answer the anti-ballot speech of the Right Honourable Robert Lowe, M.P., and directions were given to carry out Mr. Berkeley's suggestions. Meetings were decided to be held at Sheffield, Cirencester, Windsor, and other places.

PROVINCIAL MOVEMENTS.—One or two Reform meetings have been held in South Durham, of which the latest was at Stockton-on-Tees, when the corporation agreed to a memorial to Lord Derby, praying that, in any Government measure, the interests of so ancient and important a borough and port should not be forgotten. Copies of the same memorial were also ordered to be sent to Lord J. Russell, Mr. Bright, and the members for the Southern Division.—A public meeting was held at Doncaster, to consider the propriety of impressing upon the present Government the claims of the borough to be represented in Parliament. A resolution to that effect was carried unanimously, and a committee was appointed to prepare a memorial to the Earl of Derby. A requisition to the Mayor for a Reform meeting had been prepared, but was not yet presented, it having been decided that the meetings should be separate.—At a Reform meeting at Ayr, one of the speakers said that the Reform Bill of Mr. Bright would be founded upon expediency, inasmuch as it would not embrace that complete and full extension of the suffrage which is desirable.—At Greenock, on Monday, Mr. Pryce gave a lecture on Parliamentary Reform in the New Town Hall; Provost Duff was in the chair. Mr. Pryce's address gave full explanations of the programme of the London Committee, and a committee was appointed to watch the Reform question, and convene a public meeting when necessary.—At Kingston-on-Thames the inhabitants have met and put in their claim to be represented.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Renfrew was held on Tuesday. The Provost occupied the chair. A deputation from the Glasgow Reform Association was present, and addressed the meeting. An association, on the same principles as the Glasgow Parliamentary Reform Association, was formed.—Monday evening, the 17th instant, is fixed as the occasion on which Mr. Bright is to deliver an address on Parliamentary Reform, in St. George's Hall, at Bradford.

GATHERINGS FROM LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

In April of 1856 an audacious burglary was committed at the house of Mrs. Humphreys, a widow lady residing at Stamford Hill, by four men in masks. An entrance was effected by digging a hole through the kitchen wall, when the ruffians proceeded to tie the hands and feet of the old lady and her servant girl, the only inmates of the house, threatening to murder them if they spoke. Property to the amount of 2000*l.* was then carried off. One man was convicted and sentenced to death for the crime, but the others have hitherto eluded detection. A man named Gibson, one of two caught breaking into the premises of Mr. King, Sambrook-court, the other day, has been identified by the servant girl as the burglar who tied her feet together. She is enabled to do so from the accident of the fellow's mask having fallen from his face, and thus allowing her to see his features before he could replace it.

Browning and Perry, the men in custody charged with stripping a house in Farringdon-street of its fixtures, to the value of 100*l.*, have been brought up on remand, at Guildhall, before Sir P. Laurie, where it was stated that other parties who had charges of a similar nature against the prisoners declined to prosecute on account of the expense contingent on the new scale of allowance

to witnesses. The prisoners will be sent for trial to the Old Bailey.

An inquest was held on Tuesday upon the body of Mr. J.C. Williams, who died, as it was alleged, from the effects of an unprovoked attack made upon him in the street by a gentleman named Le Lievre. The poor man's leg was broken, and a portion of the bone was amputated, but surgical skill was of no use. Le Lievre has been examined at the Thames police-court, and committed to take his trial for manslaughter. Bail was taken to the amount of 900*l*.

James Saunders, of Loughborough-road, Brixton, was placed at the bar of Clerkenwell police-court on the charge of uttering a forged and fictitious bill of exchange for 208*l*. 16*s*., with the intention of defrauding Mr. Whitmee. The defendant had ordered goods of the prosecutor, and given the bill in payment, representing himself as a landed proprietor of Suffolk. Mr. Corrie remanded the case for a week.

Two young men, John Harrington, a tanner, and Henry Bull, a porter, were brought up in custody charged with having acted as seconds to the boy Macdonald, who was killed in a prize fight at Abbey Wood on a Sunday morning last month. The prisoners were sent to Maidstone Gaol to await the preparation of evidence.

Calvocressi, the Greek charged with forging Turkish piastres, was on Tuesday tried at Birmingham. The particulars of the case have been lately detailed. Moss, his accomplice, was found guilty at the last borough sessions, but sentence was deferred. Calvocressi having now been convicted, the Recorder was about to pass sentence, when certificates of ill health were put in, and he was allowed a respite to next sessions: but Moss was sentenced to 100*l*. fine, which was immediately paid.

William Clark and his son, commission agents of Water-lane, charged with having forged and uttered a cheque for 73*l*. 4*s*. 2*d*. on the Bank of London, have been committed for trial, bail being refused.

On Tuesday morning the house of an aged gentleman, named Mellor, at West-hill, Wandsworth, was completely destroyed by fire, and on Wednesday Annie Collier, his servant-girl, was placed at the bar of Wandsworth police-court, charged with having wilfully set fire to the house. The only evidence at present is that of a charwoman, who was supplying the place of an absent servant. Mr. Ingham remanded the prisoner for a week.

Mr. Birchmore, the defaulting overseer of the parish of St. Pancras, has been apprehended. He has been to Hamburg, and only arrived in London on Monday last. He was taken to the Clerkenwell police-court, charged with having embezzled various sums of money belonging to the board, and was remanded under bail to the amount of 1200*l*. The prisoner's solicitor stated that Birchmore came home on purpose to meet the charge.

An atrocious attempt was made on Wednesday to murder the master of St. Olave's Workhouse, Bermondsey, by a man named Dennis Mahoney, who attacked him with a knife as he was entering the sick ward, and inflicted several stabs before he could be secured. The assassin was brought up at Southwark police-court, and remanded.

At the Court of Bankruptcy a dividend sitting was appointed in the case of Colonel William Petrie Waugh, the bankrupt brickmaker, of Branksea Island, whose connexion with the London and Eastern Banking Corporation has rendered him so notorious. At present there are but 1000*l*. in hand, but it is expected that about 5000*l*. or 6000*l*. more will soon be available for a dividend.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

A **SHOCKING** murder was committed at Derby, on the evening of the 24th, by a man named Arthur Bland, formerly in the militia. The name of the victim is Edwards, and the two men, who were companions, had been drinking together, when an old quarrel being revived, Bland struck at Edwards with a knife, stabbing him in the throat. The unhappy man died almost instantaneously, and the assassin was secured on the spot.

The mystery enveloping the supposed murder at Epping Forest is still unsolved, notwithstanding the careful investigation of the coroner and his jury, aided by the police authorities. The bodies of the woman and child have not been identified, and at the inquest, which was closed on Tuesday, a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown" was returned.

Mary Newell, who was sentenced to death at the Oxford Assizes for the murder of her child has received a commutation of her sentence to penal servitude for life.

The two brothers, Owen, and James Johnstone, have been committed for trial, on a charge of wilful murder, at Liverpool, for having on Friday evening struck a cartor, named James Toole, over the head with an iron bar, and injured him so much that he died shortly afterwards, the doctor stating that death was caused by concussion of the brain.

IRELAND.

Two prisoners at Cork connected with the Secret Society were brought up on Wednesday week, when Sullivan, the approver, underwent an examination, which was

resumed on Thursday. One of the constables contradicted the evidence of the informer as to the privacy of a room called the Phoenix-room, in Murty Downing's house. He stated it was always open to the public, and even the constabulary had taken refreshments there. The form of oaths to be taken was not produced, but the informer stated it verbally in his evidence. "Three of the prisoners," M'Carty, Driscoll, and Stack, had not been examined, but were identified by the informer. M'Carty, Stack, and Driscoll were discharged, on their own recognisances of 100*l*., to come up for trial when called upon. Duggan, Denis and Patrick Downing, M'Carthy, O'Shea, O'Brien, and Cullinane were admitted to bail—themselves in 100*l*. each, and two sureties of 50*l*. each, to appear at the assizes. Daniel M'Carthy, E. Sullivan, J. Donovan, M. Moynahan, W. O'Shea, and Murty Downing were committed for trial, without bail. The solicitors for the prisoners returned thanks to the magistrates and the Crown Solicitor for the manner in which the proceedings had been conducted.

The Lord-Lieutenant on Thursday morning received the deputation appointed, at the late City meeting, to present the resolutions adopted on that occasion in favour of a postal packet station at Galway.

A number of noblemen and gentlemen met a few days ago in the Town Hall, Belfast, to consider the deficiency of educational institutions in the north of Ireland, and especially the want of a high class of public schools for classical and scientific instruction. A committee was appointed to arrange for a public meeting, at an early date, of those interested in the establishment of intermediate schools, on a non-sectarian basis, with a view of memorialising the Government, and of adopting such other measures as may seem best fitted to carry out their views.

On Wednesday, Mr. Rae, on the part of the Belfast prisoners, appeared before the police magistrate of that town, and inquired when and where the investigation was to take place. He was told that the day fixed was Friday, that the inquiry would be private, and that the place would be the Gaol. Mr. Rae declared that he would throw up his brief rather than lower his profession by defending the prisoners in such a clandestine way.

The *Galway Indicator* has been given to understand, on good authority, that the report of the Commissioners presented to the Lords of the Admiralty is highly favourable to the port of Galway as a Transatlantic packet-station. Sir Allan M'Nab, one of the directors of the Atlantic Steam Navigation Company, has arrived in Galway.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

THE Christmas merriment of London this year has been chequered by a terrible catastrophe, which occurred at the Victoria Theatre on Monday. There had been a crowded morning performance, commencing at one o'clock. The management had prepared for the arrival of the visitors to the evening performance before those of the morning had left the house. They had accordingly closed the door at the top of the gallery stairs, so as to prevent either ingress or egress till the morning occupants of the gallery should have cleared away. In order to facilitate this operation a side lobby leading down to the boxes was thrown open, the stream of people descending by which would have poured out at the principal entrance, without interfering with the ascending crowd. The genuine mob of a Boxing-night began assembling very early at the doors. Long before the morning performance was over the gallery entrance was besieged by an eager crowd. These were admitted, and the gallery staircase, which does not appear to have been deficient either in space or strength, but which was wholly cut off from all available communication with any other part of the house, became densely crammed from the bottom to the top. About five o'clock—while the people on the stairs were huddled together in a compact mass, rendered denser every moment by fresh arrivals from below—an alarm of fire was raised in the upper part of the staircase. From the manager's account it would appear that the alarm was first occasioned by the ignition of some fuses in the pocket of a boy who sat in the boxes. This occasioned a rush, and the people pressing upon the gas pipes caused an escape of gas, which exploded, and increased the alarm. The people about the doors, ignorant of what was going on above, continued to force their way upward. The result was that when, after some ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, the police were enabled to clear a way to the first landing, they found there a confused and motionless heap of bruised and trampled human bodies, among which no less than sixteen were corpses. It is said that at least forty others are more or less injured. Inquests have been held upon the bodies of the slain, and the juries returned a verdict of Accidental Death, with a recommendation that morning performances should take place sufficiently early to enable the theatre to be cleared before the evening visitors were admitted.

Three lives were lost on Thursday morning at a fire in a wretched court in St. Luke's. The master of the house, named Wrench, in escaping, left the street-door open, the draught from which drove the flames to the stairs, cutting off the escape of his wife and two children,

When the flames were extinguished, the poor mother, with her baby on her arm, was found near the second-floor window, and a boy, seven years old, in a corner of another room, all three burnt to a cinder.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

THE Colonelcy of the 88th Regiment (Connaught Rangers) has become vacant by the demise of Lieutenant-General Robert Barclay Macpherson, C.B. and K.H., who died on Saturday at a ripe age after military services extending over sixty-three years.

Mr. Robert Warry, armourer-sergeant of the 3rd Battalion at Chatham, is now completing a model of his breech-loading cannon of large dimensions, for the purpose of submitting it to the Duke of Cambridge. This gun is of wrought iron and 18 inches in length, the interior of the bore being rifled on the same principle as the ordinary Enfield rifle musket. The ball to be used will be the conical shaped rifle bullet, which, however, will be covered with a composition coating of a peculiar character. The inventor expresses his confident belief that this cannon will throw a ball fully two miles, doing effective execution at 1000 yards, the gun being loaded and discharged at the rate of five rounds per minute.

According to the *New York Herald* the United States navy is composed of seventy-eight vessels, carrying 2225 guns. Only twenty-five are steamers, and of these three carry no guns.

Her Majesty's ship Shannon, screw, fifty, Captain Marten (acting), arrived at Spithead on Wednesday, having left Calcutta September 23. It will be recollected that the Shannon took a conspicuous part in India, the Naval Brigade of which so signalled themselves under the ever-to-be-lamented Captain William Peel.

Vice-Amiral Sir Andrew P. Green, K.C.H., died on Sunday last in his eighty-second year. He entered the navy more than sixty-five years ago, being a midshipman on board the *Illustrious*, seventy-four, at the investment of Toulon in 1793; also at the reduction of Bastia, and in Hotham's first action.

Dr. William Cruickshank, deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, died at Simla on the 5th ult. from the effects of illness brought on by excessive fatigue in the zealous discharge of his professional duties, particularly before and at Lucknow. He suffered severely in health, but it was thought repose and change of air would recruit him at length, and that before a few months had elapsed he would be able to resume the arduous calls on his professional attention. His death will be deeply regretted by a wide circle in the army who had the pleasure of his friendship and acquaintance.

General Williams, commandant of Woolwich garrison, on Wednesday, went through the half-yearly examination of the two battalions of the Royal Military Train, in command of Colonel Erskine.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.

INTELLIGENCE has been received from Dr. Livingstone up to the 4th of October. Writing on that date, from the Kongone river, to the Rev. W. Thompson, he states:—

My dear Mr. Thompson,—I could not possibly write you by last opportunity from the Zambesi; but there was so little to communicate, you were no loser. We have now had more time to look about us, and I think we have ascertained the point that entering this river at the time we did is nearly quite safe, if no delay takes place among the mangrove swamps. We have been favoured with fair health, and have had ailments more like common colds than fever. Two of the party are now at Tete, and the others hope to join them shortly. We got a ton and a half of coals there, the first ever taken out of the earth in that country; and as the Portuguese have shown a great deal of public spirit, we are almost sure of a larger supply when we return. My poor fellows received me with joy. They had been taunted by the Tete people that their Englishman would never return; but they hoped on, and have amassed quantities of beads, to take back to their own country. Thirty of them died of small-pox, and six were killed by a rebel chief at the confluence of the Suenya. The confidential servant of Lekwebu is with me now on board the launch, which is so small we could not bring more of them down, though they were anxious to come in service. We found the country in a state of war, and the Portuguese were too busy with that to help us with canoes. It is finished now, and my old friend, Major Lecard, at once assisted us with luggage; but it has quite depopulated the land adjacent to the river. We see the river in this month at its very lowest; and as it spreads out into from one to three miles in width, the broad parts are very difficult. When we got up to Lupata our difficulties vanish, for above that point it is in one or two channels of about 1000 or 1200 yards broad. I admire its size more than ever. When I came down in a canoe it was full, and I saw but one channel where now are two or three. If the Portuguese would be at the expense of a few piles driven in, to effect what "snags" sometimes do now, deep channels might be secured for the whole year. They are going to build a fort and custom-house at this or the Luailo.—With kind regard, &c.,
D. LIVINGSTONE.

Foreign Intelligence.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

At the election in the department of the Seine for a vacant seat in the Legislative Body, there were three candidates, and it was announced that Government left the choice free in the hands of the electors. Nevertheless, it came out that the favourite candidate with the Government was M. Brochant de Villiers. He polled 3254 votes, and his opponents fewer. But not having enough of votes to render his election legal, the election has to be gone over again.

Such of the political prisoners transported to Algeria after the *coup d'état* as have asked for a remission of their sentence are to be permitted to return to France on the occasion of the new year. Among them are M. Mulet, a member of the late Constituent Assembly, and M. Cautgril, a butcher of Toulouse.

The most important piece of French news we have to mention is a renewal of the pardon granted by Louis Napoleon to Count de Montalembert. The *Moniteur* announces the fact, and the definitive sentence of the Court of Appeal is neutralised by this act of grace. The printer of the *Correspondant* is also pardoned.

The Court of Appeal had already relieved M. de Montalembert from the only really serious consequence of the decision of the police court. He is no longer a suspect under the law of public safety; and there is reason to believe that the main object of the prosecution was to hook him into that category. The pardon will now have effect without placing him under any obligation. It is now legal and regular, which it was not before.

The correspondent at Paris of the *Daily News* adds:—"All that was said about M. de Montalembert being a 'determined martyr' was rank nonsense. He will make no ridiculous clamour to be taken to prison; he does not now 'accept' the pardon, which he would have done had he refrained from appealing; he simply remains quiescent. The pardon of M. Douniol, the responsible editor of the *Correspondant*, which is only now announced, must strike every one as a pure matter of course. But he has already paid his fine of 1000fr., and there is no doubt whatever that in point of law the pardon does not compel the state to return the money to him; whether, in fact, he will get it back or not is a curious question."

The history of the Charles-et-Georges affair has been penned by M. Rouxel, the commander of that ship, and sent to a French journal, which publishes the communication. The captain endeavours to show that the Africans he took on board were free labourers, who had, of their own will and accord, consented to serve for a term of years in the French colonies. He accuses the Portuguese authorities who seized the ship with behaving in a cruel way, adding insult to injury. Fever, he acknowledges, prevailed among the blacks on board. That the labourers really were free is by no means proved by what Captain Rouxel states; on the contrary, his letter deepens the impression that they were not free.

The nearer we approach to New Year's Day the more activity and bustle are observable in the Paris shops. Unfortunately the commercial movement is not general; it extends merely to fancy articles. The wholesale merchants and many of the manufacturers are doing little.

A letter from Brest, of the 24th instant, states that a dreadful hurricane prevailed on that coast on the 22nd. The *Souffleur*, of the Imperial navy, coming from L'Orient to Brest, had one of her paddle-wheels carried away, her bowsprit broken, and her mizen sail swept off by the wind.

The French Government is calling under arms every man that it can lay its hands upon. The entire contingent of conscripts for the year is ordered to join, and this is a thing unprecedented in time of peace. The *Independence* remarks:—"The Christmas holidays will, perhaps, be somewhat saddened in the country villages by the departure of 100,000 recruits to join their regiments."

The camps of instruction for 1859 will be unusually large. An army of 80,000 men near the Italian frontier is spoken of. On this head, a letter from Paris says:—"Should war break out next spring between Piedmont and Austria, France, it is pretty evident, will be ready for any emergency. Yet it is difficult to see what Louis Napoleon hopes to gain by meddling in the affairs of Italy, unless the old game of European conquest is in his mind. On the other hand, France is becoming more difficult to govern; discontent does not diminish; financial matters are in an embarrassed state; and the country wants some change to vary the monotony of despotism. A war once entered upon, home grievances would be for the time forgotten."

General M'Mahon has left Paris to resume the command of the army in Algeria, in consequence of the agitation which prevails among the Kabyle tribes. It is rumoured that troubles have actually broken out among the Kabyles, though the papers do not allude to the fact.

It is said that Marshal Castellane is about to retire

from the service in consequence of his advanced age. In that case he will probably be succeeded by Marshal Canrobert; and Marshal Randon will be appointed to the command held at present by Marshal Canrobert, whose head-quarters are at Nancy.

AUSTRIA.

In the *Wiener Zeitung* is an Imperial rescript respecting those parts of the law for the raising of recruits which have given such extreme dissatisfaction in Italy.

There have been "strikes" among the workmen in Bohemia, but they were soon over, as the Austrian authorities strongly object to demonstrations. If the men who are dissatisfied with their wages are foreigners they are sent across the frontier, and if they are natives of the empire they receive orders to go back to their work or to return to their respective homes without delay. It is only when the men are guilty of violence that the stick is brought into action.

Cards are handed about in Milan urging the inhabitants to abstain from all amusements at the approaching carnival season, and to save their money for important purposes. The belief in approaching war is general and strong in the Austro-Italian provinces.

On the 11th an attempt was made at Pavia to set a military magazine on fire. The gate was smeared from top to bottom with turpentine, but a guard appeared just as a light was about to be applied. The police have not yet succeeded in laying hands on the incendiaries.

The University of Pavia has been closed by order of the Austrian authorities. This is in consequence of the disaffected spirit and by the recent assassination of Professor Emilio Braccio. This unfortunate man was a native of the Austrian Tyrol, and an intimate of a certain police official named Rossi, greatly disliked, and who is thought to be in some danger of a like fate.

SARDINIA.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* publishes a decree for the construction of a bridge over the Rhone, near Culoz, to connect the Sardinian Railway line with that of France.

The result of the census taken in the Sardinian States has been published, and shows the whole number of inhabitants to be 5,194,807, being an increase of 5.67 per cent. over the census of 1848. The province of Turin shows the large increase of 12½ per cent.; that of Genoa, 13½; and that of Iglesias (in the island of Sardinia), 14½. The increase in the continental provinces has been 1 per cent. more than in the island.

TURKEY.

Disturbances have broken out in Servia, which have led to the deposition of Prince Alexander. On the 22nd the National Assembly (Skuptschina) sent a message to the Prince, insisting on his resignation. The Prince, promising an answer for the next day, withdrew for his personal safety to a Turkish fortress. In consequence, the Assembly pronounced him to be deposed, on the ground that he had left the country without a government, and must be looked on as a fugitive. The Assembly then proclaimed Prince Milosch head of the Government, and made to the people a formal announcement of what it had done. A telegram from Belgrade, dated Christmas-day, states Prince Alexander still remained in the Turkish fortress in which he found shelter. No sooner had Prince Milosch been proclaimed in his stead than the National Assembly established a Provisional Government. We hear of a military counter-revolution which was suppressed. Meanwhile tranquillity prevails. Prince Milosch Obrenovitch, who is now placed at the head of the Government in Servia, is the same Prince who was dethroned in 1839.

A telegram, dated Belgrade, December 27, says that the Senate has revoked its resolution of Friday last concerning the recall of Prince Alexander. The Skuptschina is preparing a petition to the Porte in favour of Milosch. The army is now also favourably disposed towards the latter. A deputation has been sent to Prince Milosch. Prince Milosch is an old man, eighty years of age, almost blind, but still full of energy and resolution. He possesses, moreover, an immense fortune, acquired as a merchant in Wallachia, whither he had retired. What the Sultan will do cannot be yet anticipated. There is no doubt that Austria is opposed to Milosch. Thinking him a man likely to make his terms with Russia, Austria wishes to interfere, but the Treaty of Paris stands in the way, unless the other Powers consent to such interference. The consent of Russia and France is not to be expected. Austrian troops are already on their way from Pesth to the Volvodina, the nearest Austrian province to the Servian frontier.

By a telegram from Belgrade, dated Thursday, we are informed that the departure of Prince Alexander from the Turkish fortress had been demanded, as he was regarded as implicated in the military movement of Friday. The military had sworn fealty to the new Government; the petition in favour of Milosch had been sent off to the Porte, and addresses had been presented to the Skuptschina, thanking them for the measures they had taken. A Vienna letter says the latest news received there gives reason to hope that the affair of Servia will be speedily arranged.

From Constantinople we have news up to the 22nd. The Sultan appears to be undoing the work of administrative reform. The anticipated change in the Ministry, which it was intimated would include Riza Pasha, who is the real financial reformer, has not yet taken place.

The telegraphic wire between Constantinople and Bagdad is completed, but before the line is extended to Balsora we can hardly hope that Indian news will reach us quicker by way of the Persian Gulf than by that of the Red Sea.

ROME.

Letters from Rome speak of the intended sale of the extremely remarkable collection of antiquities and works of art belonging to the Marquis Campana, a collection with which most English visitors to the Eternal City are probably acquainted. It is estimated to have cost 6,000,000fr., or 240,000l. It fills a vast number of rooms, in three or four different houses.

SWEDEN.

The Prince Regent has just dismissed the Norwegian Minister, M. Vogt, who had been in office for thirty-three years.

PRUSSIA.

Among the proposals to be laid before the Prussian Diet will be one relating to the army and navy; it is pretty certain that a considerable additional outlay in both these departments is contemplated. The attempt will now be made in earnest to create a fleet in the Baltic. The alteration in the army, it is supposed, will consist in placing the Landwehr on a permanent footing, and incorporating it into the Line, so that each infantry regiment will contain double the number of companies—24 instead of 12.

BAVARIA.

The King has convoked the Diet for the 15th of January. As this body is even more hostile to the Ministry than the two preceding Legislatures, it is thought not unlikely that the Ministers will resign. In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the new Chamber has commenced its labours by a vote of defiance to the Government.

PORTUGAL.

Don Vasco Guedes, Governor of Mozambique, has been recalled for the non-execution of the orders of the Government relative to negroes.

The Portuguese Government has published correspondence relative to the affair of the Charles-et-Georges. Lord Malmesbury is said to have instructed our Minister at Lisbon that Portugal should surrender the ship, and abide by the decision of a third Power as to the amount of indemnity. This suggestion was refused.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

In the official *Gazette* of Corfu appears the despatch written by Sir E. B. Lytton to Sir J. Young, in reply to the address of the ten representatives of Corfu against the occupation of that island and of Paxo as colonies of the British Crown. Sir E. B. Lytton says that the Queen's Government do not entertain the desire, as they do not possess the power, to make Corfu and Paxo British colonies; that it is not within Mr. Gladstone's power to consider the cession of the Ionian Islands to any Power in Europe. Sir Edward recommends the Ionians to co-operate with Mr. Gladstone in remedying existing imperfections, so as "to make the practical working of the constitution more harmonious with the natural results of self-government."

The *Times* correspondent at Corfu says:—"The more advanced Greek party, though aspiring to the establishment of a kingdom of Greece which would embrace these islands, and, indeed, Thessaly and Epirus, are not blind to the benefits of the British protectorate, and apprehend that any union with the kingdom of Greece as it is now constituted would detract from the material welfare of the Ionian Islands. This national and intellectual party, which may be said to number some of the most distinguished men of the country in its ranks, who have its real progress at heart, is, however, not strong enough to make head against the cry for union with Greece which emanates from the active agitators, who, backed by foreign intrigue, bring that principle to the van, while the Greek clergy lend the powerful influence which they exercise over the more uneducated classes to the national cause."

NAPLES.

A Naples letter of December 22nd states that a supplemental levy of 18,000 men has been ordered. There is great activity in all the arsenals.

A despatch in the *Messenger du Midi* confirms the fact of the extraordinary armaments.

The Grand-Duke Constantine arrived at Nice on Sunday, and will leave with the Russian squadron to visit the royal family at Naples.

The hand of Marie, Princess of Bavaria, has been solemnly demanded for the Duke of Calabria, but the marriage will not be celebrated before the 20th of February.

The Russians, says a letter from Vienna, wished to get Brindisi as a coaling station, but the King of Naples positively refused to let them have it.

SPAIN.

The *Gazette* of the 29th contains the decree by which Lieutenant-General Bayona and the Count of Espelida, who voted against the Government in the last division in the Senate, are dismissed from their posts as Judges in the Supreme Tribunal of War.

The clerical journals are in ecstasies at the decree which directs a cathedral to be erected in Madrid in honour of the Immaculate Conception.

Some Sunday schools instituted in Madrid, under the

auspices of several ladies of rank, have given rise to establishments of the same kind in many of the principal cities of Spain.

At Erla, in the province of Huesca, a large body of armed smugglers, who were escorting contraband goods to a very considerable amount, were recently attacked by a detachment of soldiers near Cuellas, and dispersed after a sharp combat. Twenty-six of them were made prisoners.

BELGIUM.

The trial took place at Brussels, on Monday of a M. Halloux, a writer in a journal called the *Crocodile*, who published an article on the 17th January last libelling the Emperor and Empress of the French. In his defence he quoted the *Times* and M. Montalembert's incriminated article, but the jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and 300fr. fine.

JAPAN.

The United States steamer Powhattan arrived at Woosung, in China, with dates from Nagasaki to the 31st of October. There is apparently nothing important in the news. The British schooner Vindex was entered at Nagasaki after permission of the authorities had been obtained under the provisions of Sir James Stirling's Treaty.

VENEZUELA.

Accounts from Caracas, to the 20th ultimo, say that rumours were current of projects of rebellion against the Provisional Government, and it was alleged that the late British Minister, Mr. Bingham, was prominently implicated in the movement.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Norman arrived at Plymouth on Tuesday with news to the 20th of November.

The colony was prosperous, and there was a prospect of an abundant harvest. The reduction of the military force causes uneasiness. Small-pox had proved fatal in 1500 cases, but was decreasing at Cape Town.

Intelligence has been received from Dr. Livingstone to the 4th of October. The expedition had reached Kongone River, and was tolerably healthy.

Sir George Grey returned to Cape Town on the 22nd of October, having fixed the landmarks of the new boundary between the free State and Moshes.

It was reported that, at Natal, Kreili was inducing the tribes to kill their cattle, but to plant extensively.

A serious drought prevailed on the frontier, and stock and crops were suffering very severely.

The ship, Gipsy Bride, which conveyed horses to Calcutta, returned to the Cape for another supply.

Her Majesty's ship Boscawen was at Simon's Bay. The steamship Hermes was preparing to leave Table Bay, in search of the brig Sappho.

The Sardinian ship Malabar, with coal, from London for Aden, was wrecked at Table Bay on the 6th of November; crew saved.

AMERICA.

The Europa arrived this week bringing news from Washington to the 16th of December. The Pacific Railroad Bill was engaging the attention of Congress.

The intelligence from Central America is of great interest. The steamers Washington and Hermann, on arriving at San Juan, had been boarded by American and British ships, to intercept filibusters, and the Nicaraguan Government refused permission to the passengers to pass through the country. The Washington returned to New York on the 11th, with part of her passengers; the others, after much difficulty, got over to Panama, for California. The explanations of the British officers in regard to the boarding of the Washington are said to be quite satisfactory to the United States Government.

Some of the New York papers indulge in warlike articles on the proceedings of the English at San Juan, and affirm that the right of search is clearly not abandoned.

In the Senate, Mr. Clingman had made a speech on the necessity of the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, and stated that Great Britain had applied the Monroe doctrine to the United States.

A despatch from Washington says that Lord Napier would not leave his post until the arrival of his successor, Lord Lyons, which was not expected for two months. The *New York Tribune* states that Lord Napier's influence has been exercised at Washington on the side of a slaveholding policy, and hints that the discovery of his leanings to the South has had something to do with his recall.

Lord Cavendish, Mr. Ashley, and Lord Robert Grosvenor, concerning whose safety some fears were lately entertained, had arrived at Fort Gary, Red River, in perfect health.

It is positively stated that the yacht Wanderer had landed a cargo of about 350 negroes near Brunswick, Georgia. Three men, believed to be implicated in the traffic, were imprisoned at Savannah, and the yacht had been seized by the authorities.

The last New York novelty was the celebration of Divine worship on Sunday evenings in the theatres.

The Academy of Music is stated to have been crammed on the last occasion by an audience of 6000 persons, who received the preacher with cheers, and warmly applauded him at various points in his discourse. They also grew quite enthusiastic in their applause on the singing of the hymns. The rush for seats closely resembled that for the week-day performances.

It is stated that the disputes between the United States and Chili had been nearly adjusted.

Southern Kansas is represented as the scene of much disorder and lawlessness. Meetings had been held for the suppression of outrages. The reports of abundance of gold at Pike's Peak were confirmed. An election for members of the Kansas Legislature had taken place at the mines, and a delegate to Congress had been chosen with a view of organising a new Territory.

The Pacific telegraph line was completed to Lexington, 300 miles west of St. Louis.

Captain Farragut had received preparatory orders to take command of the new sloop of war Brooklyn, and was to report himself ready for duty on the 1st of January, when this vessel would make a trial trip to the Gulf of Mexico.

By the North Briton, which arrived on Wednesday from Portland, we have a few additional items.

The New York agent of the steamer Washington had announced that that vessel would be despatched to Nicaragua again on the 20th, and that all the passengers who wished could go by her. Very few of them, however, were inclined to avail themselves of the offer.

Señor Mata had returned to Washington as Minister of Juana, in Mexico. He has, it is said, plenipotentiary powers to make treaties and settle all difficulties between the Governments.

General Houston was expected to make a speech in favour of a Mexican protectorate, and with regard also to the next presidency.

Mr. English, the chairman of the House Post-office Committee, is conferring with the Postmaster-General in regard to some general system of ocean mail service. A bill to that end will shortly be laid before Congress.

The *Washington Union*, the official organ, says emphatically that England, France, and Spain fully concur in the line of policy laid down by the United States concerning Mexico and Central America.

CANADA.

LORD BURY recently addressed a large meeting at Halifax in advocacy of the projected Intercolonial Railway. Resolutions were adopted eulogistic of the zeal displayed by his Lordship in the enterprise.

MEXICO.

ADVANCES from Mexico confirm the reported defeat of Zuloaga by Degollado at the Bridge of Iotolatlan.

The Spanish Consul had expressed himself pleased with Governor Corso's satisfactory explanation to the American, French, and Spanish Consuls, wherein he denies the statement published by the expelled Zuloagan Government, but intimates that he has deemed it his duty to make a requisition upon the Captain-General of Cuba for a vessel of war, not for any hostile purpose, but to remain in port with the exclusive object of protecting her Catholic Majesty's subjects in case it should be necessary.

General Arheaga had completely defeated the troops commanded by Colonel Puelas in the neighbourhood of Guanajuato. Arheaga had not entered the city, preferring to keep up his communication with Degollado. Colonel Puelas, after his defeat, went to the city of Mexico, where he arrived on the 26th ult. Several rich houses in the city of Mexico refused to pay the contributions demanded by Zuloaga.

The *Brownsville Flag* of the 1st inst. says that Vidaurri has organised a force of five hundred men against San Luis, which is garrisoned by eight hundred men.

A rumour was current that the United States had offered five millions of dollars for the right of a railroad track from New Mexico through Chilmahua to Sonora. The Liberals were concentrating around the capital.

"SPIRITUALISM."—Dr. Randolph, a prominent "medium" in the earlier days of spiritualism, delivered a lecture recently in New York on this subject. He says:—"I was a medium about eight years, during which time I made three thousand speeches, and travelled over several different countries proclaiming the new gospel. I now regret that so much excellent breath was wasted, and that my health of mind and body was well-nigh ruined. I have only begun to regain both since I totally abandoned it, and to-day had rather see the cholera in my house than be a spiritual medium! For years I lived alone for spiritualism and its cognates. Five of my friends destroyed themselves, and I attempted it by direct spiritual influences. Every crime in the calendar has been committed by mortal movers of viewless being! Adultery, fornication, suicides, desertions, unjust divorces, prostitution, abortion, insanity, are not evil; I suppose! I charge all these to this scientific spiritualism. I will state here my opinion of clairvoyant doctors. Experience has taught me that 65 per cent. of the medical clairvoyants are arrant knaves, humbugs, and catchpenny impostors, who are no more clairvoyant than a brick wall."

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

DE MONTALEMBERT.

PARIS, Thursday, 6 P.M.

I HASTEN to apologise for an error which occurred in my last letter relative to the result of M. de Montalembert's trial. The verdict, by setting aside the charge declared to be proven by the police tribunal, of attacking the fundamental principle of the constitution—universal suffrage—and the authority which the Emperor holds from the constitution, liberates the author of the *Debate on India in the British Parliament* from the operation or jurisdiction of the *loi des suspects*. M. de Montalembert will, consequently, not be liable to be placed under the surveillance of the haute police, nor subjected to those annoyances previously described. That I should have stated otherwise is certainly an error, but it is one which was generally shared by the non-legal portion of the community. Nor is it very surprising that such should be the case, for the *loi des suspects* is not a twelvemonth old, and it was not until the occasion of the trial that it was legally examined and expounded. Moreover, the correct copy of the verdict was not issued until within a few minutes of post time.

The result of the appeal among the intelligent members of the community can, with difficulty, be realised in England, where the majesty of the law is never profaned nor debased, where the administration of justice is pure and undefiled by the taint of political bias, and where the freedom to speak and write is inviolate. But here, where none of these things exist in their integrity, and only partially sometimes by chance or inattention, or suffering with view to an ulterior object, the triumph of M. de Montalembert is hailed with satisfaction; what is more important, it is greeted with hope and some confidence in the ultimate success of right over might. Men feel that Government, however strong it may be, is, after all, amenable to that public opinion which it cannot continuously outrage; and never among the manifold, genuine, and brilliant services rendered by the British press to the cause of freedom was one which surpassed the high-minded and pure-motived defence of M. de Montalembert. Had English newspapers remained silent, as recommended by political extremes who love their kindred little and mankind less, there can be little doubt but that results would have been very different. Without meaning to impeach in the slightest degree the purity of the judges, it is problematical whether they would have altered the first finding. It was believed up to the latest date that no appeal would be allowed. When public opinion spoke, and it could only speak but through English organs, Government recoiled from the position into which it had plunged, seeking an issue for escape, without being too sensitive as to the amount of dirt that might cling to it. The strictures of English papers were known to have the concurrence and approval of all that was honest and intelligent in Europe. To prevent the appeal, or to get rid of the difficulty by any of those expeditious processes that have recently been adopted, was felt to be impossible. Then again the judges felt that the eyes of all civilised men were upon them, and were thereby fortified in the conscientious discharge of their duty. The happy consequence is, that there is commencement of restorative confidence in the protection of the law. Sincerely is it to be hoped that the future acts of Government may strengthen this confidence; for it is a sad and terrible thing to feel that the will of one man is omnipotent, even supposing him to be the truest and justest that ever lived. A further proof of the influence of public opinion is afforded by the announcement in the *Moniteur* of last Tuesday that "the Emperor, repeating his first decision, has remitted M. le Comte de Montalembert from the punishment definitively pronounced against him by the judgment of the Imperial Court of the 21st Dec., 1858." The announcement, I do not hesitate to say, does redound to the credit of the Emperor. It is a graceful termination to an unseemly proceeding taken by his servants in his name, but very probably without his full knowledge. It is as full an apology as can be offered from one gentleman to another, or between political opponents. Henceforth, I conceive, it will be indecorous and useless, partaking of the spirit of unmanly vindictiveness, to refer to the individualism of the case. The Emperor has publicly admitted that his servants have misbehaved themselves—for

"It is the curse of kings to be attended by slaves who take their humour for a warrant"—towards M. de Montalembert, and has apologised to him for their *gaucherie*, so there is, or ought to be, an end of the matter. That this is M. de Montalembert's view I have every reason to believe; and if he did not act accordingly to this idea after the first trial and the first pardon, it was because he would have been still left liable to annoyances previously stated.

TRIAL OF M. RAPETTI.

A trial of less moment, but not less curious, has come to a conclusion. The reader may probably remember M. Rapetti in connexion with certain reviews of Napoleonic literature which graced from time to time the

columns of the *Moniteur*. M. Rapetti is Doctor of Laws, formerly Professor of Comparative Legislation at the Sorbonne, and is now Imperial Historiographer, which, from the fact that Mr. G. P. R. James was, I believe, historiographer to the English, would require a very inventive genius. Of possessing this gift which may be of service to a romance writer, but must be destructive to an historian, and even reviewer, M. Rapetti has given abundant proof. Not only has he the greatest facility for inventing anecdotes, facts, and historical documents, but he is not encumbered with any silly, antiquated notions that might interfere with the profitable employment of his inventions, as the reader may judge. On the 20th of July, 1857, he published a review, signed Rapetti, of "Marmont's Memoirs, from 1792 to 1841." There is no occasion to mention that these Memoirs gave dire offence to the idolaters of Bonapartism, especially to those who live by its exploitation. M. Rapetti was charged with reviewing the work, but, alas! the slashing style of Mr. Croker has no imitators in France. The review was probably the dreariest that ever appeared in the official journal; a French budget is infinitely more lively and more intelligible. In the midst of the wearisome waste of letter-press, M. Rapetti stuck in a little bit of slander, which was divided between text and foot-notes, but the substance whereof was to the following effect: "A General had the unhappy idea to leave among his papers a defence, an apology, for the conduct of M. de Raguse. The General de Pelleport forgot to leave among his papers all his reasons for excusing the defection of Essonne, especially this one, that he himself took part in the defection; the name of Pelleport figures among the first with the title of General of Brigade, on an act of adhesion to the defection of Essonne, whereof an authentic copy is in our hands." It so happened that on the 30th of March, 1814, General de Pelleport was dangerously wounded, while fighting for the Empire in the streets of Belleville, under the walls of Paris. His wounds were at first considered mortal, and he was so totally incapacitated by them from any physical or mental action whatsoever, that it was materially impossible for him to have had anything to do with the defection, as it is called, which occurred at Essonne on the 5th April, 1814. On the publication of M. Rapetti's libel, the family of General Pelleport wrote, complaining of the conjunction of his name with the conduct of Marmont. With that insolent disregard for personal feelings which is peculiar to literary as well as other Bumbles, M. Rapetti concocted another article in continuation of the review, which was published in the *Moniteur*, 3rd August, 1857, and tacked on to the end what pretended to be the copy of the document giving adhesion to the defection of Essonne, and which document was said to be dated "Rouen, 19th April," and contained the signature of Pelleport to a declaration that the officers of the 6th corps d'armée, under the orders of Marmont, would adhere to acts emanating from the Senate, the Legislative Body, and the Provisional Government, also to the re-establishment of the Bourbons in conformity to the constitutional Charter, and the officers promised to always take for base of their conduct the honour and welfare of their country. Even supposing this document to be authentic, and to have been signed by General Pelleport, impartial, honest men will regard it as a credit to the signers. The allies were in Paris. France was heartily sick and wearied of Bonapartism, as I will prove on a future occasion. The creatures of Napoleon—Ney, whom he had gorged with spoil, and those lacquies he pensioned and disguised as senators and deputies—were the first to fall from him. The administrators of the law and constituted authorities of France pronounced the *déchéance* of Napoleon, and the officers who adhered to these proceedings—after they had occurred, be it remembered—did no more than their duty. Were they to sacrifice the honour and welfare of France to gratify the vanity of one man, who had lost so little of his foreign origin as to be unable to speak their language correctly, and to be able to boast, "See how my soldiers love me, far above their country and their kin!" To proceed: when the second Rapetti libel was published in the *Moniteur*, the family of the dead General looked upon it as an aggravation of the first offence, and took legal proceedings in order to obtain the insertion in the official journal of a statement to the effect that the General de Pelleport was not at Essonne on the 5th April, 1814, because, on the 30th March preceding, he was wounded nearly mortally under the walls of Paris, and therefore unable to take any share in the military operations of the 6th corps d'armée from that date until its dismemberment or dissolution; that General de Pelleport never gave his adhesion to any act whatsoever which conveyed adhesion to the capitulation at Essonne, nor to any political movements of the 6th corps d'armée; and that the name of General de Pelleport could never have appeared but to the Act dated "Rouen, 14th April, 1814," which conveyed approbation to the acts of political bodies constitutionally organised, if the act does exist. M. Rapetti refused to insert the correction, but tried to avoid the difficulties and scandal of having slandered the dead by the most impudent and dishonest piece of trickery that ever disgraced an historiographer. He wrote in the *Moniteur* admitting that General de Pelleport took no part in the operations of the night of the 4th to 5th April, when the asserted defection took place, and he said that he never

intended to impute to the General an active and personal co-operation in the defection, but a *moral complicity*, because nine days afterwards he signed the act aforesaid approving the proceedings of the legally constituted bodies. So scandalous a subterfuge was never put forth before, probably, in any court of law. Such are the brief outlines of the case. The trial lasted several days, and M. Rapetti was so ill advised as to defend his own case. There is an English proverb that when a man pleads for himself he has a fool for a client, and M. Rapetti's exhibition will not falsify your vernacular wisdom. It was the most ridiculous, the most profoundly stupid, and the most offensive show-off that can be imagined. A total incapacity for public speaking, inability to collect his ideas, violent attitudes, mountebank gestures, facial distortions, confused notions, indistinct articulation, together with overweening arrogance and disgusting vanity, were paraded day after day before the court.

Fortunately, perhaps, for the widow and son of the General de Pelleport was it that M. Rapetti did so thoroughly expose himself, for the result of the advocacy of his own cause was that the court declared that the act referred to was a mere copy of many like ones that were addressed to the Government, and that the assertion as to participation in the defection was erroneous, or at least equivocating; whereupon M. Rapetti was condemned in costs, and to publish in the *Moniteur* and a Bordeaux paper copies of the judgment.

So much for the historical accuracy and honesty of the Imperial historiographer.

GERMANY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 28.

THE chief political event of the past week has been the election in Bavaria, which has resulted in favour of the Liberal party, to the great discomfiture of the King and his Ministers. This is a victory for the Liberals that may prove worse than a defeat, for we can hardly suppose that the monarch will tolerate an institution that enables his people to evince a contempt for his known wishes. The Princes of Germany, in close imitation of the ancient Princes of Italy, have hitherto appeared more desirous that their respective states should occupy a distinguished aristocratic position rather than a high political one in the eyes of the world. Enormous sums are spent to ornament their resident towns with picture-galleries, museums, palaces, theatres, and monuments, while their villages are left in the condition they were five centuries ago. The difference between a *Städter* (townsman) and a *Dorfler* (villager) is as great as that between a negro and a European, excepting in those parts of the country much frequented by foreigners for health or pleasure. Trade and agriculture are of little consequence compared with art, not for the sake of art itself, but for the fame of the thing. A constant rivalry has been going on in this way between Berlin, Vienna, Dresden, and Munich, upon the grand scale; and between Cassel, Hanover, Brunswick, and others upon the petty scale. Formerly, likewise in imitation of the Italian Princes, it was their glory to entertain poets and philosophers at their Courts, but as the modern German poets and philosophers are creatures of extremely Liberal tendencies, they are not quite so much in vogue at this moment. Lyric poets are especially obnoxious, with their everlasting "*Deutschland*" and "*Freiheit*." This is disagreeable, for what is the use of a splendid Court without a poet to sing and spread its splendour? This necessary absence of poets has taken away from the Princes one great inducement to decorate their capitals, and has forced them to seek for fame in another direction. There is now a rivalry in constitutions. We have a Prussian Constitution, and a Bavarian Constitution, and a Hanoverian Constitution, and many more constitutions, which have been drawn up with great deliberation and sworn to with ceremonious solemnity, voluntarily submitted to out of sheer goodness of heart, and solely with the desire to benefit "*das liebe theuere Vaterland*;" but somehow or the other these constitutions bring no limitation to the power but only to the faults of the monarch. All the good under the Constitution comes from the Prince, all the bad from the Ministers, for the Prince can do no wrong, nothing but what is good. Constitutions are found to be very harmless things by all parties to amuse themselves with and gain fame by. The Sovereigns of Bavaria have always been ambitious to appear well in the eyes of the world, and, therefore, they have followed the examples of their rivals, and have Anglicised or Constitutionalised their form of Government like them. They can boast of their Parliament as well as Prussia, and will make as much to-do in the world with their elections, and their budgets, and addresses, and "his Majesty's Ministers," and National Anthem, &c. Some months ago, I mentioned that the Bavarian Government intended to seek the assent of the Parliament to some additional clauses to the press law, to assimilate it with the laws existing in Prussia, which clauses had been rejected by a former Parliament. The Ministers, who expected the new Parliament would be less obstreperous, found themselves, however, deceived. The new Parliament was more resolutely opposed to arbitrary interference with liberty of speech than the other. The King, therefore, employed his constitutional right, and dissolved the Cham-

ber, not because they had declined gagging themselves, but, as it is given out, because they had elected as president a person who was obnoxious to him. The new election has just terminated, and proves wonderfully Liberal in the results. More than two-thirds of the whole number belong to the Liberal party. This is now the second appeal to the people, and the people have, it may be said, unanimously justified the resistance of the Parliament. Will the King laugh at the decision of his people and try another appeal, or will he simply dissolve the Parliament and not call another? There is little danger in either case, but probably he will be induced to let matters rest awhile, not to excite too much interest in the public mind. Anything but political excitement! There was too much of it, as the Prince-Regent of Prussia said in his address to his Ministers—the Regency question was not, in his opinion, sufficient cause for it—hinting that, unless the noise was stopped, it would be necessary to take energetic measures to thwart the evil intentions of disturbers of the public peace; in other words, the people must eat whatever pudding their Prince serves up to them and hold their tongues.

There are still authors and publishers so silly as to imagine that, because the Prince of Prussia has acceded to power, they may write and publish anything they please upon political subjects, provided they avoid slander; the consequence is, great loss of time, learning, and paper—for papers or books in any way unpleasantly political are even now ruthlessly confiscated. Thus, a few days ago, a work entitled "*An Inquest*," figuratively signifying a review of the past, was seized by the police at all the booksellers where it was advertised to be had. This is done under the reign of the very liberal Prince of Prussia, and at the moment, too, when ministerial circulars are being issued professing to relieve the press from one of its most oppressive restrictions, almost on the very day that the police authorities received M. Flottwell's circular, which informed them, in a rigmarole of unmeaning sentences, that he knew there were evils connected with booksellers' and publishers' licenses, and that he should take it into consideration whether the Legislature should interfere, and in which the police were likewise instructed to inform him whenever they felt it their duty to threaten or put the law in force against any bookseller. This M. Flottwell has certainly the knack of writing circulars which the longer you study them the less meaning they appear to contain. The above circular about the booksellers' licenses, which are granted by the Government, and may be taken away at any moment, to the entire destruction of a man's business, at first sight leaves the impression upon the reader that some real relief has been granted, some fetter removed, whereas it contains absolutely nothing more than what I have said. Some newspapers, indeed, expressed their gratitude for this great liberality on the part of the Prince and his Ministers, but after studying the circular for about ten days, they are beginning to come to the conclusion that it has no meaning at all in itself, but only what is given to the sentences by the imagination of the reader.

The rumours of war between France and Austria have been wafted northwards. Although the domestic and reflecting Northerners are not so easily led astray by mere newspaper gossip as the idle holiday-making natives of the South, they begin to feel alarmed when they observe that the rumour is considered important enough to call forth an elaborate contradiction in the French *Moniteur*. It is not so much the rumour as the declaration of the *Moniteur* which causes alarm in the mind of the commercial man. We all know, from late experience, the value of such declarations by continental States. The people have so little faith in the honesty of their Governments that the more solemnly they asseverate the less they are believed. Declarations like that in the *Moniteur* are put forth to gain time, and soothe susceptible allies or neighbours and the trading community, who might take fright at preparations for a war which, by beginning unexpectedly, would overthrow all their calculations. Up to the very day of the formal declaration of war against Russia, it was asserted by French official journals, or presumed official journals, that there was no danger of war, and that all disputes were upon the point of being amicably settled. Now, whether there is truth in the rumour or not, one thing is certain, namely, that Austria is making great military preparations, or that the papers are permitted to spread falsehoods abroad, for we are informed that the Austrian Government is purchasing horses in all quarters, and placing garrisons upon a war footing in strategic positions. These circumstances put together, if they cannot reasonably be taken as signs of approaching war or disunion, tend, at any rate, to frighten all who have anything to lose by the breaking out of war. These gigantic standing armies and continual doubts as to the stability of the Governments, are fast ruining the continent of Europe. The alarm which has been created in Austria itself has induced the Government to issue an edict to the effect that in certain parts of the country married men and only sons will be excused from the conscription. It is certain that Austria is in a ticklish situation, for she has only the most ignorant of the peasantry and the army to rely upon. United as she is by Hungary, by Italy, and Liberal Germany, a single defeat would, in all probability, prostrate her. The

Emperor of the French evinces, in truth, a most praiseworthy forbearance, which can only be accounted for by his desire to maintain the alliance with England.

Reports are rife enough about the transactions of the German Bund in the question of the Duchies, but there is slight foundation for them. They are propagated apparently for the purpose of mystifying the German press and people as to the real state of the question. We were told the other day that Hanover, who is desirous of appearing extremely German in this question, had proposed to the Bund to break off the deliberations because the Danes are fortifying the town of Rendsburg, and that the Commissioners appointed by the Diet were to transfer their sittings from Frankfurt to Itzehoe. We shall probably get a clearer insight into the state of the question after the 12th of January, on which day the Prussian Parliament will be opened. The Danes, meanwhile, take things very easily, well aware that, bluster and threaten as the Germans may, they cannot venture upon an armed intervention without the acquiescence of France and Russia. A merchant, who has just returned from an extensive tour in the Duchies, tells me that the Prussians are as much detested there as the Danes, which is attributable to the conduct of the Prussian Government during the war of the Duchies against Denmark. During the Christmas week, while the papas and mammas of Hussia, as well as all Germany, were busy amongst the heaps of fir-tree-tops and toys—just in that pleasant week when the best feelings of human nature are called into play and most men are intent only upon the ways and means of pleasing their children and friends with little presents—the Elector of Hussia made his children, the Hessians, a couple of presents, or gentle love-tokens, in the shape of two edicts, or, as his abettors or Ministers would call them, proposals to be laid before the National Council. The one edict professes to specify more clearly the laws relative to the protection of game, and this edict contains a clause which, stripped of the usual stupid and unmeaning verbiage, is to this effect:—"The gamekeepers and patrols are empowered to make use of their arms against any trespassers or suspected poachers carrying fire-arms, if on the first demand to throw down or deliver up their weapons, the persons suspected neglect to obey. In case any doubt should arise afterwards whether the demand was made distinctly or not, or whether the official was justified in making use of his weapons, the assertion of the official shall suffice." What is this but giving gamekeepers and policemen the power of life and death? Your readers, who may think that the game-laws of England are anti-Christian, anti-social, false in principle, and a disgrace to the age, will hardly credit that I have translated the above clause correctly. The original, however, sounds to the reflecting man ten thousand times worse, because it is evident that the real object is hypocritically sought to be cloaked by an additional clause, to the effect that if the officials shall use their weapons against any suspected person without first requiring him to surrender his arms, they will be punished by an imprisonment of four weeks at least, even if they have not injured him. Notwithstanding the self-evident nonsense of this, I have not seen a single remark made upon it in any German newspaper. They seem to regard the absurdity as a matter of course. It is rather rich to expect that an official who could be malicious enough to aim at the life of a fellow creature without cause, would be honest enough to confess it of his own accord. The other edict is still more audaciously regardless of human rights and free agency. It prohibits the issue of passports during the summer months, unless the applicant can prove that he can obtain no employment in his native place. The object of this is to stem the emigration which takes place every summer. It is equivalent to a total prohibition, because during winter no arrangements are made by shipowners for carrying emigrants, at least from the German ports, and during the summer months, of course work is generally to be had. The fact is, that the country of Hussia is being fast depopulated. It is not uncommon to see entire villages, with the clergyman and schoolmaster at their head, wending their way to the seaports of Hamburg and Bremen. The facilities for emigrating to a better land have hitherto maintained peace in Germany, the discontent finds in emigration a comfortable vent, and to check it or pen it up shows no great statecraft, unless the Prince has resolved to render his people happy, or, at least, cease to make life a burden to them.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and the Royal family continue in good health at Windsor. The Queen and Princesses ride and walk out daily. On Christmas-day the Queen had a dinner and an evening party. The Prince of Wales and the Prince Consort have hunted, and have been shooting this week. Among the visitors at the Castle have been the Duc de Nemours with his two sons, General and Lady Peel, and the Right Hon. Spencer Walpole.

THE PRINCE ALFRED.—All idea of this royal youth going regularly through the duties of his profession seems to be completely abandoned. The *Euryalus* appears to have been placed at the disposition of his Royal Highness for the purpose of making a state progress at

sea. At Malta he has been reviewing troops, and attending the opera and public places, amidst almost as much pomp and deference as if the Queen herself were the august visitor. How is it possible (observes the *Times*, commenting upon Prince Alfred's reception at Malta), if Prince Alfred be thus received whenever he puts foot ashore, that he can be trained in habits of subordination by the officers whom he should be taught to obey? How can his young companions ever be brought to mix with him upon equal terms, if the crown royal of England is suffered so constantly to peep forth from beneath the midshipman's uniform? We doubt not that a parcel of tutors and instructors will readily enough teach the young Prince all that books and instructors can teach him of the "learning" of his profession, but that is the smallest part of a sailor's training. How is the young midshipman to acquire habits of discipline and the inestimable advantage of self-reliance when he sees nothing around him but courtiers? If Prince Alfred be sent to sea as a royal prince, all this is well enough. Let him have observance and adulation in good store; let his eye rest upon marine courtiers wherever he turns it; but in such a way he will never become either a sailor or a man. How excellent a thing for him it would be if a stern veto were interposed between the young midshipman and all these idle demonstrations for the future!

THE REV. MR. PUGH.—On Tuesday a meeting of the directors and guardians of the poor of St. Pancras was held at the Court-house, Camden Town, to receive the report of a committee appointed to inquire into the facts connected with the dismissal of the Rev. Thomas Pugh from the office of chaplain to the workhouse. The report, which was of some length, having been read, it was moved that a copy be sent to the vicar, with a request to lay it before the Archdeacon of Middlesex and the Bishop of London. This motion was carried.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The return of the Registrar-General shows an improved state of the health of the metropolis. The deaths, which in the three previous weeks were 1738, 1531, and 1442, declined last week to 1246. The mortality from scarlatina slowly decreases. Measles is still prevalent. There were 1412 births registered last week.

STATUTES IN EVIDENCE.—Mr. James Bigg, the author of the "Student's Book for England," has had a correspondence which has elicited the opinion of the highest legal authorities, the Lord Chancellor and Lord Campbell, that the inadmissibility of statutes in evidence, unless printed by the Queen's printer, only applies to private Acts of Parliament, and that, as regards public Acts of Parliament, any trustworthy edition of them may be referred to. The opinion that the editions of Public Statutes printed by the Queen's printer are alone admissible as evidence, has up to the present time so almost universally prevailed that this correspondence may be regarded as of great importance. It is possible that the accuracy of these opinions will be questioned.

BÉRANGER.—A letter from Paris says:—"M. Perrotin, the executor of Béranger, as well as the publisher of his Life and Songs, has projected a new work respecting the poet; it is to contain Béranger's correspondence. The Autobiography had an uncommon fault, that of undue brevity, and you felt after reading it that it was incomplete, that something remained more interesting than that which had already been told. The letters of the poet will supply this deficiency. Béranger was in communication with the leading Frenchmen of the time in which he lived. His correspondence with them, as far as it has been published, is distinguished by clearness, force, and practical sagacity. It will paint, in all probability, the man better than he has painted himself. M. Perrotin, doubtless, has already a large stock of letters in hand to start with, for no one has been better placed than himself for obtaining information of all kinds respecting Béranger's connexions. The correspondence will be a welcome addition to the Autobiography and the Songs."

AN EDITOR'S APPETITE.—Did you ever see a Washington editor eat? It is a splendid thing. They say that no one can tell how they ever got the great blocks up to the apex of the Pyramids. I can tell you that the amount of solids consumed by a lever of public opinion here would astonish Champollion himself. Imagine a fat man with a suspicious shirt, greasy black coat, spectacles, and shiny trousers, rolling into the dining-room and absorbing, in the space of five minutes, a sufficient quantity of food to maintain a file of soldiers for a whole day. Then he rolls out again, smiling blandly upon the proprietor, who is only too happy to be rid of his cormorant. The next day the editor calls the house a "palatial hotel." I will ask you, as a fair man, is that enough? Really now, does it pay for the pyramid of roast beef, the cartload of vegetables, the avalanche of pudding? Can't you do something for us, to repress the awful appetite of the Capitoline scribes? The person I refer to will make a famine here, if some one don't stop him. He eats as if he were the king of the spoilsman, and was afraid that the Government would "go" out of office to-morrow. —*New York Journal.*

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting was held at Messrs. Barton's rooms, in Upper Wellington-street, Strand, on Friday evening, the 17th December, for the purpose of organising a new society, to promote the study of geology and its allied sciences. The means

proposed are—the holding of periodical meetings for reading and discussing papers, and the exhibition of specimens; arrangements for facilitating the exchange of specimens between distant members; the formation of a typical collection of fossils suited to the wants of students; a library of reference; and the delivery of short courses of lectures. It was announced in the course of the proceedings that one hundred and twenty applications for membership had already been received. The first meeting for actual work will take place early in the new year, when more detailed plans will be stated, and an inaugural address delivered by the president.

THE FRENCH "FREE-LABOUR" SYSTEM.—The *Courier du Dimanche* publishes the terms of the contract made by the firm of Regis and Co., of Marseilles, with the African labourers imported by them. The contract is binding for six years, and the blacks engage to work in the French colonies twenty-six days in each month in the plantations. In order that they may possess the means of returning to their native country at the expiration of the engagement, a clause is inserted compelling them to invest a tenth of their wages in a bank for that purpose.

EDUCATION.—The fifth annual meeting of the United Association of British Schoolmasters was held on Monday in the rooms of the Society of Arts. This association was formed to promote elementary education and the professional interests of schoolmasters generally. It aims at a unity of action among the scholastic body.

THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE.—We have great pleasure in announcing that Professor Max Müller, Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Institute of France. —*Times.*

BITTER BEER.—Messrs. Allsopp are building at Burton-on-Trent a brewery, which, when completed, will cover nearly four acres of land, and present one façade of more than a quarter of a mile in length. This is intended for the exclusive production of East India pale ale, for which beverage the demand both home and foreign has of late so largely increased that all existing means of supply have altogether failed. Recently, when the Council for India invited tenders for 36,000 hogs-heads of pale ale for the troops in India, only about half the quantity was competed for, and that chiefly by London brewers. The new brewery adjoins the railway station at Burton. There are five hundred artisans employed upon the works, which are to be completed in February. The contract for the shell of the building amounted to 83,400*l.*

CHRISTMAS IN PRUSSIA.—The Berlin correspondent of a contemporary says:—"Christmas is really Christmas in Germany. For the last week or ten days the whole mind and energy of Berlin have been absorbed in preparations for the 'Tree,' which was fêted on the 24th. Our half-dozen slips of holly over the fireplace are a shabby apology for Christmas green by the side of the whole forests of young firs and pines which have covered every square and open place, and these are not a few, in Berlin;—not sprigs, or even branches, but the entire tree; young spruce firs of six or eight years' growth. The young plantations of half a dozen English counties, exterminated to the last bush, could not have furnished the supply. For the Christmas-tree is not a mere luxury of the wealthy, or fancy of the romantic. Every family has its own. Besides the living firs, thousands of artificial trees are manufactured of wood and paper. 'You make your Christmas-trees in England of iron, I believe,' said a lady to me. The richer classes buy the presents in the shops; for the poorer there is the Christmas market, i. e., the booths all along the principal streets—not at the West-end, but in the city, where every kind of toy may be bought for a few groschen. There is a trade driven in Christmas gifts—articles neither of luxury nor necessity; of no use except to be given. For some days past it has hardly been possible to get up to the counter in any of the principal shops. The ordinary articles of commerce are stored away, and an 'Austellung' of knick-knackeries arranged, sometimes so tastefully as to make a show of themselves. Even the booksellers have to give way to the torrent, and the new publications disappear under cases of Christmas gift-books, albums, and other gilded trash, forming a literature by itself, which blazes for its fortnight, and then vanishes till next Christmas. As for the balls, concerts, music in every form, private, public, and at every price, gaiety of every description, only not drunkenness, it is impossible to enumerate them. No wonder that England appears dreary to a foreign visitor, who misses the sociable holiday-making of his own country, and does not partake in the retired domestic satisfaction with which we surround our Christmas hearth."

COLONEL W. P. WAUGH.—A meeting of creditors of this celebrated swindler was held on Wednesday, to consider the propriety of instituting criminal proceedings against him. As it appeared, however, that the creditors could prosecute him only under the 251st section of the Bankruptcy Law Consolidation Act, for non-surrender to his bankruptcy, and that the expense would seriously diminish the assets in their hands, it was resolved that criminal proceedings are, under present circumstances, inexpedient. The question of a prosecution for fraud was not considered, as that course rests more with the shareholders of the Eastern Banking Corporation.

SHAKSPEARE IN GERMANY.—King Maximilian of Bavaria has granted a sum of 8000 thalers towards the reprinting of an edition of Shakspeare according to the oldest English text extant. This edition, accompanied by critical notes, is made under the care of M. Tyche Rommson. Another edition of Shakspeare is also in progress in Germany—that of M. Nicolas Delius, which is accompanied by a very copious commentary. Three parts of the fifth volume have just made their appearance.

THE "JOUR DE L'AN."—All Paris is out of doors. Along the line of the Boulevards runs a double row of stalls, like the stalls of an English fair; and surely those are hard to please, in all small wares and all small gambling, who cannot be pleased here. Paris is out of doors in its newest and brightest clothes. Paris is making presents to the universe—which is well known to be Paris. Paris will eat more bon-bons this day than in the whole bon-bon eating year. Paris will dine out this day more than ever. In homage to the day, the peculiar glory of the always-glorious plate-glass windows of the Restaurateurs of the Palais Royal, where rare summer-vegetables from Algiers contend with wonderful great pears from the richest soils of France, and with little plump birds of exquisite plumage, direct from the skies. In homage to the day, the glittering brilliancy of the sweet-shops, teeming with beautiful arrangement of colours, and with beautiful tact and taste in trifles. In homage to the day, the new Review—Dramas at the Theatre of Varieties, and the Theatre of Vaudevilles, and the Theatre of the Palais Royal. In homage to the day, the new Drama in seven acts, and incalculable pictures, at the Ambiguously Comic Theatre, the Theatre of the Gate of Saint Martin, and the Theatre of Gaiety: at which last establishment particularly, a brooding Englishman can, by intensity of interest, get himself made wretched for a fortnight. In homage to the day, the extra-announcing of these Theatres, and fifty more, and the queues of blouses already, at three o'clock in the afternoon, penned up in the cold wind on the cold stone pavement outside them. Spite of wind and frost, the Elysian Fields and the Wood of Boulogne are filled with equipages, equestrians, and pedestrians: while the strange, rickety, rickety, up-all-night looking world of eating-house, tombstone maker, ball room, cemetery, and wine-shop, outside the Barriers, is as thickly peopled as the Paris streets themselves; with one universal tendency observable in both hemispheres, to sit down upon any public seat at the risk of being frozen to death, and to go round and round on a hobbyhorse in any roundabout, to the music of a barrel organ, as a severe act of duty.—*Household Words.*

THOUGHT AND FEELING REGULATED BY A MINISTER.—A subscription was set on foot some years since at Montpellier for a statue of Edouard Adam, a native of that town, who nearly a century ago invented an improved method of distilling, which was of immense benefit to the wine-growing districts in which brandy is made. M. Billault, when Minister of the Interior, gave the requisite authority for the erection of the statue in a public place in Montpellier. But now that the statue is already, the present Minister of the Interior has withdrawn the authorisation, to the great chagrin of the townspeople. For this curious reversal of a decision of his predecessor, the present Minister gives two reasons: 1. That Edouard Adam was not a man of sufficient celebrity to deserve a statue; and 2 (which is probably the real ground), that Cambacères, who was a native of Montpellier, has never had one.—*Daily News.*

MORGANATIC MARRIAGE.—An approaching marriage of one of the princes of the Prussian royal family with a lady whose acquaintance he made at Ems, is the subject of conversation at Berlin. Marriages of the kind have been very general among the members of the royal house. There are now existing that of the Prince Albert, brother of the King, with the daughter of General von Rauch, upon which occasion that lady was created Countess of Hohenstein; and that also of Prince Adalbert, cousin of the King, the Prussian admiral, with the celebrated Therese Essler, whose son by that marriage has been ennobled as the Baron Bammim, and received by that title into the ranks of the Prussian nobility.

REMARKABLY POLITE CORPORAL.—The young Count of Paris, who is at present at the Duke of Montpensier's palace at San Telmo, on the arrival of the prince at Cadiz, says a Spanish journal, the commander of the carabinieri and the port captain went on board: he steamed to congratulate the prince on his arrival. On the following day he sent some gold pieces to the corporal of carabinieri who had taken charge of his baggage, who, with Castilian delicacy, refused to accept them, saying he was amply repaid in having had the honour to serve his Royal Highness. The director general of the carabinieri has ordered the corporal's delicacy of feeling to be duly acknowledged.

WELSH ESTABLISHED CHURCH IN LONDON.—On Christmas morning last Divine service in Welsh was performed by the Rev. W. Evans, at Ely Chapel, Holborn, before dawn of day. This service is called "Plygain," and has been preserved by the Welsh from the earliest times of the Christian Church, in commemoration of the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night when the announcement of the angels was made to them. The attendance has always been

very numerous, and the Welsh singing excellent; but we understand it was this year considered by the oldest members to have been the largest congregation and the best singing they have ever remembered since Ely Chapel was appropriated to the Welsh service.

MORALITY AT OSTEND.—A meeting was held in this place a few days since to discuss the question of forming a gambling establishment in that place. The meeting decided that a petition should be sent to the King praying for an authorisation to found a gambling-house and conversation-rooms similar to those existing at Spa. The petition has received many signatures.

THE EMPEROR AND THE ARTIST.—M. Couture, the artist who had been engaged to paint the compartments in the walls of the Salle des Etats, has been suddenly told that his services will not be required, and is so nettled at the dismissal that he positively refuses to finish a grand picture of the baptism of the Imperial Prince, for which both the Emperor and the Empress gave him several sittings. This picture was intended to be one of the great features of the exhibition of modern artists next spring.

THE CONSUMPTION OF MEAT IN FRANCE.—It appears from an account recently published that the consumption of meat in France, which in 1812 only averaged 17 kilogs. for each individual per annum, is now 54 kilogs. In comparison to the number of inhabitants the consumption is greater in the towns than in the country parts. Paris consumes 10 kilogs. each person more than any other place. Next in quantity comes the north of France, where the average is 64 kilogs. each; the two provinces of Poitou and the Limousin are those which consume the least, the quantity being only 41 kilogs. It is singular that in the departments where the most meat is produced the consumption is the least.

M. DE MONTALEMBERT.—The *Moniteur* of yesterday announced that the Emperor had relieved M. de Montalembert from the penalties pronounced against him on the 21st of December by the Imperial Court, and that the publisher of the *Correspondant* was also pardoned. It will hardly be denied, even by those who accused the appellant of making a false step in prosecuting his claim for justice to the utmost limits of the law, and who tauntingly asked, "What has he gained by his appeal?" that M. de Montalembert has simply gained everything; the satisfaction of having vindicated the letter and the spirit of the law against the precipitation and caprice of arbitrary power; of having enabled the higher court to establish at least its superiority to the Correctional Tribunal in intelligence and independence; in having relieved himself, by judicial sentence, of the ulterior consequences of the first condemnation; in having quashed the gravest counts of the indictment, and suppressed the wanton stigma affixed to his name as "a public writer without self-respect" by the Correctional judges. M. de Montalembert may, therefore, be congratulated on the persistent courage with which he has saved his honour; and, for the rest, the "pardon" may now be accepted for what it is worth—as a confession of error, and as a concession to public feeling, not as a gratuitous and offensive aggravation of illegality.—*Continental Review.*

THREATENING SIGNS.—In Milan nearly every Sunday about two hundred cabs are assembled and then driven in procession from Porta St. Maria to Porta Vercellina, with persons inside, each having in his mouth an empty clay pipe. This demonstration is harmless enough, it will be admitted, but some of the disaffected go a little further. Thus a few days ago, a lad, while walking through the streets, was requested by a stranger to carry some glass balls, or marbles, into a neighbouring café, and roll them under the sofas. In turning the corner of a street, the boy ran against the wall, and one of the balls immediately exploded, carrying away two of his fingers. The poor boy is now in the hospital. The glass balls were, of course, hand grenades. Other boys have been supplied with syringes filled with sulphuric acid, which they squirt upon the dresses of ladies who wear stuff of Viennese make. The Duchessess Litta has had three dresses thus burnt. Cylindrical hats have quite disappeared, owing to their resemblance to the Austrian kepi. A very elegant Hungarian hat has been introduced in their stead. If people smoke in the street, a *barabba*, or street lad, is sure to approach them, and take away their cigar, for the purpose of seeing whether it is, or is not, a Cavour. If it should prove to be one—i.e. a cigar smuggled from Piedmont, whence enormous quantities just now are sent and sometimes distributed gratis—the smoker is allowed to retain possession of his property, which is politely handed back to him with the observation, "*L'è on nost Lombardo*" ("It is one, my Lombard"). If the cigar is Austrian, it is destroyed. Pipes filled with tobacco are treated in the same manner. An Austrian lieutenant, who was smoking the other day in one of the streets of the city, had his pipe knocked out of his mouth, and was forced to pick up the pieces. A riot followed, in which a soldier was wounded.—*Correspondent of the Telegraph.*

OBITUARY FOR 1858.—Our record of Deaths doing among the upper ranks of society during the year which has just closed is more than usually numerous. In the ranks of the peerage there have died since the 1st

of January, 18 in all, viz., the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Queensberry, the Earls of Ilchester, Winchelsea, Courtown, Ranfurly (2nd), Ranfurly (3rd), Morton, Glengall, Haddington, and Orford; and Lords Dunfermline, Sudeley, Clifford, Aylmer, Braybrooke, Lyons, and Polkimore, and the Baroness Grey de Ruthyn. Of these, the earldom of Glengall and the English barony of Melrose, enjoyed by the late Earl of Haddington, have become extinct, while the ancient barony of Grey de Ruthyn has become merged in the superior honours of the Marquis of Hastings. During the same period we have had to record the deaths of the following members of the baronetage: the Rev. Sir Henry Dukinfield, Sir Charles L. Falkiner, Sir James Dunlop, Sir J. W. Egerton Brydges, Sir W. Liston Foulis, Sir R. Campbell, Sir John Haggerston, Sir James MacGrigor, Sir David Wedderburn, Sir W. R. S. Cockburn, the Very Rev. Sir William Cockburn, Sir Henry Stracey, Sir J. M. Burgoyne, Sir Matthew Dodsworth, Sir Samuel Stirling of Glorat, Sir Henry Fitzherbert, Sir Philip Crampton, Sir E. N. Buxton, Sir Charles Ogle (Admiral of the Fleet), Sir John Key, Sir Charles Abney Hastings, Sir Osley P. Wakeman, Sir Charles des Voeux, Sir Henry J. Caldwell, Sir Robert Preston, Sir T. W. Blomfield, Sir Joseph Bailey, Sir J. S. Mackenzie, Sir A. de Capell Brooke, Sir J. Musgrave, Sir H. J. Lambert, and Sir Anthony Walden. Of the above 32, the baronetcies of Dunlop, Dukinfield, and Hastings have become extinct. The following Knights have also paid the debt of nature:—Sir J. H. Coode, Sir Eaton S. Travers, Sir Charles Augustus FitzRoy, Sir William H. Maule, Sir W. H. Pierson, Sir Ralph Darling, the Right Hon. Sir John Dodson, Sir Thomas Mansell, Sir William Peel, Sir Thomas Hawker, Sir Frederick Ashworth, Sir Charles Felix Smith, Sir Henry Willock, Sir George Rich, the Hon. Sir Edward Butler, Sir John Potter, Sir William Reid, Sir Randolph T. Routh, Sir Alexander P. Green, Sir Belford H. Wilson, and Sir William Lyons, in all 21. The House of Commons has lost (besides Sir J. Bailey, Sir E. N. Buxton, and Sir John Potter, already mentioned), only two of its members, Mr. M. Williams, M.P. for West Cornwall; and Mr. William Hackblock, M.P. for Reigate. Besides the above, the aristocracy have to lament the loss of Lord Charles Wellesley, Lord Proby, the Marchioness of Westmeath, the Countess of Cardigan, the Countess of Clangwilliam, the Countess of Wilton, the Hon. and Rev. C. G. Perceval, the Countess of Rosslyn, and the heirs apparent to the titles of Torrington, Hotham, Rendlesham, and Molesworth.

OXFORD MIDDLE CLASS EXAMINATIONS.—The University has accepted Gloucester as a local centre for the ensuing year, and a committee is being formed for the purpose of carrying out the necessary arrangements. The Rev. Hugh Fowler has accepted the office of honorary secretary.—*Cheltenham Examiner.*

CROWDING AT THEATRES.—Having lived abroad almost all my life I think I can point out to your readers how theatres are managed, and (in thirty years' residence at Messina, Palermo, Naples, and other towns in Italy) I never heard of any accidents, or saw any elbowing through the crowd at the doors. Theatres in Italy and Sicily are conducted differently to an English plan—viz. the box-office is open daily from 9 A.M. till 9 P.M., and later, and any person desirous of going to the performance has only to secure his seat or seats beforehand, be they in the boxes, pit, &c. All seats are numbered, consequently there is no need for elbowing one's way through the crowd, for the possessor of his ticket has a claim to his seat any time of the night he may think proper or convenient to go. But the managers of the English theatres care more for their pockets, not wishing to have the seats numbered—in other words limited—and the inevitable consequence is that people have to wait for hours behind the doors of the theatres to secure, at the risk of their lives, the best places. Let an experiment be made in some of the theatres, and let them be conducted on the Italian system, the example will soon be followed by all the managers of the theatres in England.—*Letter in the Daily News.*

THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER.—The matchless crypt under old St. Stephen's Chapel, the only part of the Old Palace which now exists, is far advanced towards complete restoration. It is now lit with gas, and workmen are busily engaged restoring its richly carved bosses and groined roof, and replacing the polished columns of Purbeck marble which have been defaced and sadly misused in centuries bygone. The crypt will once more be used as a place of worship for the officers and functionaries of both Houses; and to this end every minute detail of the original structure is being carefully restored. Its seven pointed windows are already completely restored, and will soon be filled in, as they were before the Revolution, with stained glass, representing passages in the life of St. Stephen. The crypt, when restored, promises to be one of the most beautiful, as it is already one of the most ancient and interesting, portions of the new palace.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—The Sunday evening services at Westminster Abbey will recommence on Sunday next (to-morrow), when the sermon will be preached by the Dean of Westminster.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, &c.

LITERARY CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THE shower of books upon our table has been plentiful enough, but the absence of anything of marked importance is yet a noticeable phenomenon of the present season. Of miscellaneous trifles there is plenty. A little Harlequin-like book of tricks and parlour magic, by Septimus Piesse, a pundit who hath written learnedly upon perfumes, is published by Longmans. Mr. Sampson Low issues the first instalment of a new tale by Mrs. Stowe, which bids fair not to be brighter than "Dred." Macmillan and Co. publish a new translation of the Iliad, by J. C. Wright, Esq., which is well spoken of among scholars. W. Blackwood and Sons, of Edinburgh, issue a neat and pleasant little volume of selected translations from the poems of Goethe, by those staunch collaborators Theodore Martin and Professor Aytoun; the same publishers also give the first instalment of a work long looked for, and with deep interest, "The Physiology of Common Life," by George Henry Lewes, the biographer of Goethe. Among the other novelties of the week must be named "The Life of Douglas Jerrold," by his son Blanchard Jerrold (Kent and Co.).

We perceive that a wide-spread, indeed, a general, movement against the paper duty is to be made in the coming session. It seems very powerfully organised through the country, and the party pledged to support the abolition in the House of Commons is of great numerical strength. It is said that some of the larger manufacturers intend to oppose it, ostensibly on the ground that it will only render the raw material (rags) dearer in the market; but paper may be made of many substances besides rags. Publishers are divided on the advantages resulting from a repeal, but authors seem to favour it.

The concluding series of the *Cambridge Essays* opens with an exercitation upon "Newspapers and other Writers" from the pen of A. J. B. Beresford Hope, Esq. (erewhile known as D.C.L. of the *Morning Chronicle*), in which the social position of journalists is reviewed and commented upon. Mr. Hope is quite right when he observes upon the changeable spirit with which the "gentlemen connected with the press" are looked upon, according as they may happen to inspire terror or anger; and his description of the way in which people will assure you with one breath that articles in the papers are written by persons of the very highest importance, whilst with the next breath they denounce the writer of some offensive composition as "a wretched penny-a-liner," would be ludicrous if it were not so perfectly true. We cannot, however, hold him as otherwise than mistaken when he assumes that the writer upon the public press is not received by society as if he were the member of a regular profession. Doubtless there are many men whose personal conduct would fail to win for them respect, to whatever class they happened to belong; but so far as men of recognised position and good conduct are concerned, we are convinced that their social standing is as good as if they followed any other intellectual calling. Lord Brougham—himself an old press-man—has indeed denounced them as "the members of an unsatisfactory profession," but as his Lordship did not condescend to point out the distinction between a journalist who gains his living by his pen and a barrister who performs a similar operation with his tongue, we are at a loss to understand how the one can be a whit more unsatisfactory than the other.

The *Bookseller* says:—"We are authorised to state that Mr. Robert Chambers is *not* the author of the "Vestiges of Creation." Probably what gave rise to the rumour in the first instance was the fact of some of the proof-sheets having been forwarded to him." Authorised by whom? By Mr. Robert Chambers? If so, why does not Mr. Chambers make the contradiction in his own name? Of every four persons who have formed any opinion as to the authorship of the "Vestiges" three will be found to attribute it to Mr. Chambers. His name stands against the book in the catalogue of the British Museum, and the evidence in support of that view is much more serious than the writer

in the *Bookseller* appears to be aware of. About four years ago, a Mr. Page, a skilful working geologist and lecturer, left the service of Messrs. Chambers, after having been in it for some years. A short time after leaving, this gentleman delivered a lecture, in which he openly and boldly stated that Mr. Robert Chambers was the author of the "Vestiges," and that he, Page, had been requested by that gentleman to conceal the proof-sheets. This statement, which has never to our knowledge been contradicted by Mr. Chambers, is certainly of far greater weight than a vague rumour that proof-sheets were sent to Mr. Chambers. But really we do not understand why there should be so much mystery about this work. Scientifically speaking, it was not a very decisive production, and it is probable that but for this very secrecy the discussion as to the authorship would have been long since abandoned.

The American list of novelties is full enough, though not of very important matter. Messrs. Rudd and Carlton have just published a new volume of "Lola Montes's Lectures," which are not by Lola Montes, but a clerical amanuensis in her service; also several light works of fiction, with one of a more tragic vein, bearing the sinister title, "Isabella Orsini: an Historical Novel of the Fifteenth Century," by F. D. Guerrazzi. Tickner and Fields have issued a reprint of Lord Dufferin's "Yacht Voyage in High Latitudes," and of Kingsley's book on "Sir Walter Raleigh and his Times." The same publishers also reprint the "Specimens of Douglas Jerrold's Wit" from the pages of the *National Magazine*.

Summing up such sparse literary items as we find in our note-book, it is worth recording that 1859 opens without a single public promise of a new paper, a rare fact in journalism of late years. The only change of importance is that the *Mechanics' Magazine* is henceforth to be published as a weekly paper, devoting its attention entirely to mechanical science. The *Critic* also appears in its new and enlarged form. Rumour whispers that Mr. Charles Dickens is preparing for the press a new volume of tales, and that the literary speculations of that gentleman will henceforth be confined to new publishers.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM BECKFORD.

Memoirs of William Beckford of Fonthill, Author of "Vathek." Two Vols. Charles J. Skeet.

BIOGRAPHY is to history what miniature painting is to art—the more pre-Raphaelite the one, the more full of detail the other, the nearer does each approach to perfection. History satisfies herself with the production of a great picture in which the individuals of which the grouping is composed must all form one harmonious whole. Biography isolates the individual, and makes him the centre of interest; his individuality must never be lost sight of for a moment. If grouped, his must be the prominent figure; if placed by himself, the position must be such that the lights and shadows fall upon his character, and bring its peculiarities out into the boldest relief, as the torch does the beauties of a sculptured Apollo Belvidere, or a Venus de Medici. Hence a perfect biography is one of the rarest of books, even where materials are abundantly at hand; where these are but scanty, it requires the skill of a consummate artist so to use them as to prevent the deficiency becoming at once apparent, and destroying the reader's interest at the outset. There is an old folio volume containing the letters of Erasmus, Sir Thomas More, and Vives, which has always struck us as a good study for a biographer. If we dip into its pages we are sure to stumble upon some letter of Erasmus, lively and full of wit, describing some quaint old custom in such a way, that you believe almost that you have known it all your life, or introducing some friend, with whom you at once become familiar, and are desirous to shake by the hand. You involuntarily become interested in the most trivial circumstances, and cannot divest yourself of the idea that they are actually taking place before your eyes. Of modern writers Southey approaches nearest to this standard, and his life of Nelson is perhaps the best biographical model in our language.

William Beckford, the younger, will hold a place in history far different to that which has been generally accorded to him by his contemporaries. As with Horace Walpole, greatly his inferior in all that ennobles the intellect of man, posterity will greedily amass all it can glean of the history of the author of *Vathek*, as we have done the scattered relics of the author of the *Castle of Otranto*. No biography of Beckford can be satisfactory in which but few autobiographical documents find a place. From our own sources of information we know that these are by no means wanting. Were there no others, the margins of his books would furnish them abundantly; for, like the poet Lucullus, he often made them the depository of his most secret thoughts. The Lansdown Library, the collecting of which was the pursuit of a life, still exists entire, and is preserved at Hamilton Palace by his noble grandson, to whom access is far less difficult than it was to himself. But there is another source which is rapidly becoming dried up, as death removes the parties from the scene.

When at his house in Park-lane he went to the exhibition, views of pictures, and auctions of works of literature and art. He received no dinner company, except his relatives, who used to call him "The Caliph." He went once or twice in the season to hear some favourite opera, and generally retired to bed at ten o'clock. When in town he rode, or went in his carriage about two o'clock to Jennings's, the printseller in Cheapside; then, if not before, to Rundell and Bridge's, Ludgate-hill; to Bohn, the bookseller, near Covent-garden; and at four o'clock to the house of the Smiths, the eminent print-sellers, in Lisle-street, where he would sometimes remain a couple of hours. Then, calling at the Duke of Hamilton's in Portman-square, he returned home to dinner at half-past six.

Though not very accurate, this account of the usual daily town travel of Beckford should have suggested to his biographer the obvious policy of availing himself of the knowledge of the parties referred to, who must all, more or less, retain many personal recollections of the many hours passed in his society. With those whom he knew and valued, he entered freely into conversation, and many an anecdote of his past life, or incidents in his foreign travel, would, no doubt, have resulted from such applications. But two doors off the shop of his biographer's publisher, Beckford's carriage and dogs might have been noticed, day after day, standing for hours together. It was his love of books which attracted him to the spot originally, and made him a daily visitor, when in town. Proud of the pure Saxon blood in his veins, he never for a moment imagined that by entering freely into conversation with those into whose society he was thus thrown, he was losing sight of that line of demarcation in society which he was wont to say "was necessary to keep up the dignity of *puddle-blood* aristocracy, whose adopted Norman names but ill matched with their Cockney origin."

From our own knowledge we are enabled to state that in one, if not more, of the popular novels of the day, episodes in the life of Beckford have been permitted to find a place with his sanction; and we could name one, in particular, where his future biographer will find two incidents of his early life, narrated in language so like his own, as almost to lead us to believe they must have been furnished in manuscript by himself. From what we have said, it is evident that this Life of Beckford does not come up to our expectations. The dulness of the first seventy pages of the first volume is deterring, devoted as it is to the genealogies of the Beckfords, and the tedious career of that very austere-looking gentleman whose monument in Guildhall furnishes the rising generation with an apt formula for bearding any future sovereign who may give ear to those who shall dare to alienate the affections of the Crown from its subjects in general, "and from the City of London in particular." Once beyond that, the reader will find much to interest him, and, as a specimen, we extract somewhat at length the account of an artist's visit to Lansdown, within a year of the death of its kind but eccentric owner, which displays much of his manner and the style of his conversation with those whose society was congenial to him.

He was not aware of my intended visit, and on my calling at his house one morning, his servant begged that "we would allow him to defer announcing us for a

few minutes, as he had just returned from his early ride. He was then at breakfast, and if he knew that we were there from town, his breakfast would be sent away untouched." Of course we did not wish to interrupt him. After waiting a very short time, we were introduced to him, in the front parlour of his house in the Crescent. He had been sitting, but rose up instantly as we entered, rushing towards us, and holding out both his hands.

"Well, my dear sir," said he, "here you are at last. How delighted I am to meet you in my own territories! Now you shall see with your own eyes whether all the stories I have told you about Lansdown, and which your unbelieving eyes have often betrayed to me you thought either fabulous or very highly coloured, are true or not. Come, what's your first impression?"

I glanced quickly round the room, and I suppose my looks, or, as he often said, my eyes, betrayed that I was slightly disappointed.

"What! not satisfied! Well, sit down for a moment, and then we'll begin our pilgrimage. O you of little faith!"

He laughed heartily as he said this. Those who ever heard it cannot forget the complete hilarity and enjoyment of his loud and ringing laugh. At the first glance there was little of any artistic consequence in the room. The articles it contained were all in very good taste, and "pretty" would be the term rightly employed in describing them.

After talking for a few minutes, and congratulating him on his good looks, I said that I had heard he had bought the house next him; that I supposed his books and curiosities had so outgrown his present house that he was forced to buy another, in order to have a place to put them; and I wished him joy in the amusement it would afford him in fitting it up and decorating it.

"No, I am not going to fit it up at all; I am going to leave it exactly as it is."

"But why so?" I asked. "Why have you bought it? Perhaps I have been misinformed."

"No, I have really bought it; but the reason at present must remain a most profound mystery, quite as deep as Barkiarokh and the other Vathek episodes. But don't be alarmed, restrain your impatience, and in due time you shall know all. Now, let's set forth on our pilgrimage."

He showed us first the pictures hanging in the room in which we were. Among these were several fine but small specimens of modern English artists. There was a very good sketch by West, for his large picture of Lear, which he considered, with justice, one of his best productions. There was also a curious and fine picture by an early Italian artist, Sandro Boticelli. He then threw back a curtain, for, with the exception of the outer doors to each suite, the whole of the apartments had curtains instead of doors. We then entered a library, containing some of the most wonderful copies of embellished works it is possible to imagine. It was full of unique large paper copies, with the finest *épreuves d'artistes* of the plates, and in many cases etchings and original drawings were inserted. I remarked in this as well as in every other room in the house—for, in fact, every room in the house was a library—that the books appeared to be placed without the slightest regard to order. A work of the fifteenth century, probably treating of some curious religious subject, was placed next an edition of La Fontaine, or a work of a similar period. But Mr. Beckford appeared to be able to find anything in a moment, and ran about in evident delight, pulling out one book after another, and exclaiming, "Good Heaven! did you ever see anything like this? Look at these delicious impressions!—only see the purity of this paper!—here's no trick, no retracing, no washing—everything as pure as the day it was printed."

The next room was fitted up in the style of an ancient Grecian library, and the subdued light produced an almost magical effect. Between the ceiling and the top of the book-shelves were arched recesses, in which were placed some most magnificent Etruscan vases. It was altogether a place admirably adapted for study. There were also some most marvellous books, and on a table in the centre choice productions of ancient enamelled ware. Another curtain was thrown back, and we entered a sombre passage, the only light to which was admitted through stained glass.

"Before," said Mr. Beckford, "I bought the next house, this was the extent of my domains, and the room in which I study is that we were last in, and which you most properly call a Grecian library, for so it is. Now, had I not bought this house, I should have been perpetually annoyed by the ticking of some cursed jack, the jingling of some beastly piano, horrid-toned bells tinkling, and so on. The only way to avoid this was by buying the house; and so I bought it, to the infinite annoyance and astonishment of the Bath aristocracy—an odd breed, I believe."

We turned to the left in this passage and entered another room on the ground floor, containing books and some amazingly fine specimens of china. Under the book-shelves were several drawers of oak, all, as everywhere else in the house, unlocked, containing marvellous stores of jewels of all descriptions, including a magnificent pearl necklace and an infinite number of agate and jade cups. We then ascended a dimly lighted staircase, and came to two drawing-rooms, leading one

into the other, stuffed quite full of the choicest productions that ancient or modern art could supply. The walls, except where the books intervened, were covered with magnificent pictures and drawings. Tables of the rarest and choicest marbles were strewn about in positive profusion. In the first room, close to the window, was placed, on a magnificent stand, a wonderfully-carved agate cup, the largest and finest known, which Mr. Beckford valued at many thousand pounds. Everything had its history, which he repeated in the most lively manner; for, as was often the case, he was in exuberantly buoyant spirits, and whenever a stool or a chair was in his way, gave himself no trouble to put it out of the way, but leaped over it. The chimney-piece of this room was extraordinary. It was formed of marble of a costly quality. Arches had been hollowed out in it, so as to introduce some elegant antique vases of crystal and other materials. As may be supposed, several hours soon slipped away in a mere cursory view of these curiosities; and finding that the time for his afternoon's ride had arrived, I proposed taking leave of him.

"How long do you stay here?" he asked.

I replied that my engagements would compel me to leave early the next morning. He seemed irritated, and declared that he would not let me leave Bath until I had seen his tower. Not wishing to offend him, and being anxious to see what he had so often talked enthusiastically about, I agreed to stop another day, and informed him that we were staying at one of the hotels at Bath, and that a lady was with us, whom we should take the liberty of bringing. "Then," said he, "I will send my carriage for you at eleven to-morrow morning; you shall drive up to the tower, look over it, and come back here, and tell me what you think of it; the carriage is yours as long as you stay here. This I call merely a passing call—a real visit of some weeks you still owe me, and the sooner you get out of debt the better shall I be pleased."

We took leave, and the next morning we were driven up to the tower. The exterior of this building is too well known to require description. On our arrival, to my infinite surprise I found his horses waiting at the entrance. His confidential servant was also in attendance, and informed me that "his Honour," as he invariably termed his master, was waiting at the top of the tower for me. I ran up, and he met me as I reached the top; catching hold of both my hands in his own, and shaking them heartily, he cried:

"Welcome to Lansdown Tower!" as the old women say, "long-looked for, come at last! I am delighted to see you up here. Look round; does this disappoint you? Have I exaggerated? ho! I see at once you are pleased—you can't deceive me! that's quite impossible!"

Unfortunately, the morning was rather hazy, and the prospect was not so enchanting as in fine weather it must necessarily be; but even then it was delightful. The view was most extensive, looking over a beautifully undulating country, and, as he justly observed, one of the very highest interest, as every reader of English history was too well acquainted with to need mentioning.

"When you have enjoyed this enough for one morning, we will descend; for we have some wonders to exhibit here, almost passing the bounds of human belief," he said, jestingly. Then, laughing loudly, and bowing to the lady, he preceded us down the circular staircase, covered with rich dark carpet from top to bottom. We descended almost to the base, and entered a room, of the size of which, from the outside, I had not the slightest conception.

But we are already much beyond the limits we had prescribed to ourselves when we first took up these volumes. The reader must go to them himself if he would enjoy an insight into the contents of that wonderful tower, and we can promise him that he will not be disappointed. The fairy palace of the Banou Peri falls into the shade by the side of its description. In parting with his guests we recognise the portrait of a finished gentleman of the old school:—

When we reached the steps, he gave his arm to the lady, handed her into the carriage, and waited with his hat off till we drove away.

The party then proceeded to Mr. Beckford's residence in the Crescent, and again the lover of books, of paintings, of old china, gems, and of all that is costly and rare, is referred to the book itself. We quote but one passage here, because the love of flowers was indeed a passion, a part of his nature, which he could never control:—

In some of the rooms were vases of the finest flowers, which were constantly renewed. He could not live without having them about him, and he arranged them himself in the most tasteful manner. This habit he continued when in London, and, besides his purchases at the suburban nurseries, considerable quantities were every day sent up to him from his own gardens.

After passing a delightful and instructive day, we left him; but he would not let me go before I promised to come and spend a considerable time with him as soon as I possibly could.

With all their faults, these volumes deserve to meet

with much indulgence, and we are bound to acknowledge that it is the best biography which exists of a man whose name and authority on all matters connected with literature and art are destined to be held in profound respect by remotest posterity. To the author our thanks are therefore justly due for having preserved many fleeting memorials of this extraordinary man, who, scorning the world's aspersions, spurned it from him, living in an Art-world of his own, beloved and cherished by those who knew him, and whose death was sincerely mourned by the poor around, for he was liberal and kind to all who were really in necessity and want. Though he gave large sums away in charity, he would never suffer his name to appear in printed lists of subscriptions, which he called "advertising good deeds, which ought to be done in secret." To such an extent did he carry his feeling, that, even if he sent relief, often to a considerable amount, to private persons, he enjoined the greatest secrecy, forbidding, at the same time, all acknowledgment of the gift. His liberality to street beggars was well known, and the story of his throwing a handful of silver and gold into the hat of a poor cripple, with the words, "Indeed, you are an object of charity!" is mentioned at page 298 of the second volume. In town he never went out without a considerable sum in silver, loose in his pocket, all of which had first been washed by his confidential servant, which he freely distributed to the poor as he rode along. His domestics had all grown old in his service, and those who recollect his house in Lansdown-crescent cannot fail to call to mind two in particular, Pero the dwarf, his old porter at Fonthill, and Vincent the gardener, who had planted a great part of its grounds. He had the power of attaching persons to him in a far greater degree than most men, and very few have ever been more beloved by their tenantry and servants, than he was both at Fonthill and Bath. He died in his eighty-fifth year, on the 2nd of May, 1814, the Duchess of Hamilton, who was present, closing his eyes. The world has styled him an infidel, yet there are many still living who know how kindly, in the hour of adversity, he would assist them, not only with money but advice, urging them to hope, and adding, "Aid yourself if you can, but never mistrust Providence."

PROVERBS WITH PICTURES.

Proverbs with Pictures. By Charles H. Bennett.

Chapman and Hall.

SINCE the publication of the well-known series of sketches, called *Shadows*, Mr. C. H. Bennett has deservedly taken a foremost rank amongst the caricaturists of the day. His humour, to some extent original, is of a reflective and philosophic kind, while his drawing belongs more to the school of Cruikshank than of Leech. Though there is a hardness in some of his sketches, and a want of grace in his female figures, he compensates us for these deficiencies by his quaintness of idea, his invention, and his abundant resources of thought. He is never vulgar and indecorous; and though he lacks that degree of observation which has made the great *Punch* artist what he is, he never indulges in a style of comic art which has the slightest tendency to coarseness.

Mr. Bennett, in his present work, has taken a number of familiar proverbs, which he has illustrated in a highly fanciful manner. "The ill-workman who quarrels with his tools," is a savage brute of a fiddler, in heavy hobnail boots, who leaps in the air, and comes down upon the frail body of his useless Cremona. The individual who is told "it is better to bend the neck than bruise the forehead," is a tall thin footman, sitting erect in his seat behind his master's carriage, and looking with calm contempt upon the very key-stone of the low arch under which they are at that moment passing. "Love and a cough cannot be hid," so the cook is found out by her mistress, because her policeman in the cupboard is unfortunately asthmatical. "Anything for a quiet life," is a lonely dinner upon the top of the pyramid of Cheops, and "necessity is the mother of invention" is shown as a wooden-leg left standing in a man-trap, while its possessor has gone about his burglary unfettered. "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing," is represented by a monkey standing before the mouth of a cannon and playing with the touch-hole. "Two blacks do not make a white" is proved by a child, who plays with the coal-scuttle with one hand, and pulls over the inkstand on his head with the

other. "The course of true love never did run smooth," is illustrated by a fat runaway, or rather crawl-away pair, who are making for the church on an old horse who seems asleep, and who treads gingerly upon loose blocks of stone, like the stepping-stones of a brook. We wind up with "All's well that ends well," in which the actors on a stage seem all to have been killed, for they lie on their backs, with their feet projecting beneath the curtain.

These descriptions will give some faint idea of the design of the book, though a dash of the pencil can convey more than a page of writing. The book is intended for the drawing-room table, and the engravings are printed on the finest paper. The notions of the artist do not always lie broadly upon the surface, and a second or third inspection of the pictures will bring out much that is not seen in the first. We might suggest to Mr. Bennett that he has portrayed pigs too often, and that he has shown a strong disposition to dwell upon the conventional idea of the battered, crape-circled, white sheriff's officer's hat; but taking the book altogether, it is calculated to advance the well-earned reputation of the author of *Shadows*.

DEBORAH'S DIARY.

Deborah's Diary. A Sequel to "Mary Powell."

A. Hall, Virtue, and Co.

THE quaint narrative of *Mary Powell*—afterwards Mrs. Milton—with its ancient binding, type, and spelling, is not likely to be forgotten by readers of literary taste and poetic associations. And here is a sequel thereto; we have *Deborah's Diary*, the diary of Milton's daughter, the blind poet's chief amanuensis. There is something marvellous in the facility with which the author has impersonated the filial journalist, her secret feelings, her suppressed aspirations, her docility, her restlessness, her reverence, and yet her free-thinking, and all those opposite moods which a daughter so placed with such a father and such a stepmother would naturally experience. Her sisters, the stepmother, and the mischievous maid-servant are also sketched in with admirable effect. There is no force, no ostentation in the introduction of minute traits, but all take their place in the easiest and most orderly manner. It is a moving picture of Milton's domestic life, charming in itself, and wondrously suggestive.

The mighty poet is here no hero, but a poor blind man, dependent on his daughter for the register of his mental operations—loved, but little respected by his wife, who suffers too much from the sting of poverty to be able to believe in her husband's greatness—and a rather irascible parent to his daughters Mary and Anne, somewhat less gifted than Deborah, the latter, too, being slightly deformed. Such is the group, a perfectly natural one, hiding the greatness that it really contained. The moral of the whole is couched in a few sentences. They are beautiful sentences, and worth quoting, if only for the concluding image, which is remarkably happy:—

I grieve to think *Mary* can sometimes be a little spiteful as well as undutiful. She is ill at her Pen, and having To-day made some blunder, for which Father chid her, not overmuch, she rudely made Answer, "I never had a Writing-master." *Betty*, being by, treasured up, as I could see, this ill-natured Speech; and 'twas unfair too; for, if we never had a Writing-master, yet my Aunt *Agar* taught us; and 'twas our own Fault if we improved no more. Indeed, we have had a scrambling Sort of Education; but, in many respects, our Advantages have exceeded those of many young Women; and among them I reckon, first and foremost, continuall Intercourse with a superior mind.—If a Piece of mere Leather, by frequent Contact with Silver, acquires a certain Portion of the pure and bright Metal; sure, the Children of a gifted Parent must, by the Collision of their Minds, insensibly as 'twere, imbibe somewhat of his finer parts. *Ned Phillips*, indeed, sayth, we are like People living so close under a big Mountain, as not to know how high it is; but I think we.....at least, I do.

Yes, yes; that was a grand thing to make the filial Deborah set down in her diary, and throws a commanding light on the whole subject. Under its direction, the author leads us to interpret Milton's conduct towards his children, particularly in the matter of "the nuncupative will," and to relieve them from the aspersion of having acted "unkindly" towards their father. The falsehood of *Betty Fisher's* evidence is, in particular, demonstrated, and Deborah's motives for leaving the paternal roof are cleared of all suspicion. The solution is, indeed, easy enough of the whole.

Given a blind old poet with a third wife, and his three daughters restive under the dominion of a stingy stepmother, and the answer is precisely as Deborah states it.

The household is, as we have said, most faithfully depicted; but what say we of its central figure? Here have we Milton; not, as we have already intimated, as a hero, but a man. The portrait is, truly, most human and touching. He meets us at the very opening of the book—"Father in his tall arm-chair, quite upright, as his fashion is when very thoughtfull"—proposing to make himself and children, in the absence of the stepmother, comfortable with some egg-flip, and chatting about the fairies, and his use of the god Pan in his "Hymn on the Nativity," and his conversations with Charles Diodati, and other details of his former days. We next have him waking up Deborah at night, to jot down some new verses of his immortal poem. Soon after, the stepmother, an illiterate woman, appears on the scene; but even to her, though annoyed, he is considerate. Then come news of the plague, and the desirability of their retiring to Chalfont to escape its perils; all the preliminaries of the journey, and the magnanimous bearing of the ever-patient, though sometimes angered and ever much-persecuted Bard. A thousand touches are thrown in, which bring out the character, clearly, distinctly, admirably. In a word, the readers of *Mary Powell* must read this sequel. The one book is incomplete without the other. Of the two, the present, perhaps, is the more artistic. We detect, here and there, a few modern phrases; but this is a defect that is inevitable. In other regards, the book is almost faultless.

BALLADS AND SONGS.

Ballads and Songs.—By Edward Capern, Rural postman of Bideford, Devon.

W. Kent and Co.

THE distinction made by the German critics between the Singer and the Poet becomes more needful with the extension of intelligence. Wherever a man has begot the love of reading and the habit of writing, with an education limited in other respects, it is natural for him to express himself in lyrical measures. It is thus he registers his rising thoughts, his momentary feelings, his casual observations. No learning is demanded for all this; nothing but so much poetical diction as may be gathered even from the popular songs of a district. A little practice will give a certain degree of facility of expression, and, with a little encouragement from a friendly, however humble circle, a sensitive thinker may easily acquire a local reputation as a singer: add to all this some probable accidental patronage, and he may rise into a sort of fame as such; productions thus generated are properly enough esteemed as songs, it is not necessary that they should rise to the dignity of poems.

Poetry, properly so called, requires something more; and the poet, truly so named, is a far higher style of man. Not only the aptitude for lyrical expression is demanded, but such a cultivation in the art of metrical composition that the widest ranges of knowledge and the deepest reaches of philosophy may readily find a place, in the best order and method, with the most eloquent utterance that the poetic mind can invent. Poetry produced under these conditions is fairly the subject of criticism, but the effusion of the singer appeals to sympathy; it demands neither admiration nor analysis, but simply support and recognition.

Among the latest of this class may be honourably ranked Mr. Capern, the Devonshire postman, who has received considerable patronage for a volume of spontaneous effusions published not long ago. Of that volume he now sensibly observes, in his preface to the present, that its favourable reception was due to a kindly sense of its author's difficulties; but that in a second venture the case is changed. "It is not the Postman," he says, "but the Poet, whom critics will now review." The meaning of this is good, though the phrase is a little too fast. Concurring in all the praise bestowed on his former productions, and in much that the present will deservedly command, we are compelled to observe that, were he yet taken at his word, he would be unjustly treated. It is not as the Poet that Mr. Capern can yet safely invite attention at present; and perhaps always he must be content with the humbler, but still highly honourable, appellation of the Singer. Nor will he be confident, demur to the proposed arrangement; for he seems to have been conscious of the truth we are enforcing, when writing his preface. In this the author states that his rustic songs "should be judged as songs, originally written to be sung rather than to be read." Furthermore, he tells us, that "he has endeavoured to illustrate that singing element which still lingers in the northern

district of his native country." Such, in his own words, are the author's simple claims, and it would be absurdly unjust towards him to overstate them, or to mistake his verses for more than they are.

Mr. Capern's songs are distinguished for their sweetness and cheerfulness. They are also to be regarded for the fitness to the themes which they treat. The singer is not ambitious of being a political reformer, whether in Church or State; but he is content with celebrating the natural aspects of things, all of which appear to him to be equally good, whether the objects of nature or the customs of the village are to be regarded. He sympathises thoroughly with country folk. He enters into their sports, their loves, their humble hopes and fears, their difficulties and dangers. He would see, likewise, their social position improved, but is not solicitous to bring into strong relief the contrast between them and the wealthy classes. The latter, indeed, he accredits with a sincere desire to help them in every possible way; nay, it is clear he has a reverence for rank and riches. He dedicates his book to Miss Burdett Coutts; and probably ascribes her "large-hearted benevolence" to every member of the Order to which she belongs. Mr. Capern is not only a sweet singer, but one perfectly inoffensive and innocent.

OUR VETERANS OF 1852.

Our Veterans of 1852. By a Regimental Officer.

C. J. Skeet.

THE "Regimental Officer" should have given us his experiences a little earlier. The disasters and disgraces of Sebastopol are by this time a well-worn story. Three years have served to blunt the appetite and the resentment of the nation towards details of national or rather of official failure. The discussions and investigations which have occurred have pretty well laid bare the sources of our mishaps, and the harrowing and humiliating tale of the dreadful sufferings of our brave soldiers, which prudence and foresight might have mitigated, if they could not wholly have prevented, is pretty familiar to all. But still personal experiences will continue to be welcome. They either add something to our previously large stock of information, or they corroborate facts which have been made public through other sources. The present volume will be valuable in this point of view. We cannot doubt that we have the results of actual experience; and though a good part of the book is evidently made up from newspaper statements and official inquiries, enough of originality is to be found to cause the work to be widely read, and to be found deeply interesting. The narrative commences with the embarkation of the troops for Malta, and closes just after the battle of Inkermann and the storm in the Black Sea. The writer possesses great descriptive powers; he has the rare talent of bringing scenes vividly before the reader; he tells the story of the three important battles, Alma, Balaklava, and Inkermann in true soldierly fashion; and he shows with fearful truth the dangers which the British army encountered through want of proper military management and handling, and the miraculous way in which British honour and the British army were saved by stern, unflinching, unsurpassed British valour. Whenever the writer touches on purely military subjects he is at home, and he creates a vivid and lasting interest. Whenever he steps out of purely military details we have attempts at fine writing, which is the besetting sin of writers of the present day. Neither can we wholly bow to his decisions on the respective merits of the various commanders in the Crimea. The "Regimental Officer" underrates the ability of Lord Raglan; he has too high an opinion of the merits of Generals De Lacy Evans and Colin Campbell as leaders. We will not, however, enter upon this debatable ground. We have said the "Regimental Officer" has considerable literary powers; we add that he can write with energy and feeling whenever the occasion demands the exercise of those qualities. With some reservations as to style and diction, we cordially recommend this work.

A FEW OUT OF THOUSANDS.

A Few out of Thousands: their Sayings and Doings. By Augusta Johnson.

Groombridge and Sons.

TWENTY stories illustrative of men and manners in various grades of society, have exercised Miss Johnstone's pen. We cannot with a proper regard for truth tell the public that these sketches have any very high literary merit, or that they betray a practical acquaintance with the classes, and the individuals which they attempt to illustrate. Miss Johnstone possesses considerable facility of composition and a good deal of graphic power. If she would exercise her undoubted abilities on subjects with which she is personally conversant, no doubt we should have something to say of a more thoroughly laudatory character than we can conscientiously say with reference to this work.

TWO HISTORICAL DRAMAS.

Julian the Apostate, and The Duke of Mercia. Historical Dramas. By the late Sir Aubrey De Vere.

Basil M. Pickering.

It is now more than five-and-thirty years since we first perused the historical drama by Sir Aubrey De Vere founded on the story of Julian the Apostate, and recognised in it considerable poetic taste, combined with much dramatic power. There was no attempt at stage adaptation in the work, but the prevailing spirit was that of classical imitation. The work was not even divided into act and scene; the design evidently being a dramatic poem for the closet—a kind of production then thought proper enough. The form, however, was never popular, and Sir Aubrey De Vere by this and other similar productions only secured a reputation among aristocratic readers and a few literary friends. With them, as a poet, he held, we believe, a respectable position. At any rate, he deserved it perhaps more.

Sir Aubrey De Vere was the contemporary of Lord Byron and Sir Robert Peel at Harrow, where he was educated. In 1807 he married the sister of Lord Monteagle, with whom he had formed an enduring friendship. From a boy he had been accustomed to the scenery of the lake country, near Ambleside, and thence derived a faculty of description, which he subsequently exhibited in sonnets on Castleconnel, Adare, Kilmallock, and Cashel, which have obtained notice. In sonnet-writing he emulated Wordsworth, of whom he was a friend. Historical and political sonnets also exist of his composition. In 1823 *The Duke of Mercia* appeared—the second production now published in the volume before us.

This subject is treated in the form of the old chronicle play, and is divided into five parts, with an introduction. The characters and story are well enough delineated, and there is much fine poetic dialogue in some scenes. But its construction in regard to its hero is absurd. He is, in fact, the Iago of the piece, without Iago's intellect; always blundering in his plans, and finding from the first his wickedness to be his weakness, and yet claiming the reader's sympathy. It is impossible that either pity or terror could be excited for the fortunes of such a hero. Never was such perversity of taste shown as in such an attempt to excite dramatic interest. But we must recollect that this was the era of Childe Harolds and Bertrams, and these may have led the imitative author to select a guilty hero. Byron and Maturin, however, invested their personages with power of some kind; Sir Aubrey's is remarkable only for his imbecility.

The above volume is evidently intended to be the first of a series destined to include all Sir Aubrey's productions. In 1842, he wrote a "Song of Faith," and afterwards (1844-5), "Mary Tudor," his most considerable work. He died at Currah Chase, on the 28th July, 1846, in the fifty-eighth year of his age.

Sir Aubrey De Vere might have been a better poet had he been less fortunately placed in society. It is calculated that he occupied, about "ten or twelve months of his life, scattered over its various portions, in the composition of his larger works;"—the remainder was spent in the formation of a library, the cultivation of the fine arts, and the education of his children. The Muses require a more severe and sincere devotion than all this implies. His real devotion, it seems, was given to the adornment of his family residence, which, his biographer says, "became one of the fine arts, and was carried out with the eye of a painter." We must, therefore, regard Sir Aubrey De Vere's poetry as the product of his leisure—the amusement of hours when he had nothing else (not to say, better) to do—and not as the business and labour of a life, sacred to high thoughts and the noblest feelings. In this point of view, it has some merit; and there may be an intelligent few who will take an interest in the collection of his literary remains.

MOSES WIMBLE.

Moses Wimble. A Prose, Dramatic, and Lyrical Epic. Written by Himself. O. J. Skeet.

There are some works the purpose of which fairly puzzle the sharpest sighted and most tolerant of critics. It is difficult to know sometimes whether writers assume the garb of eccentricity, the same as offenders put on insanity, in order to escape execution, or whether the eccentricity is part and parcel of their literary idiosyncrasy. We have read *Moses*

Wimble with mixed feelings—sometimes astonished at what appears to be unalloyed nonsense, at others surprised at the whim and good sense which shine out boldly in different portions of the work. To attempt a long analysis of the story would be a waste of space. We will be as brief as possible. Moses Wimble is the son of an officer of good family, but without fortune. He is sent to England to his uncle, a lawyer, in charge of an old dragoon, named Whistling. His uncle is a vulgar skinflint; and after a peep into the lawyer's domestic arrangements, and a view of the miserable life the young nephew leads, the acquaintance terminates by Moses repaying the brutality of his relative by knocking him down with an inkstand. Another uncle, the Rev. Obadiah Comfort, of Buttonlump, a perfect Uncle Toby in canonicals, takes Moses into his family, brings him up tenderly, and adopts him as his son. Mr. Snuffpepper, a benevolent oddity in his way, is introduced, and so is Dr. Doublebull, a schoolmaster, to whom Moses is sent for scholastic training. When grown up to manhood Moses is allowed to choose his profession. He chooses that of an architect, and is sent into the office of Mr. Weyday, where he becomes acquainted with Stumpy, a pupil of Weyday's, and presumed to represent the "fast gent" of the present day. Moses also forms an acquaintance with Mr. Weyday's ward, one Julia Wavering; and after some time a mutual attachment springs up. A cloud comes over the sunshine that is everywhere visible. The Rev. Obadiah Comfort is accused of forgery, and put into prison to take his trial. He makes a speech to the jury, which is given at length, and is honourably acquitted. The marriage of Moses Wimble and Julia Wavering takes place, and the curtain drops rather suddenly on the story. There are endless snatches of ballads, or something intended for ballads, the paternity of which we presume will be claimed by the author of the prose, who has evidently emptied his poetical rag-bag into his work.

CHIMING TRIFLES.

Chiming Trifles: a Collection of Fugitive Compositions in Verse, on Subjects Grave and Gay. By an Oxonian. W. Kent and Co.

THESE versicles are what their author describes them in his title-page, and no more. They are trifles by a pupil-mind, trying its powers while undergoing cultivation, and disposed to look on the mirthful side of things. "Down the stream of life, floating idly on," to quote from one of his own poems, his eye glances here and there, and receives sudden impressions, which his college studies have put him in the way of recording. He has a liking for parody and pun, for the charade and the rebus, and will probably turn out an agreeable writer of light pieces.

RELICS OF GENIUS.

Relics of Genius. By T. P. Grinstead. Illustrated. W. Kent and Co.

THIS volume consists of relics of about two hundred and fifty eminent Poets, Painters, Players, and men who have made their mark on the age in which they flourished. As a matter of course, the notices can only be of the briefest description, and the selection of characters limited. The touch-and-go reader who likes to know a little of everything and everybody will find this book very well adapted to give him a good deal of information in a readable and compendious form.

SKETCHES OF LONDON LIFE.

Sketches of London Life and Character. By A. Smith, R. Brough, Shirley Brooks, Stirling Coyne, Horace Mayhew, Charles Kenney, John Oxenford, James Hannay, T. Miller, Angus Reach. With Illustrations by Gavarni. Dean and Co.

THESE Sketches have already received their meed of praise from the reading public. They are of unequal merit, but they display very fairly the peculiar style of these well-known light writers. We could wish, however, that popular favourites would not so perpetually make such violent attempts at being smart and funny, and, above all, would avoid the appearance of making a dead set at the public in their passages of pathos. The style of several of the subjects and characters is too ornate; more simplicity would give more truth, and would really make these Sketches what they profess to be—correct delineations of various phases of London life. The illustrations of Gavarni have their value, but the artist—himself foreign—has given rather too foreign an air to some of his subjects.

HOW TO CALCULATE THE VALUE OF NEGROES.—A singular but accurate way of estimating the price of field hands may be found in the price of cotton. For every cent a pound for cotton a field hand will bring 100 dols.; for instance, the present price of cotton is 10 to 12 cen. and the price of a negro man is from 1000 to 1200 dols. The price of the latter may not fluctuate as rapidly as cotton, but is not the less certain to follow an advance or decline of any duration.—*Savannah Republican.*

Theatres and Entertainments.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

WE have so little space at our command for even the brief review which may be necessary to afford our readers a glimpse of public opinion upon the various pantomimes, that we must waive all pretence to a preliminary flourish of trumpets. The shortest essay upon the rise and progress of pantomime; the most condensed reminiscences of pantomimic celebrities, from Grimaldi, the past grand master of clowns, to W. H. Payne, the *primo Arlecchino assoluto* of the modern stage; even the slightest meteorological bulletin of this most atmospherically miserable Christmas week, would be all too long. We must, therefore, plunge with what brevity we may into a rather dry and colourless report of the leading performances, and the particularly prominent features of each. We must begin with Drury Lane, the patentest of patent theatres, which has in no wise yielded its hard-won and time-honoured position at the top of the Christmas-tree. Under the constellation of Blanchard, Beverley, and Dykwynekyn, the Drury Lane pantomimes have for years been "very successful." This is a term, unfortunately, much abused; but we believe they have even been so truly so as to have been profitable to the management, which seems to us the height of "very successfulness." We venture to think the Cerberine author-hood will again bring luck to their employer. They have at all events, with becoming modesty, and to guard against any possible insufficiency of their own, allied to themselves a host of celebrities in the trick, property, wardrobe, and transformation lines, whose names we have here no room to chronicle, but who figure more or less prominently in the bills. Mr. E. L. Blanchard, the imaginative coparcener, after, we apprehend, many a dubitative dive into the off-fished waters of novelty, has brought up the "Robin Hood" ballads, and with his fellow labourers has reverentially (though at first sight heretically), put the worthy of "Merrie Sherwood" and his following into pantomime harness. To shorten his labours upon his subject proper and draw safety from the nettle danger, the cunning craftsman has made sport of his difficulties, and illustrated the agonies of an author in search of a subject, in two capital opening scenes. The rising of the curtain displays the Genius-in-Chief of Music in her native halls, attended by her satellites of the Italian Opera, English Opera, and Canterbury Hall. They constitute themselves into what M. Julien terms "a congress of harmony," and, after a most harmonious debate, secure a legacy from the old year to the new one of a full-blown pantomime. The matter is referred to a second chamber, a fairy council holden in a scene à la Watteau of great taste and splendour. Here Terpsichore revels awhile, and the audience, having expressed their delight at what we may ungrudgingly term a triumph of the scenic art, are taken into the Outlaws' Glade in Sherwood Forest. Hence, after some capital rallies of humour between Robin and his mates, we get to an elaborate scene in Nottingham market-place. Our authors have certainly not read Strutt's "Sports and Pastimes" for nothing; for with audacious—and, under the circumstances, of course proper—disregard of chronology, they have displayed their well-disciplined Nottingham roughs enjoying every sport practised in England from the *tali* of the Roman legionaries to the Aunt Sally of our modern Somerset. During the festival *Maid Marian* is insulted; bold Robin and his men come to a difference with the townspeople. The civil power interferes and a row ensues, which may terminate anyhow but for the fortunate enlistment of the forest fairies in behalf of the Knights of St. Hubert. Green Man and Still being natural and close allies, the foresters are transported to a woodland sanctuary of surpassing loveliness and bliss. But to qualify for such a habitation the mortals must be changed. So at the fairy's will the pantomime cast appears. Messrs. Boleno and Delavanti are the *Clowns*, Messrs. Milano and St. Maine the *Harlequins*, Messrs. Tanner and Delavanti the *Pantaloons*, Madame Boleno and Miss Brown the *Columbines*. All these, upon the assumption of their celestial robes, hop, skip, and jump, in token of their vast delight, and in the best manner. The fun of the harlequinade is really fast and furious. We are—thank Heaven—not too old to enjoy it; and we found enough of it here, and to spare. A brigade of Bluecoat-boys could hardly have inspected this part of the entertainment with more critical acumen than ourselves, and we are yet disposed to find no fault. Truly, there is none to find, unless it be the substitution of a new comic song for the lawful "Hot Codlings." The policeman is punished in first-rate style. The feelings of the lady who keeps an establishment for younger ladies are duly outraged. Shopkeepers of all sorts and their assistants were appropriately insulted, chaffed, and imposed upon. The colours of Old England are flouted amid thunders of applause as "warranted not to

run." The jumps of the *Harlequins* and *Clowns* are superb; and the "Village of Lilliput," in which *Clown* is besieged, like Gulliver, by an army of infants, is an excellent finish to the sport of the evening.

COVENT GARDEN.

Covent Garden and Boxing Night! What memories would not awake at such a combination of names? The time-honoured past, the recollections of *Mother Goose* and *Grimaldi*, the legends we have received of Pantomimic days gone by from our fathers and grey-haired uncles, all combine to throw a present halo of glory around such nomenclature.

English Opera and Boxing Night! This is, indeed, a strange conglomeration, a wedding of things almost, so to say, antagonistic. Music and the cat-calls, singing and the holiday shouts of the gallery to "Tom," and "Bill," and "Mate," seem as probable to meet and act in unison as that wonderful course which was once ordered for a dinner, consisting of "tripe and curaçou." But time tries all, and if, as Conway said, or sang, or wrote, years ago,

Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, no better illustration of the truth of the old humourist's dictum could be wanted than the experience of last Monday night at Covent Garden. It certainly was funny to hear, when Mr. Mellon took his seat in the orchestra, the gallery (we beg their pardon—the "gods") following up the well-deserved applause with which our English Costa was greeted with that shrill and expressive cheering which only emanates from English boys. But during the opera, gallery, pit and all were as silent as the most *dilettante* audience under Mr. Gye's management. They would not stand encores. They were right: abstractedly we think encores a nuisance, and the gallery were anxious to get at their piece—the Pantomime. Now about the Pantomime. We honestly confess to having got desperately tired of openings to pantomimes in which the whole *writing* is destroyed in its effect from being spoken by people in masks, which are more like portmanteaus than anything else, with an actor speaking through the keyhole. We are sick of good actors being compelled to talk most inarticulately, and deprived of the power of showing what we consider to be a very high art, the true art of pantomime. Pantomime—that is, pantomimic action—we confess to considering a high art, and there are few enough left upon the stage now who can embody its requirements and display its powers. Luckily, Covent Garden, this Christmastide, has not only secured the services of the most talented pantomimic family of the day—we mean W. H. Payne and his sons—but also those of two writers who, while they point their lines with wit and neatness, give full scope for the illustration of their ideas by others. We are here alluding to Messrs. Bridgeman and Sutherland Edwards, who out of the old story of *Little Red Riding Hood* have constructed a nice, jolly, amusing, old-fashioned opening to a pantomime. The story is, of course, the "old, old story" of the fight between True Love (*Colin*, Mr. H. Payne), assisted by the *Queen of the Rosebuds*, against Wealth, represented by *Wealthiana*, who wishes a dreadful *Baron* (Mr. W. H. Payne) to marry *Little Red Riding Hood*. In order to carry out this fearful wish, the *Baron*, presented with a bottle of *elixir vitae*, becomes a young man again, but, unless he wins the fair one by six P.M., must become a bear, wolf, or other beast, as the case may be. Of course he does not win the maid; of course he becomes the wolf; of course he tries to eat his former love; and of course the fairy arrives in time to prevent a catastrophe by the proper transformation. Those who would learn once more what real pantomime is, or how dumb show can express words and feelings, and make everybody laugh, should go and see this Pantomime "opening." Mr. W. H. Payne as the *Baron*, and his son, Mr. F. Payne, as his man *Roberto*, are, as might be expected, inimitable. In fact, everything is good: the overture has an admirable elaboration of Shield's old air, "The Wolf," from the *Castle of Andalusia*; the first scene is terse, smart, and witty; the ballet is excellent; the comic scenes fully carry out the promise of the opening; and the whole is worthy of the golden age of Pantomime.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

The *Jealous Wife*, the revival of which at the high tide of Sir Creswell Creswell's operations had about it a certain air of waggery, makes a capital and popular preface to Mr. Crowquill's pantomime of *The King of the Castle*; or, *Harlequin Prince Diamond and the Princess Brighteyes*, which we believe the most astute of dramatic Dryasdusts can trace to no one particular legend, song, or nursery tale. The opening was, however, so satisfactory to the higher classes (the gods, i.e. present on boxing night, that the manager was vociferously called to receive most genuine honour at their unwashed hands. The *King of the Castle* in question called *Huttoponeverythingheim* has a lovely daughter, *Brighteyes*, whom he is desirous of sacrificing at the altar to the *Baron Wealthinthelegsandwits*. But she objects an elopement with *Prince Diamond*, and the pursuit of

the fugitives by the hair-brained monarch, his friend, a Gnome, and the ninety-year-old lover, his protégé, gives rise to amusing and thoroughly effective situations. After one or two changes in the aspect of affairs, the lovers are at last tracked to "Prince Diamond's Cavern of Gems," followed by a magnificent scenic effect, in which Mr. Grieve has eclipsed himself, called the "Palace of Jewels." Incidental dancing of merit above the average is here introduced, and the irate King is finally baffled by the good help of the *Fairy Raywing*, who turns the happy pair adrift into a world of happiness as *Harlequin* and *Columbine*, and disposes of the other characters very much as usual. The "comic business" is as likely as ever to delight holiday visitors. The artists of the harlequinade are all as familiar to old playgoers as they are strange to young ones. Comic shots at the follies of the day, comic clutches at the ideal Cynthia of the minute, are plentiful enough, and good scenery and management all pervading. Shall we say more? Can we?—No!

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

The performances here have commenced each evening during the week with Goldsmith's comedy *She Stoops to Conquer*, in which Mr. Buckstone assumes the character of *Tony Lumpkin*, supported by Miss Reynolds as *Miss Hardcastle*, and Mr. Chippendale as *Mr. Hardcastle*. The pretty legend on which is founded the pantomime of *Undine*, which follows, was given at length in our last week's impression, and need not be repeated. It is treated as follows:—The first tableau, which is ushered in by some pretty music of a sentimental cast, shows us a most resplendent Sea-Weed Cavern, seat of the Water family, of whom *Undine* is a disjointed member. The leading members of this party are *Kuhleborn* (a stern spirit), Mr. Cullenford, and a very ardent young spirit dressed in a suit of some apparently silver-plated fabric; *Translucia*, Miss Fanny Wright, who executes some captivating *tours de force*. We next find ourselves in the fisherman's hut, near the enchanted forest, where the wayward sprite *Undine* (Miss Louisa Leclercq), who indulges in dancing of an eccentric but *spiritual* order, is serving her time to Mortality, and is supposed to have nearly passed the ordeal of falling in love, which was fraught with such peril to her. She is, however, fated to surrender to that, falsely called, gentle passion. A belted knight turns up. *Sir Hulbrand* (Mrs. Leclercq) is his name, and he is engaged to the tall and handsome *Lady Bertalda von Ringstetten* (Miss Fitzinman). But, lady-killer as he is, he thinks nothing of a sweetheart more or less, and sues *Undine*, who, to suit the story, surrenders *à discrétion*. She finds too late that with the encouragement of an attachment she has taken up that of a soul, and the spirits who pervade the air mourn in plaintive strains "lost, lost *Undine*." A little jealousy is, of course, a necessary ingredient in the salad. The departure of *Bertalda* on the most whimsical of hobbyhorses in search of her lover is productive of much amusement, and the paroxysms of the lovelorn *Undine*, when she finds she is betrayed, give room for some elegant pantomime. By an effort the latter conquers her earthly passion, restores her knight to his first love, and, her transient fault forgiven, is readmitted to the glorious spirit halls beneath the waves. The performance of the harlequinade by the Leclercq family partakes more of an elegant than a boisterous character, but the comic scenes are properly enriched with fun of the usual cast. For further particulars of this very genteel pantomime our readers must apply to Mr. Buckstone at the theatre, who will be happy, on receipt of the usual consideration, to afford every information.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE—OPERA-COMIQUE.

On former occasions we drew attention to this enterprise and the liberal promises of its projectors, which comprised some twenty operas or more. On Wednesday we assisted at their first representation, when Auber's *La Part du Diable* was given before a numerous and well-composed audience.

The libretto is well known to be a pleasing one. It was arranged originally by Scribe, from his tale, *Carlo Broschi*, and is so well adapted for the stage that it has found its way on to the London boards in several shapes, with some of which—for instance, *The Devil in It* and *The Little Devil*—all regular playgoers are familiar. Auber has felicitously interwoven with the spoken dialogue several of his most captivating strains, so highly finished as to appear artless, and M. Rémusat's well-selected orchestra gave these with proper delicacy and effect. The same can hardly be said of M. Fougères, from the Court Theatre at Amsterdam, the representative of *Raphael d'Estimung*, the university student. This artist's voice, if it has not seen its best days, has certainly lost for the time being the flexibility required for the part allotted to him on Wednesday, and he must only be regarded as a stop-gap for very present use. The *Casilda* was Madame Céline Mathieu, from the Marseilles Theatre, and her bro-

ther, *Carlo Broschi*, the supposed agent of the arch fiend, was Madame Fauré, an agreeable, and, on the whole, satisfactory vocalist, though endowed with no great power, from the Opéra Lyrique at Paris. This lady made a very pleasing impression in a duo in the third scene of the first act. Her part of the trio, "Ferme ta paupière," was purely sung.

She was no less pleasing in the finale to the first act than in several of the subsequent morceaux, and her willing exertions earned for her considerable applause. Some allowance must always be generously made for the depressing effect of Britannic frigidity upon artists unknown to fame on this side of the Channel, who make their first bows to an English audience. This preliminary coldness was doubtless not without its effect upon the members of M. Rémusat's company on Wednesday, for we noticed, as the opera progressed, and the audience and singers somewhat warmed towards each other, that a decided improvement was perceptible. Again, the wretched weather now prevailing, which night after night we see affecting the organs of our most accomplished domestic favourites, may be well imagined to bear hard upon strangers and sojourners. Though this plea must be strained to serve M. Fougères (if he really come, as stated, from Amsterdam), we are anxious to advance it for his fellow artists; and with them let him too have the benefit of the doubt suggested.

LYCEUM.

A very elaborate and gorgeous burlesque and pantomime has been brought out at this theatre by Mr. R. Brough and Mr. Falconer. The written part, by Mr. Brough, is a clever parody or burlesque of a portion of the *Iliad*, and includes some forty speaking characters. The chief are:—Mrs. Keeley, *Hector*; *Achilles*, Miss Talbot; *Ajax*, Mr. Charles Young; and *Patroclus*, Mr. Rogers. The Trojan Horse is of course a great object of fun, and Mr. Rogers, by his quaintness, added much to the merriment. The part of Mr. Falconer, as manager, is very creditable, he having spared neither expense nor pains to produce gorgeous and pleasing effects. The subject is perhaps somewhat too remote from modern knowledge or sympathy, but it makes a beautiful spectacle. The harlequinade is comparatively the least part of the entertainment, but it is sufficient to end the evening with an hilarious feeling, and to satisfy the audience.

OLYMPIC.

Mr. Byron, whose success in burlesque at the Strand entitles him to attention, has written an elaborate burlesque for this theatre founded on his great namesake's poem and the horse piece at Astley's. The entire company are engaged in it, and Mr. Robson's exploits on the back of "the raging animal," purchased at the Lowther Arcade, and his frenzy in the character of a celebrated rider, afford much amusement. The show and scenery are pretty, the dialogue smart, and the music blithe and appropriate. And so *Mazeppa* and his wild horse are likely to hold on their course throughout the holidays, and will very likely run to Easter.

ASTLEY'S AMPHITHEATRE.

Although the pantomime here is termed Equine, yet neither Harlequin nor Columbine, Pantaloon nor Clown are mounted on horseback. The introductory fairy story admits of some quadrupedal performance, and *Baron Munchausen* (the hero) contesting with satanic influence, undergoes some extraordinary adventures, amongst others that of having his steed cut in two. The harlequinade is well supported and fully answered the expectations of a very crowded audience.

SURREY THEATRE.

This theatre may be termed the transpontine Drury Lane, and vies with its great prototype in the magnificence and magnitude of its Christmas spectacle. It is equally complete in its burlesque introduction and its pantomimic portion. The burlesque is an allegory tending to expose the indignities and wrongs Old Father Thames is subject to. This of course admits all the mythology of river gods, and gives grand opportunities for groups of water nymphs, grots, &c. It is exceedingly splendid, and very well imagined and contrived; and the harlequinade was as much approved as the gorgeous opening. It is likely to have a very successful run.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Mr. T. L. Greenwood, one of our oldest and ablest concoctors of pantomimes, has given the critical frequenters of this theatre a very pretty and amusing entertainment, entitled, *Harlequin, or Old Isaac Walton*; or, *Tom Moore of Fleet-street, the Silver Trout, and the Seven Sisters of Tottenham*. The introductory matter is quaint and picturesque, and the harlequinade quite sustains the reputation this house justly has attained. Of all the junior pantomimes we should be inclined to consider this the best from report and as far as we have seen.

STRAND.

Kenilworth, and its dismal story of Amy Robsart, furnishes the material for the burlesque which here always takes the place of pantomime, and it has been very quaintly, and we almost may say wittily, treated by Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Halliday. The show is also very tastefully got up, and is resplendent with all the

also glories of the theatrical mines, where gems and gold and silver seem to be found in an abundance greater even than at Golconda or Potosi. A new and very ingenious mode of using and shifting the scenery has also been applied, by which very unexpected and extraordinary effects are produced on this small stage. Altogether it must be pronounced a remarkable success, and it reflects great credit on all concerned.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Friday Evening, December 31st.

THE REVENUE.

THE accounts for the Quarter's Revenue to be made up this day will show an increase of about 1,000,000L. as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year. But as the comparison is made against a period of great commercial embarrassment, it would be better to contrast the revenue of this quarter with the corresponding quarter of 1856. In the latter case the result would show an increase of not more, probably, than about 200,000L. The portion of the decrease which falls in Income-tax will be in a great measure compensated by unusually large receipts from miscellaneous sources.

The Customs will give an increase of about 600,000L. as compared with the same quarter of 1857, but a decrease of 30,000L. (about) as compared with the same quarter of 1856.

In Excise there is an increase of not more, probably, than 180,000L., notwithstanding the increased duty on spirits.

Stamps show an improvement of about 260,000L., but only of 180,000L. if compared with 1856. The new duties have contributed to this result.

Land and assessed taxes will be about stationary. In the Income-tax there will be a decrease of about 300,000L., owing, of course, to the reduction in the rates of duty.

The Post-office will produce an increase of about 50,000L.

Crown lands, as usual, show scarcely, if any variation. Under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts there will be an increase of probably nearly 200,000L. As against the quarter of 1856, this item gives an increase of more than 700,000L. But these increases, arising from exceptional causes, do not indicate a positive improvement of revenue.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* of this day, Friday, announces that the Emperor has granted a full pardon or commutation of sentence to one hundred and sixty-four persons who had been convicted at the sessions or by the ordinary tribunals, two of whom had been condemned to death.

The troubles that have broken out in Algeria among the Kabyles are said to be serious. The gravity of the matter is, perhaps, exaggerated, but, if so, it is owing to the total silence of the Parisian press—no journal having got permission to utter a word about it. They may, of course, say what they like about India, and the approaching ruin of the English domination, but of Algerine troubles not a tittle. The theatre of the troubles is said to be a mountain district in the subdivision of Batna and province of Constantine.

PRUSSIA.

The King and Queen of Prussia arrived in Rome on the 28th instant, and were lodged at the Prussian Embassy. The King grows daily more feeble.

SERVIA.

A telegram from Belgrade states that the nephew of Alexander Karageorgewitch (the deposed Prince) is coming to Paris and London on a special mission.

TURKEY.

Advices from Constantinople to the 22nd state that the change of Ministry had been postponed. Ali Pasha is strongly supported by Austria, but violent scenes had taken place in the council.

The creditors of the Court are to receive part payments of their debts.

The *Journal de Constantinople* represents that the elections in the Principalities will be delayed twenty days.

PERSIA.

According to advices from Persia, Mr. Murray, the English Ambassador, has again fallen seriously ill on his journey. Ferouk Khan refuses any other place in the Ministry than that of Foreign Affairs.

The reconciliation of Afghanistan with Persia has taken place.

THE CONDEMNED AT LIVERPOOL.—This morning a despatch from the Home Office was received at Liverpool, respecting Auguste Wilhelm, the Manchester chemist, sentenced to death at the last Liverpool Assizes, for causing the death of a female by procuring abortion. Reid, the other condemned prisoner, who strangled his wife at Manchester, will be executed tomorrow (Saturday).

CRYSTAL PALACE.

POULTRY SHOW.

The Great WINTER SHOW OF POULTRY AND PIGEONS will take place on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the 8th, 10th, 11th, and 12th January, 1859, in the North Wing, adjoining the Tropical Department.

Admission, including all the attractions of the Palace, Saturday, Half-a-crown; Children under 12, One Shilling; Other days, One Shilling; Children, Sixpence.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

GRAND CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AND REVELS, AND JUVENILE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL.

By DYKWYNKYN.

LAST FIVE DAYS, Monday to Friday, the 7th January:—GIGANTIC TWELFTH CAKE, with Characters animated for the occasion.

MONSTER PLUM-PUDDING, in honour of "OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS."

Grotesque Mummeries, and Procession in the GREAT HALL OF MINCE-PIE, summoned to attend OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS and his Court.

TERPSICHOEAN and PANTOMIMIC REVEL by all the Courtly Characters.

FLIGHT OF MASTER PUNCH amid the Tears of JUDY.

Revels under the disturbing influence of the LORD OF MISRULE, and general restoration of harmony.

Graceful Ascent of the FAIRY BALLOON, and distribution of FLORAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Distribution of Magical Plum-Puddings.

Laughable and Ludicrous Magic Shadows—at Dusk.

COSMORAMIC EFFECTS, daily.

"Shocking Events" produced by Electricity.

In Lecture-room in Tropical Department, Lectures on Chemistry daily, with Brilliant Experiments, by J. H. Pepper, Esq., and Dissolving Views, illustrating the time-honoured story of BLUEBEARD, the EGYPTIAN COURT, and the Ancient Temples of Egypt.

Natural Magic and Necromantic Tricks.

Open at Ten. Admission, Saturday, 2s. 6d.; other days, One Shilling; or by Season Tickets, 10s. 6d.; Children under 12, Sixpence.

Trains at frequent intervals to and from London-bridge and Pimlico Stations.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Manager, Mr. Edmund Falconer.)

Increased Attraction.—First Appearance of Madame Celeste. Continued Success of the New Burlesque, with its unequalled cast and gorgeous scenery.

Monday, January 3rd, and (under permission) during the week, a New and Original Drama, entitled MARION DE LORME; OR, THE CRADLE OF STEAM. Madame Celeste, Miss Portman, &c. To be followed every evening by THE SIEGE OF TROY. To conclude with the Comic Pantomime of HARLEQUIN TOY HORSE. The Harlequinade by the Lauri family.

Prices.—Private Boxes, 2l. 2s.; 1l. 11s. 6d.; 1l. 1s.; Dress Boxes, 4s.; Upper Boxes, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.; Stalls, 6s. Half Price at Nine o'clock.

Doors open at Half-past Six, to commence at Seven precisely. Box-office open from Eleven to Five daily.

A Morning Performance of the Burlesque and Pantomime, on Saturday next, January 8, commencing precisely at Two o'clock. Doors to open at Half-past One.

THEATRE ROYAL, SADLER'S WELLS.

(Under the Management of Mr. Phelps.)

Monday, and during the week, the performances will commence with Cumberland's Play of THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE. After which will be produced, with New Scenery, Dresses, and Decorations, a Grand Comic Christmas Pantomime, entitled HARLEQUIN AND OLD IZAAK WALTON; OR, TOM MOORE OF FLEET-STREET. THE SILVER TROUT, AND THE SEVEN SISTERS OF TOTTENHAM. Harlequin, Mr. C. Fenton; Columbine, Miss Caroline Parkes; Clown, Nicolo Deulin; Pantaloon, Mr. Naylor.

Boxes, First Circle, 3s.; Second Ditto, 2s.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. Doors open at Half-past Six. The Performances to commence at Seven.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

PATRON—H.R.H. THE PRINCE CONSORT.

In consequence of the great success of CHILDRENS New and Splendid PHANTASMAGORIA, arrangements have been made to exhibit it daily at Half-past Two, and every Evening at Half-past Eight, in addition to the New DIS-SOLVING VIEWS of DON QUIXOTE, and all the other XMAS LECTURES and ENTERTAINMENTS.—The FIRST DISTRIBUTION amongst the Juveniles of the Gifts from the WHEEL OF FORTUNATUS will take place on Wednesday next, the 5th of January.

Managing Director, E. I. LONGBOTTOM, Esq.

MR. and MRS. HOWARD PAUL in their

Comic and Musical PATCHWORK on Monday, January 3, and every evening for a limited period, at the ST. JAMES'S HALL. Mrs. Howard Paul's marvellous imitation of Mr. Sims Reeves. Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Commence at 8. Tickets at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, Old Bond-street. Morning performances every Tuesday and Saturday at 5.

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

THE EXHIBITION OF FOREIGN AND ENGLISH PHOTOGRAPHS IS OPEN DAILY, at 5A, PALL-MALL EAST, from 9 till dusk; and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 till 10.—Admission free to Subscribers to choose their subjects; to the Public, One Shilling. Season Tickets, Half-a-Crown. Catalogue, Sixpence. Illustrated Catalogues, to Subscribers, Five Shillings; Non-Subscribers, Seven Shillings and Sixpence. ROBERT HESKETH, Hon. Sec., 95, Wimpole-street, W.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

(Lessee, Mr. E. T. Smith.)

GRAND MORNING PERFORMANCE of the most successful PANTOMIME of the Season on WEDNESDAY NEXT, January 5, and every Wednesday, at Two o'clock, till further notice.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

(Lessee, Mr. E. T. Smith.)

Reduced prices as usual.—Box-office open daily from 10 to 6.

For the convenience of the patrons of this theatre arrangements have been made by the Lessee that the Pantomime terminates at 11 o'clock. The grand, gorgeous, and effective Scenery of the Pantomime by BEVERLEY.

Glorious success of those popular and celebrated artistes Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams, the original Irish Boy and Yankee Girl, who will appear on Monday, and during the week, in their celebrated characters of Phil Mulligan and Widow Sprouts in the laughable piece entitled LATEST FROM NEW YORK. With double Irish Jig and Irish and Yankee Songs.

After which will be produced, on a scale of unusual magnitude and magnificence, a new grand pictorial Pantomime entitled ROBIN HOOD; OR, HARLEQUIN FRIAR TUCK AND THE MERRY MEN OF SHERWOOD FOREST. Harlequins, Signori Milano and St. Mayne; Pantaloon, Messrs. G. Tanner and Delevanti; Clowns, Harry Boleno and Delevanti; Columbine, Madame Boleno and Miss F. Brown; Harlequina, Miss Julia Lamb; Juvenile Harlequin, Clown, and Pantaloon, Master S. Lauri and Masters Delevanti; Columbine, Miss F. Lauri; Principal Danseuses, Mesdames Ferro and Magnay.

Stage Manager, Mr. Robert Roxby.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA,

COVENT GARDEN.

(Under the sole management of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. Harrison.)

On Monday, and until further notice, Balfe's highly successful opera, SATANELLA, OR THE POWER OF LOVE. Characters by Miss Louisa Pyne, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Miss Susan Pyne, Mr. George Honey, Mr. A. St. Albys, Mr. H. Corri, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. W. Harrison. Conductor, Mr. Alfred Mellon. Concluding with the New Pantomime, LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. Messrs. W. H. Payne, Frederick Payne, Henry Payne, Flexmore, Barnes, Miss Clara Morgan, Mesdames Morlacchi and Pasquale.

Doors open at Half-past Six. Commence at Seven. Private Boxes, 1l. 1s. to 3l. 3s.; Orchestra Stalls, 7s.; Dress Circles, 5s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s. and 3s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s.

Box-office open daily from 10 till 5, under the superintendence of Mr. J. Parsons, where places may be secured without any fee for booking.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA,

COVENT GARDEN.

(Under the sole management of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. Harrison.)

The Nobility, Gentry, and the Public, are respectfully informed that the FIRST MORNING PERFORMANCE of the New Pantomime, LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD, will take place on Monday next, January 3rd, commencing at Two o'clock. Carriages to be ordered at Four.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

(Farewell Season of Mr. Charles Kean as Manager.)

Monday and Friday, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. Tuesday, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE. Thursday, MACBETH. Wednesday and Saturday, THE CORSICAN BROTHERS, and the Pantomime every evening.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)

The Pantomime Every Evening.

On Monday and Tuesday, to commence at Seven, with THE RIVALS. Sir Anthony, Mr. Chippendale; Acres, Mr. Buckstone; Lydia Languish, Miss Reynolds. On Wednesday and Thursday, SPEED THE PLOUGH. Farmer Ashfield, Mr. Compton; Bob Handy, Mr. W. Farren; Lady Handy, Mrs. Poynter; Miss Blandford, Mrs. C. Fitzwilliam. On Friday and Saturday, THE BUSY BODY. Marplot, Mr. Buckstone. After which, every evening, the Grand Pantomime of UNDISCOVERED, OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE SPIRIT OF THE WATERS, in which those unrivalled pantomimists Mr. Arthur Leclercq, Mr. Charles Leclercq, Herr Cole, Miss Louisa Leclercq, Mrs. Leclercq, and Fanny Wright, will appear with magnificent Scenery by Frederick Fenton. The First Morning Performance of the Pantomime will take place on Thursday next, January 6th, and every Thursday during the present month. Doors open at half-past One, commence at Two, and conclude by Four.

Stage Manager, Mr. Chippendale.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

(Lessees—Messrs. F. Robson and W. S. Emdon.)

Monday, and during the week, will be performed THE PORTER'S KNOT. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, W. Gordon, H. Wigan, G. Vinling, H. Cooper, J. H. White, J. Franks; Mrs. Leigh Murray and Miss Hughes. To conclude with a New Extravaganza founded on Lord Byron's Poem of MAZEPPA. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, H. Wigan, F. Charles, H. Cooper, J. Howard, and L. Ball; Mesdames Wyndham, Hughes, Marston, Cottrell, Bromley, and W. S. Emdon.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM,

3, Titchborne-street, opposite the Haymarket, OPEN DAILY (for Gentlemen only). LECTURES at 3, 4, and 8 o'clock on Important and Interesting Topics in connection with ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, and PATHOLOGY (vide Programme). Admission, 1s.—Dr. Kahn's Nine Lectures on the Philosophy of Marriage, &c., sent post free, direct from the Author, on the receipt of 12 stamps.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

OFFICE.

NO. 18, CATHERINE-STREET,
STRAND, W.C.,

The commodious premises formerly occupied by the
MORNING HERALD.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1859.

Public Affairs.

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

THE PANTOMIME OF POLITICS.

PANTOMIMES are the order of the day. Columbine has put on her smiles and spangles; the Clown has donned his motley; pantaloons is prepared for his periodical persecutions; and upon every stage Harlequin reigns supreme. The creators of this Pantomimic world have had no easy task. From the days of Pharaoh downwards, the difficulty of making bricks without straw has been acknowledged. On the same principle, it is up-hill work making new jokes, when there is nothing new to joke about. Diogenes in search of an honest man, or Cælebs in search of a virtuous wife, were not more at fault than our pantomimic dramatist in search of a virgin subject. From the siege of Troy to the fortunes of Kenilworth, from the loves of Undine to the sanitary condition of the Thames, every theme, ancient and modern, has been ransacked for novelties, and in vain.

We also have our own peculiar pantomime. The programme we present gratis to the public. To adopt the very language of the playbill, we shall now produce, on a scale of unusual magnitude and magnificence, embracing all the effects of the stage, and employing all the resources of the company, an entirely new, grand, senatorial, comical, popular, political, and peculiarly parliamentary pantomime, founded upon precedent, and entitled "Reform." The lamps are lit, the actors are in position. Let the curtain rise. The plot, in accordance with true art, is simple. The Princess Reform, daughter of the mighty monarch Progress, is courted by a host of suitors of every rank and shade of politics. The Princess being anxious to discover whether the ardour of her admirers is due to sincere appreciation of her charms, or to a desire for the possession of those vast official treasures which are expected to be the guerdon of her successful wooer, appeals for aid to Mercury, the patron deity of thieves and politicians. We have now a series of brilliant transformations. Beneath the wave of the Caducean wand all things are changed: Palmerston begins to think, and Lord Derby tries to work; Gladstone knows his own mind, Lord Stanley becomes lively, and Disraeli sincere. Even Vernon Smith grows eloquent, and Roebuck distrusts his own integrity; the lion Newdegate and the lamb Bright lie down and are at peace together; Graham forgets his cunning, Cox becomes refined, Williams grammatical, and Ayrton—well, Ayrton remains a bore: *ex nihilo nihil fit*.

To enumerate the various episodes of our phantasmagoric scene would require the power of a hundred critics. We labour beneath a superfluity of artistic wealth; we have a host of stars of the highest magnitude, each qualified for the highest parts. Without depreciating the claims of other performers, have we not for the part of the chaste and virtuous Columbine, Gladstone, and Stanley, and Sidney Herbert, subject to perpetual allurements and always triumphant

over vice. For the part of Harlequin is there not Lord Palmerston, the colleague of Castlereagh, the disciple of Canning, the friend of liberty and of Louis Napoleon. There is the Premier, too, the Stanley of aristocratic Whiggery, the Lord Derby of democratic Conservatism, not to speak of Bulwer Lytton, dramatist, novelist, orator, sometime author of *Pelham*, and now the ruler of our colonial empire. So powerfully is the part of Clown represented that we can afford to neglect the services of Spooner and of Drummond. Have we not the world-renowned, inimitable, Buckinghamshire acrobat, the creator of the protection juggle, the expositor of the Caucasian mystery. The rôle of Pantaloon is filled to general satisfaction by the never-failing British public, the people of England, always deluded, always paying the piper, always coming off the sufferer, and still confiding. We might, indeed, sum up the qualities of our performers in the very language of theatrical criticism by asserting that our Columbines are engaging and perform with grace—that our Harlequins do their utmost to be funny, and succeed marvellously in getting into scrapes and out of them again with no less felicity—the Clowns accomplish a series of *tours de force* which have only ceased to seem miraculous from our knowledge of their former exploits—and the Pantaloons bear killing and cuffing with a complacency that baffles conjecture.

Our first tableau is the Ministerial Council Chamber, which on this occasion is not the Hall of Harmony. Her Majesty's Ministers, in conclave assembled, enumerate their several plans for obtaining possession of the person of Reform. The Premier asserts that rank and wealth combined will outweigh the chances of all rival democratic suitors. Lord Chelmsford coincides, and protests that, after all, there is nothing like blood. Walpole puts his trust in militiamen, and Pakington in Quarter-sessions. Lord Stanley upholds a diligent discharge of official duties; Bulwer confides in the power of elegant composition; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer trusts to pluck. An angry discussion is followed by a unanimous resolution that the hand of Reform must be secured, and the cheaper the price given the better. A plaintive solo is then sung by the member for Midhurst, to the tune of the "Last Rose of Summer;" and, as Warren passes out of view, the scene changes to a ducal mansion. The forces of Russell and of Palmerston are arrayed in arms. The star of Bedford is in the ascendant, and again we behold another dark conspiracy against the virgin virtue of Reform. Lord John Russell asserts his claim to the hand of the maiden, on the plea of his previous liaison with her mother, and quotes "Matre pulchra filia pulchrior." Lord Palmerston hints at the advantages of somewhat anticipating the marriage ceremony, and adds that Reformers might take a hint from Glo'ster Gale. The Duke of Bedford considers the connexion low, though perhaps desirable; and Lord Clarendon observes that the thing would be managed better in France, while Vernon Smith suggests the expediency of detaining their rival's correspondence. Elopement first and desertion afterwards is the course resolved upon. The conspirators slowly retire as the ex-President of the Board of Control performs a *pas seul* expressive of his friendless and forlorn position. The coffee-house at Guildhall rises upon our view; darker and darker appear the fortunes of her heroine; Roebuck and Bright, Cobden and Gibson, have laid hands upon the maiden, and partly by wiles, partly by violence, are drawing her closer to them, while a host of minor radicals—Roupells, Williamses, and Coxes—stand by and applaud the outrage. So certain are they of their prey that they begin to divide the spoil. Their only question is, what amount of her property they can hinder her from enjoying, and how much they can safely settle on themselves. Innocence is about to be overpowered, when, at the very crisis of her fate, the assailants begin to quarrel among themselves—of a sudden they refuse to act in concert. Bright considers himself undoubtedly the man of the day; Cobden, though a man of peace, declines being ejected from his proper position; Roebuck entertains a supreme contempt for every one present except himself; Ayrton cannot conscientiously follow any one but one whom his modesty forbids him to name; Cox holds that all leaders are tyrants after the fashion of Wat Tyler; and Williams throws out dark allusions to a peerage and the premiership. From words the disputants fall to blows—a grand dramatic combat is represented on a scale of Manchester magnitude; amidst the tumult, the Princess escapes. Vice is

foiled and virtue triumphs. Mercury appears and claims the whole body of conspirators as his liege subjects. The dazzling Halls of unsurpassable Humbug open before our view, and the entranced spectator is left to gaze with eager eyes upon the realms of fascination.

There are true words spoken in jest. We could wish that at the bottom of our farrago there were not some sour sediment of truth. Politics and pantomimes are too much alike, with the exception that the triumph of virtue is not a matter of so much certainty in the former case as in the latter. The piece, of which the above is but a barren sketch, will be produced next month, without fail, at the Theatre Royal, Westminster.

ORIGIN OF THE COMPLICATIONS OF 1858.

THE most conspicuous event of last year, though now almost forgotten, was Orsini's attempt to destroy the Emperor of the French. To it we may refer—in subordination to the great original wrongs which suggested it—the complications of continental politics, the change in our own Ministry, the formation of a Government here without power, and its final surrender to the people of all that had descended to us coercive in the character of the national institutions. In the annals of mankind it will be a memorable year for Atlantic telegraphs, the reconquest of India, commercial treaties with China and Japan, a sign only of the general brotherhood of mankind that is fast making itself manifest, in contrast to the antagonism of Governments; but like its many predecessors, it will certainly be eclipsed and forgotten in years still more memorable to come. On this occasion, and in this place, we have no intention to refer to all the circumstances worth remembering; we confine ourselves to a slight political sketch of a few circumstances connected with the event mentioned.

The established and honoured wrongs, such as the usurpation by the semi-barbarous empire of Austria of the fairest provinces of Italy, and her conjoint protection with France of every native misrule, and such as the usurpation by Louis Napoleon of the government of France, were in full bloom at the beginning of the year, and are apparently without a curled or withered leaf at its close. Of such wrongs the unquietness in the States of Italy, the uneasiness in France, the continual apprehensions of its rulers, and the frantic attempt of Orsini were the consequences. The former, being chronic conditions of society, excite no vivid interest, though teeming with important consequences; the latter, like a violent access of inflammation or convulsion, startled the beholders, and attracted the attention of the world. On France, which honours or worships the empire and the Emperor, it was the means of imposing new and scandalous laws worthy of the Reign of Terror, placing all men under the surveillance of police, allowing the Government to prescribe the residence of those who displease it, and to imprison or banish them without a trial. Acquiesced in almost without a murmur by the French two centuries after personal liberty had been by our Habeas Corpus Act fully guaranteed here against the tyranny of Government; they teach us that the ideas of our neighbours of personal freedom are not more advanced and correct than those of the soldiers of a despot, or the eunuchs of a harem. By the outrage of Orsini the world has been taught that the French, clamorous like children for pageants and shows, like them, at the first signal of alarm, get overwhelmed with terror, and trample liberty to death. The Orsini outrage occasioned the angry letter of the Colonels, and the exasperated feelings of the English and the French—occasioned M. de Montalembert's visit and his letter—occasioned his appeal against the consequences of the Orsini laws, and the final remission of his sentence by the Emperor, occasioned the dismissal of M. Billault and the substitution of General Espinasse as Minister of the Interior, and occasioned all the loss of character which the Government of France has lately suffered. If the leaves of despotism then appear scarcely curled or withered, beside it liberty has grown and expanded, and will in due season overgrow and stifle it. From the conduct of the French, however, it is plain that as yet they prefer despotism and its consequences to freedom.

From the Orsini outrage there sprang additional reasons for coolness, and even aversion, between the two despotisms which are rivals for influence over Italy. From the displeasure of one Emperor at the conduct of the other the opinion has been

strengthened that France is preparing to side against Austria, hence the greater outspokenness of Count Cavour and the new expectations which keep alive agitation in the peninsula. From that, too, sprang also dictation by the Emperor to the Governments of Belgium, Piedmont, and Switzerland, and an alarm for the general freedom. Between the despotisms there is enmity, and both are more hated. Other Governments are preparing to side with one or the other, and Orsini's attempt sowed the seeds of a confederacy of the old and great Powers of Europe to resist Napoleon. It has been promoted by the difference between the French and the English Governments, and by the union of the Princess Royal and the heir presumptive of the Prussian Crown, the transference of the Government of Prussia to the hands of a Regent, and the growth of better feelings between Berlin and Vienna. Orsini's unsuccessful attempt has given a new aspect to the politics of Europe.

The difference between the French and English Governments made manifest the disgraceful subservience of the English Ministry, and led to the defeat and retirement of Lord Palmerston. To it, therefore, the Derby Ministry owes its possession of office. Having no inherent power, to Orsini's attempt we are indebted for the strengthened conviction of our own power, and our own skill, and the imbecility of our rulers. The spirit of Reform has suddenly expanded into magnificent dimensions, and if Orsini's attempt be finally to end in giving freedom to Italy, it will be by first placing the executive power of England completely in the hands of the people. Somehow or other all the exasperated political feelings of all the people of Europe are grouped around Orsini's atrocious crime. It was plainly a consequence of the wrongs done by the Emperors of the world, and honoured by their subjects. He paid by his life for his offence, which may possibly prevent the repetition of such crimes; but the All-overruling Power which governs society not as men govern it, educes alike from crimes and virtues the general progress and the general improvement. If Orsini be in death conscious of the consequences of his action, he, or even his living confederates, may be consoled for the failure of his abominable crime by the alterations to which it has led in the political affairs of Europe. That crime, with its consequences, was the chief political event of 1858. Minor objects we leave to other hands or other opportunities.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS—PAST AND FUTURE.

WHEN the history of international relations during the year 1858 shall be written, there will seem to be but little cause for rejoicing to the friends of enlightened progress. Perhaps their principal source of satisfaction will be found in the absence of many striking events of sinister import. The old French chronicler has said that "blessed are the people whose annals are vacant;" and this as regards nations that have attained to liberty, and are permitted to repose under their own vine and fig-trees, in a certain sense is true. But for those communities that still sit in darkness and in the shadow of political death, nothing worse can be said than that a whole year has elapsed without bringing them any mitigation or change, and that through hopeful spring and radiant summer, golden autumn and hoar-winter time, they have remained motionless, their feet being nationally fast bound in the stocks.

For ourselves as a people we have nothing whereof to boast in the year gone by, with two exceptions. By a vigorous effort of national mutiny we escaped the humiliation which the ill advisers of our Crown and Parliament would have subjected us to at the request of the Emperor of the French. Looking back at the whole transaction calmly, we are more firmly than ever persuaded that the popular instinct was wise as well as just, and prudent as well as noble. With a view to the permanent maintenance of friendly relations with France, we have not a doubt that Lord Clarendon and his colleagues took an impolitic as well as an un-English course, and that the people of this country who repudiated their Conspiracy Bill and censured their want of spirit, took the best means of preventing future misunderstandings with the Government of our neighbours. We do not know, indeed, a better test of political sagacity than that which was afforded by the events of February last; and should a general election come ere long, there are few touchstones of a man's political fitness and reliability that may more safely be used than this—

"Did he abet the Conspiracy Bill, or did he oppose

it?" The other topic to which we can here but briefly allude is the conclusion of peace with China. Let us hope that the flattering anticipations held forth of commercial advantages in that quarter may eventually, if not immediately, be realised: and that we may not find ourselves drawn into entanglements as we were in India at the beginning of our connexion with that region, by the presence of European rivals. Better we had never obtained permission to send an embassy to Peking, than that we should thereby become involved in diplomatic intrigues and naval or military collisions with Russia or America, both of whom are jealously watching the progress of our influence in the Celestial Empire, and both of whom, we fear, stand better at the Mantchou Court than we do.

Towards the United States our present rulers have evinced a very conciliatory disposition in the abandonment formally and finally of the unmain- tainable right of search. We only wish Lord Malmesbury may have courage to tell Parliament when it meets what everybody knows to be the truth respecting the utter futility of all negotiations with either the Government of Washington or that of Paris, for the purpose of inducing either to give back to our cruisers some portion of the privileges we have absolutely and unconditionally abandoned. What is called "some better means of identifying the nationality of the flag," is merely a will-o'-the-wisp, which Lord Malmesbury fancied he saw, or pretended to point to, by way of diverting attention from the unreserved repudiation of the right of search. We dare say it will not prevent some fanatical asserters of Great Britain's absolute supremacy on the high seas from attempting to revive our obnoxious pretensions. But the nation has had enough of African squadrons and American squabbles, and it has made up its mind to have done with both. The non-interference of our Government in the affairs of Portugal during the recent misunderstanding with France about indentured immigrants will, no doubt, be brought before Parliament early in the ensuing session. Mr. Roebuck, we believe, has not renounced his intentions in this respect, although Lord Palmerston has. A brisk debate and the interchange of keen taunts and recriminations may be the result, but other there can be none. The Portuguese Government did not call for our intervention, but, on the contrary, rather deprecated it. If this be stated plainly, without any qualification, by Ministers, the House of Commons will then and there irrevocably make up its mind that there is nothing more to be said or done in the matter, and will go to dinner.

Far deeper interest will attach to the inquiries that are certain to be made in Parliament regarding the position of affairs in Italy. During the whole of 1858 the public promises made by our representatives at the conference of Paris, remained, as far as the public are aware, unfulfilled. The only negotiations which our Foreign-office was suspected of carrying on were such as public opinion is little likely to approve. Several months ago, Sir G. Hudson is said to have been instructed to press the Sardinian Government to enter into relations of intimacy and friendship with that of Austria, England offering to become a party by way of guarantee to the proposed treaty. No words can too strongly designate the fatuity of such a proposal if it ever was made. The mere suspicion of such an alliance would, within a month, withdraw all confidence in constitutional Government in Piedmont, overturn the Cabinet of M. Cavour to make way for one of reaction, and throw the whole bulk of the Liberal party into the hands of France. English influence is already low enough in the peninsula, but it would then be absolutely extinguished; while that of France, already perhaps more powerful than is desirable, would become wholly paramount. A great minister would, in all probability, have been tempted ere this to join with France in a peremptory course of intervention for the rescue and reconstruction of the Italian states. Against such a combination, and with twenty-six millions of people in arms, the artifices of the Vatican and of Vienna could avail naught. We do not blame Lord Malmesbury, indeed, for not taking such a course, nor do we think that Parliament will blame him. On the other hand, we must repeat our strong persuasion that the public opinion of this country will never be brought to sanction any efforts on the part of our Government to tighten the yoke of absolutism, or to hazard, in some short-sighted view of temporary peace, the existence of the only constitutional Government south of the Alps. It is also said that our Foreign-

office tried to make use of Austria's influence to bring about the re-establishment of diplomatic intercourse with Naples. Certain official language in connexion with this supposed attempt was some time since imputed to Lord Malmesbury, and publicly disowned by him. As yet, however, there has been no authoritative denial of the general truth of the story; and there are some reasons for attaching to it a degree of credit that we would gladly forget. Meanwhile, France is supposed to be preparing to take decisive measures, without our privity or co-operation; and the best we can hope for is that Russia may be induced to abstain from actively intermeddling in the fray. Looking at the present condition of the Danubian States, whether Slave, Rouman, or Mussulman, it is most undesirable that she should have the pretext of a war with Austria for reoccupying any portion of the territories whence her troops were driven during the late war. Firmness and vigour on the part of our Government, might, we believe, restrain the Czar from breaking the public peace, even though France and Austria should come to daggers drawing in Lombardy. Will Lord Derby show himself possessed of these high qualities?

THOUGHTS, FACTS, AND SUGGESTIONS

ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

NO. VIII.

Few people will deny that the practical result to be aimed at in all measures of electoral reform, is the better enabling the industry and intellect of the country to return to Parliament men who they believe will fully represent them. To secure this end three things are necessary: a sufficient number of voters, freedom from undue influence in the act of voting, and liberty of choice as to candidates. We have all heard a great deal of late regarding the first two, and we may be tolerably sure that between this and Easter there is not a point in the controversy about suffrage or ballot that will not have been thoroughly sifted and examined. But about the third essential, that of candidature, little or nothing is said, although to every reflecting mind it must be clear that practically it is of as much importance as either of the others. What is the use of doubling or trebling our large constituencies, or of securing to every man in them the right of giving his vote independently, if the state of the law be such as to narrow the choice within the smallest possible limits, and, in point of fact, to leave no real liberty of selection at all? It is no use trying to parry the force of such a question by the old humdrum assertion that every man is at liberty to vote for any other man he likes. In sound this is true, but in sense and in substance it is false—notoriously false. A man coming up to the poll may undoubtedly utter the name of Prince Albert or Mr. Punch, or that of any other distinguished personage in the realm; but is that *voting*? Is it not to all intents and purposes as good as playing the fool, or talking in one's sleep, or chattering gibberish? Throwing your vote away is surely the thing most opposite to using it; yet that is what nine-tenths of the electors of the United Kingdom must do if they were to record their votes in their various localities for the men whom they knew to be the fittest to represent them. The fittest men are not only very seldom candidates, but they are necessarily so. They are systematically and designedly precluded from becoming such by the perverted ingenuity of the law which imposes upon candidature a protecting duty in favour of the Upper Ten Thousand, amounting in effect, in most cases, to an absolute prohibition. Who is there amongst us that has not again and again wished to have an opportunity of supporting some man of talent or distinction, whose acts or whose writings he has been particularly pleased with? Who does not remember instances of such men having been publicly or privately invited to come forward, and who does not recollect the stereotype response, which, acknowledging gratefully the honour intended, intimates significantly that private circumstances render it impossible? What are these circumstances? Infirmary of health sometimes no doubt, and sometimes pressure of business; but in nineteen cases out of twenty is it not simply and merely the inability to bear the unconscionable expense which a vicious law would subject him to?

Membership of Parliament must be one of two things—a business carried on for personal objects, or

a public function exercised on behalf of those who elect. If the former be legitimate as a means of personal advancement in social or political life, there is of course little more to be said upon the matter: only that it would have been better in that case that the Reform Bill of 1832 had never passed, and it would be clearly absurd that any more rotten boroughs should be destroyed in 1859. When a man enters upon any personal speculation it is quite natural that he should prepare to invest so much capital in order to establish his position. If a man's object be to earn a baronetcy, to obtain admission by marriage with the aristocratic pale, to attain political office, or, mayhap, to win a coronet, it is a matter of course that he should commence his speculative operations by sinking 2000*l.* or 5000*l.* in contesting a borough—8000*l.* or 10,000*l.*, if necessary, in securing a seat for the county. This is the outlay of capital in the regular and appointed way. The men who are ready to do so are booked, as is well known, at the great party clubs, where the traffic in seats is carried on, and previous to any general election, those who have agreed to pay the appointed price sally forth and hoist their electioneering colours, with the secretly arranged guarantee of support from all the noble and honourable jobbers of influence on their respective sides. But, in the name of common sense and common honesty, are these men candidates selected by the constituencies? Have they been selected, in point of fact, at all? Or are they not really neither more nor less than self-suggested nominees of irresponsible cliques, who come swaggering into the ring, prepared to bully and browbeat all competitors by dint of lavish expenditure, and relying upon their money, and what their money has secured for them in the way of influence, alone? It is an utter farce to say that the electors have sought out and found such men, and resolve to make them their representatives; these men have sought out and found the constituencies, and have resolved politically to squat thereupon. If any score or two of electors, apprehending such an invasion and usurpation, put their heads together beforehand, and resolve to put forward a man who would really represent the place, they are appalled by the prospect of the expense. They know that the man who is best worth seeking for and best worth having, will not gamble away his fortune in an infamous competition with a high-born or opulent political speculator; and they know well the difficulty of meeting lavish expenditure with any other weapons than those employed against them. The men of Sheffield, Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham, Bath, and other places, have indeed done themselves infinite honour by returning men of their choice, and voluntarily raising, by contributions amongst themselves, the means of securing their return. But where there has not been an equally active spirit of self-assertion, the largest and richest constituencies have been treated again and again as mere carrion, over which the birds of prey and unclean beasts of electioneering have shrieked and fought, and of which they have made their prey. As if the evil were not great enough already, additional excuses for corrupt expenditure were deliberately invented and enacted last session; and if the detestable act which sanctions the carrying of every voter to the poll who is mean and base enough to accept the punctum-favour be not repealed, we shall, no doubt, have in many places a revolting exaggeration next time of all the mischiefs and scandals of the system.

But if, on the other hand, representation be a high and sacred public trust, and if the representative when chosen is legally and morally to be regarded as a trustee for those who elect him, then before all other things it is surely necessary that in selecting candidates the choice of the constituents should be unrestricted by any mean and miserable considerations like those above named. The best and truest system would be that which defrayed the necessary cost of elections at the public charge, and which rendered illegal the outlay of any considerable sum by a candidate, whether provably expended for purposes of corruption or not. As the law now stands, there is literally no limit to electioneering prodigality; and the ruling class, if suffered to take their own way, will manifestly add every year to the expense of elections. The design is not denied or even disguised. It is practically a scheme of counter-disfranchisement, and a very effectual one too, for it utterly prevents many of our best constituencies from selecting candidates or electing members such as they could justly feel any pride in, or sincerely

trust. It is, in a word, a means of fortifying anew the monopoly of class, and reasserting the humiliation of intellect, industry, and worth.

BIOGRAPHIES OF GERMAN PRINCES.

No. VIII.

FRIEDRICH FRANZ, GRAND-DUKE OF MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN.

THE rulers of the two principalities of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz, have for a considerable time rendered themselves notorious by their disposition to semi-arbitrary, semi-patriarchal government, by their lavish personal expenditure, through which the country has become deeply involved in debt; by their laxity of life and morals, which has given birth to many a pungent satire; and by the Russian sympathies which distinguish them even among that philo-Muscovite fraternity, the petty sovereigns of Germany. These peculiarities of the race are by no means wanting in Friedrich Franz, the present Grand-Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

Of his early youth, all that can be said is, that it passed away in that insignificant manner which forms at the same time the characteristic and the bane of all princely education in Germany. From 1823, the year of his birth, to 1838, he remained in the paternal palace under the charge of tutors, whose bounden duty it was to carefully instil into him as inflated an idea as possible of the unlimited nature of his rights and privileges as future sovereign, and to render the very restricted royal road to knowledge which a German monarch generally treads as little tiresome as could be for the princely traveller. After this preliminary course, he was for a short time sent to Dresden to a private institute, and from thence to the university at Bonn, where he went through the usual programme of follies indulged in by students with dynastic immunities. Scarcely, however, had he fairly plunged into the vortex of frivolities, when he was suddenly snatched from the scene of his collegiate escapades, to be installed sovereign at Schwerin, where his father had unexpectedly expired, and left a crown for the plaything of an inexperienced youth of nineteen years.

This happened in 1842, since which time young Friedrich Franz has governed his principality in the real old style of the Mecklenburg patriarchs. It ought to be here observed that but few German countries have furnished a more convenient soil for the growth of paternal despotism than this blessed Mecklenburg, which, before 1848, was in itself a *rococo* world in miniature. The peasantry were there kept under the lash more stringently than in the eastern provinces of Prussia, where the Junkers ruled, at that time, almost omnipotent. The towns, though possessing some remnants of mediæval privileges, had for the most part succumbed to the influence of that antiquated spirit of political headdom, which the Germans designate under the untranslatable monosyllable of *Zopf*. There was an easy-going, never-hurry way of doing things at Mecklenburg, which made it the laughing-stock of the slowest third-rate residence of a petty German sovereign. A pudding-headed race of noble landed proprietors stretched itself in impudent suzerainty on the benches of the Diet, treating with cavalier contempt the *canaille* of the towns and villages. The political atmosphere of the country was quite opaque with the misty traditions of the past. It was as if Mecklenburg had been preserved by artificial means to afford this modern generation an amusing *tableau vivant* of pig-tailed customs and manners, which had long since been swept into limbo in other parts of the world.

Our Friedrich Franz, fresh from the *commeres*, with his "commilitones" of Bonn, exhibited a wonderful aptitude in assuming the genuine old-fashioned airs of government. He carried on the administration with a vigorous application of the accustomed patriarchal and bureaucratic whip, and the good Mecklenburg "Dobbin" trotted on quietly enough, showing only by an occasional kick that even his amount of patience was nearly expended. Meanwhile, our giddy young prince lived gaily, and enjoyed himself to the full of his bent, keeping up the reputation gained by his ancestor of the same name, whom the popular song described as

Mecklenburg's Friedrich Franz,
Vater des Vaterlands—

a couplet that gives a meaning to the designation of "Father of the Fatherland," which it would be highly irreverent in us to explain here more fully.

On these unwritable matters we had better preserve the rule we have laid down when speaking, in former biographies, of the private life of German princes—viz. to pass over the subject as quickly as possible, and to confine ourselves to the marital unions officially recorded in the *Gotha Almanac*. Friedrich Franz, then, is married to the Princess Auguste Mathilde Wilhelmine, daughter of the late Henry the Sixty-third of Reuss-Schleiz-Koestritz, a petty dynasty which boasts of a pedigree dating from almost antediluvian ages, but whose territories, a German saying informs us, "can be put in a rat-hole," or, as Heine has it, "stick sometimes to the boots of the traveller."

To those of our readers not erudite in the mysteries of heraldic lore, and who, therefore, will be puzzled to understand the meaning of the number sixty-three appended to the name of the father of the Grand-Duchess of Mecklenburg, we will explain that, for centuries past, all the male offshoots of the different Houses of Reuss receive the baptismal cognomen of Henry, and that they are all duly numbered, irrespective of the reigning head of the family. It is stipulated that the elder branch is thus to count as far as a hundred (C.), and then to recommence with number I. This will give a clue to the formidable array of Roman figures tacked to those Henrys of Reuss, Reuss-Greiz, Reuss-Schleiz, Reuss-Lobenstein, Reuss-Koestritz, Reuss-Koestritz-Koestritz, and so forth. There is one among this noble army of Henrys now living who rejoices in the numerals LXXIV. The race is altogether famous for the eccentricity of its members. A few years before 1848, the most serene Henry the Seventy-second informed his subjects that he had at last discovered the true system of government, "after having for twenty years galloped about on his principle."

But to return to the Grand-Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. In 1848 he was overtaken, like all his purple-clad brethren, by the revolutionary storm. It burst upon him the more unexpectedly as his people had been held in such long and thorough subjection that their capacity for resistance might well have been doubted. The peasantry—that long-suffering, sturdy population of Mecklenburg—which had hitherto been the sport and prey of every Junker and arrogant bailiff, suddenly exhibited rather ugly signs of acting for themselves. The better portion of the middle classes, also, were up and stirring. Friedrich Franz and his pack of *Ritters* had to give in to the popular demands. Feudalism, in its most repulsive forms, was destroyed. A "Constituent Assembly" rose in Mecklenburg, whose first business it was to abolish mediæval privileges, and to settle the institutions of the country on a new basis.

In the following years of reaction, Friedrich Franz eagerly lent his hand to the overthrow of the revolutionary conquests. His troops took part in the campaign against the popular movement of Baden and the Palatinate, but a very scanty allowance of laurels fell to their share. They were rather roughly handled by the democratic insurgents, and lost men and guns with an inconvenient rapidity. During the late Russian war, however, the Grand-Duke was again seized with another martial fit. Absurdly enough, he, of all German princes, declared at the Diet of Frankfurt for an active support of the Czar Nicholas, whilst the other German Governments advised a strict neutrality. This little performance in the Bombastes line was, of course, a very safe one for the illustrious warrior, and attended with no risk to his royal person or property. The Grand-Duke felt pretty certain that he should be in an immense minority, and his fire-eating proposals never likely to be put to the test. So he calculated on making a favourable impression on the Czar of all the Russias by an exhibition of valour in his behalf, that would cost very little and entail no unpleasant consequences.

The connexion between the Mecklenburg dynasty and Russia, it may be said *en passant*, is one of old standing. Peter I. more than once entertained the idea of *buying in toto the Mecklenburg principality*; and, in fact, the purchase was near enough being completed. The descendants of the miserable huckster who had shown himself willing to entertain this proposal of barter, have on all emergencies proved faithful to the spirit that animated their forefather. There are strong family ties, moreover, which continue to keep the two branches of the dynasty at Schwerin and Strelitz in the due observance of the Muscovite formula. Thus the late Mecklenburg prince, Friedrich Louis, was married to Helena Paulowna, daughter of Paul I. of Russia.

At the present moment, Prince George of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, a Lieutenant-General in the service of the Czar, is married to Catherine Michailowna, the daughter of the late Russian Grand-Duke Michael.

A remarkable feature in the most unpopular government of Friedrich Franz is, that he has contributed of late, by his despotie fashions, to pave the way for the formation, in secret, of a resolute democratic party in Mecklenburg; a party that had scarcely any existence there even during the revolutionary epoch. A few years ago, Germany was startled at hearing that at Rostock, and in several other towns, a conspiracy had been detected, having for its object the overthrow of the Grand-Ducal rule, and the establishment of a United German Republic. Arms and ammunition were discovered, and the plot was traced, in its ramifications, to many persons of the enlightened, well-to-do classes. Arrests took place among lawyers, professors, and substantial merchants, &c. In fact, all the imprisoned were men who occupied a status of consideration in the social scale. The trials for high treason thereupon instituted by the tribunals of Friedrich Franz, ended in the condemnation of the incriminated parties to various penalties of imprisonment. This, it may be said, was an event of great significance, not only for Mecklenburg, but for Northern Germany in general. It indicates a turning-point from the Monarchico-Liberal to more advanced ideas, which may, in turn, hereafter prove of no mean influence in the development of political affairs in the North of Germany.

INTEROCEANIC COMMUNICATIONS.

THE PORTS OF COLON AND PANAMA.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE *Leader* of July 21st contained an article on interoceanic communications, in which a comparison was made between the various actual or proposed routes across the Central American isthmus, in the important respect of ports. It was stated that the existing railway at Panama, however much it might be admired as a bold and useful enterprise, was, nevertheless, destitute of adequate ports; that its Atlantic terminus, Colon, or "Aspinwall," is so bad, "that in one instance, at least, every vessel in it was wrecked, and the steamers lying there only escaped destruction by getting up steam and standing out to sea." Also, "that the bay of Panama is not a harbour in any sense of the term; only an exposed anchorage, where vessels have to lie from four to six miles from the shore, at which the communication can only be had at half-tide, and in bad weather not at all."

The *Journal of Commerce*, a New York commercial journal of some influence, but evidently in the interest of the Panama Railway, in an article more partisan than considerate, takes violent exception to these statements, and affirms "that such assertions may do for the longitude of Greenwich, but will only excite a smile on the faces of those who are at all acquainted with the isthmus." It explains that "the vessels which were wrecked, in the only gale which ever visited Colon since it became known to Americans (in 1854), consisted of only two old brigs," and that "the steamers stood out to sea as a measure of precaution." Then follows the sweeping statement, that "this harbour is perfectly safe at all seasons, and that the largest vessels may lie moored at its wharfs, and discharge either passengers or cargo as safely, and with as much facility, as at any of the Liverpool docks." As regards Panama, we are told that "it affords secure anchorage for any number of vessels," and that "the weather there has never been known to interfere with transportation."

The *Leader*, in conclusion, is accused of "misrepresentation" for sinister objects. This charge hardly deserves notice, for it must be obvious that there can be no motive here for discussing the advantages or disadvantages of the competing Isthmus routes, except to fix public attention on those which possess those prime requisites, good ports, salubrious climate, and diminished length. The public have a real interest in knowing which is the shortest, speediest, and safest route to the Pacific, and the centres of trade beyond it, or on its American shores. And if it should appear, on investigation, that the Honduras route possesses these requisites in a degree superior to the route by way of Panama, the expression of that opinion should not expose "an able and influential British journal" (as our Transatlantic contemporary styles us) to the charge of venality.

Unfortunately for the *Journal of Commerce*, its enthusiastic vindication of the excellence of the "port" of Colon or "Aspinwall" had hardly reached Europe before the accuracy of our statements concerning it were verified in a most striking and startling manner, as will be seen from the extracts from American papers, elsewhere given, under the heading, "Terrible Gale at Aspinwall: Loss of Shipping and of Life!" It seems that a gale commenced in the

so-called "port" on the 11th of November last, and continued for ten days, during which five ships were wrecked, a great part of the railway wharf destroyed, a number of lives lost, and a considerable destruction of property occasioned in the town. The United States war-vessels, Saratoga and Roanoke were in great danger, and the latter was carried to a place of safety, under the serious apprehensions of her officers that her propeller would not be able to move her against the winds and waves! When we read of vessels breaking from their moorings, "driving into the railway wharf, and carrying away twenty feet at every pitch;" of man-of-war's boats swept away and swamped, and of mail-steamers obliged to lie off on the high sea, we may well doubt if the port in which such destruction can go on is "perfectly safe at all seasons," or altogether "as safe as the Liverpool Docks!" We may doubt, indeed, if it be a proper point for the Atlantic terminus of a great line of interoceanic communication. Such "ports" may be used for a time, and from necessity, until a route better favoured in this respect is discovered, but they will not be used any longer. The man who discovers something better, and the journal which makes it known deserve the public gratitude, however they may expose themselves to the charge of sinister objects on the part of partisan organs.

As regards Panama, it will perhaps be enough to print in justification of the remarks of the *Leader* the subjoined extract from "A Card to the Public," published in the American journals by order of the passengers on the steamers J. L. Stephens and Illinois, describing their experiences of the "weather" of the Bay of Panama, which the *Journal of Commerce* assures us "has never been known to interfere with transportation:"—

"On the arrival of the John L. Stephens at her anchorage at Panama, the passengers were placed on board a small steamer, and a lighter filled with baggage to be conveyed to the shore, distant about five miles. The number of passengers was about 750, about 500 of whom were crowded on the steamer, and the residue on the lighter. Both vessels were filled beyond their capacity, and, in the event of an ordinary accident, the results must have been fearful. Shortly after embarking, the rain poured down in torrents, which continued up to the time of landing—nearly two hours. The passengers in the lighter, mostly women and children, being wholly unprotected, were drenched to the skin, while those in the steamer fared but little better."

THE MORALITY OF TRADE.

MR. BLACK, M.P., delivered an interesting address on Monday at Glasgow, on trading morality. He said, the morality which governed all other relations should equally prevail in mercantile life, and neither opportunity nor policy, nor the most tempting prospects of gain, should allow the merchant to deviate from the strict line of honesty; and the same honourable dealing should guide him whether in the sale of a yard of calico or of an East Indiaman. The only difference between the commercial gambler and the horse jockey gambler is this—the one cheats rogues like himself, the other cheats honest men; and it is this unmanly impatience that will not wait for the reward of honest industry, this reckless hazarding of borrowed money, which strews all the paths of commercial life with the bleaching bones of bankruptcy, and robs the unsuspecting poor man of his small but well-earned substance. Well directed energy and enterprise are the life of commercial progress; but if there is one lesson taught more plainly than another by the great failures of late, it is that safety lies in sticking to a legitimate business. It is no excuse for any house in their time of failure that, if they have wronged individuals, it has been in serving the public. Sound personal religion is the surest basis on which mercantile character can be founded. Nothing, however, can be more disgusting than to hear a tradesman making loud professions of religion in order to secure an advantage in the way of business, or under the cloak of superior sanctity to shirk his duty and to overreach his neighbours. It is humiliating to hear the mercantile conduct of such men contrasted with the honourable dealings of men who make no profession of religion, but are only remarkable for their profanity and rough out-and-out honesty. If you wish to test the qualities of a man's religion do not follow him to church, where he must put on the garment of pious observance, but visit him at his shop or counting-house, and mark the spirit by which he is influenced in his dealings with his fellow-man. Mr. Black proceeded to advert to the desirableness of shortening the terms of credit both in wholesale and retail trade, inasmuch as lengthened credits increased risks, and had a tendency to show a greater apparent gain than was actually realised. Petty expenses and bad debts were too often left out of view, and an extravagant opinion of the profits of trade was often entertained, not only by the public but by many traders themselves. It was of the utmost importance, therefore, to keep accurate books, and annually to balance them. Men have sometimes gone on for years with a vague idea that they were making money, when in fact they were on the high-road to bankruptcy.

He also referred to those traders whom he might call the highwaymen of commerce, who followed a reckless, unprincipled determination to become rich by fair means, if convenient, or by foul, if necessary.

AN UNREHEARSED INTERLUDE.

AT this Christmas time the Lord of Misrule is absolute. It is a season of metamorphoses, contradictions, inversions, tricks, and revels in a world turned upside down. But in whimsicality and downright Hibernian absurdity we despair of seeing surpassed the account which Sergeant Cleary, H 8, gave last Friday to Mr. Hammill, at Worship-street police-court, of what he saw at an unlicensed theatre in Bethnal-green. It is six o'clock in the evening; the bill of entertainments promises new singers, new dancers, and a new piece. Sergeant Cleary goes with the crowd; but why does not that ornament of the H division wear the blue of the Service? What mean those highlows and that dustman's long-flapped hat? and why is his right eye blackened, as if fresh from fierce encounter? To come to the point—"Cleary, what's your game?" Cleary's game is not his, but his master's. The Superintendent has sent him to pay his penny, mingle with the unsuspecting throng, and seem to share its pleasures, meanwhile taking secret note of the extra-legal entertainment presented on the stage. He tells us he had been ordered to attend there several times, and had seen "The Profligate Nephew; or, the Disinherited"—the career of the scapegrace of quality being always a taking subject in Bethnal-green. There was a song, "Paddy on the Railway," and then a sailor's hornpipe by a "lady in tights." "The Profligate Nephew" is, it seems, a piece of a singular kind—a ballet with a dialogue. The act drop, Cleary tells us, was an "Italian sketch"—the margin of fair "Zurich's waters;" not so bad a guess, considering that Zurich might have been in Italy but for the Alps. Then, to make it all quite regular as a theatrical performance, "there were shrubs and other scenes." The Uncle, or "old 'un," was provided with wrinkles, and "Ralph the Reckless" wore big boots and pistols. The Uncle is going to Doctors' Commons, or Apothecaries' Hall, the Sergeant forgets which, to disinherit his nephew, the profligate Count, but a little bit of violence by the gentleman in boots prevents this, and the piece is about to terminate, when an unrehearsed effect, what we may call the beginning of the transformations, ensues. Suddenly, all the policeman is revealed in our dustman, who tells us, "I stepped on to the stage, and collared the Count, while, upon a given signal, my Inspector, with twelve men, forced an entrance and secured the rest." The audience fled in dismay, and the actors, singers, dancers, and money-taker, were made prisoners. Mr. Hammill having listened attentively to this narrative, read a grave lecture to the culprits, and, taking their promise not to offend again, dismissed them to look after their Christmas dinners, and thus this droll interlude ended. The season is a large excuse for much that is odd and irregular, but the studied and artistic disguise of agents of the law, especially for petty ends, has something about it which will always be repugnant to English feeling.—*Daily News*.

THE PITH OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

TOWARDS almost all foreign nations
Our outlooks ain't noways fast-rate;
There's most of our foreign relations
In an unsatisfactory state.
With the Britishers, through our high-mettled
Diplomacy, guess we have got
The right of search question well settled,
The Central American, not.
With Spain we're in a condition,
Of which we hante nothin' to brag;
Her folks in official position
Has insulted our national flag,
Done our citizens one wrong and t'other
In their persons and property too;
And she won't pay our Cuban claims, nuther,
Which is now fourteen year overdue.
Peculiar I reckon the natur'
Of the sort of relations we bear
To Mexico—not with a tatur,
Can't pay if they would—they coons there.
I can only lay one plan afore ye,
By our own from them critters to come;
To drop down upon their territory,
And seize, for a pledge, on a some.
Then there's that air Panama's Isthmus,
We must there clear the transit, in course,
And, if not exactly this Christmas,
Still, sooner or later, by force.
New Granada, Nicaragua,
Costa Rica, have all got to pay
For damages done, more or fewer,
And I 'spects we must whip Paraguay.
Pacific as is all our labours,
I'm consarned for to mention how ill
Is the terms we are on with our neighbours,
Pretty nigh the whole world but Brazil.
As a pattern of peace cotton-spinners
In the old country quote us; but now
I expect we're a caution to sinners,
With a'most all the airth in a row.—*Punch*.

INDIA AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

MADRAS IRRIGATION.

FULLY aware as we are of the value of a "material guarantee" for the peace and quietness of subject races and individuals, we are not without hopes that such important schemes as that promoted by the Madras Irrigation Company may find favour in the eyes of the Indian native capitalists, of whom there are many who might lend them considerable pecuniary support. They have already evinced some disposition towards associations. Understanding the direct application of money, they have not been prevented from joining in banking companies by jealousy of directors and managers; and being in some cases themselves bankers, they have even taken seats at boards of direction.

But it should now be an object with our Indian department still further to school the natives in enterprise, even though well meaning persons here still amuse themselves by repeating, *ad nauseam*, the old cuckoo cries against companies, speculations, and all investments, in fact, save those of their own peculiar predilection. It is to be hoped that the scheme under consideration will at least get a stage beyond such retrogressive and unpatriotic twaddle, and be tried, as it sooner or later must be, on its merits.

No country, we take it, can be truly prosperous which is totally wholly dependent for progress upon foreign capital. It may add to its wealth from such a source, but it must also have sunk capital of its own. There is none so poor but it has resources available for its own public works; and India has at this moment enough and to spare, not alone for all the works in progress, but for all that are required. But the knowledge how properly to direct these funds is wanting; and that knowledge must, in the first instance, come from without. A few years ago Ireland seemed destitute and dependent for her public works upon State advances and British capitalists; yet her people were buying consols and hoarding bullion. She now finds large sums for investment in all kinds of national securities; she invests in her own soil; her own railway stocks are fast passing into native hands; their management to native directorates. By the aid of English capital and English directors the French railways were laid, but now France can supply not merely her own demands, but in part those of Austria, Russia, Spain, and Italy.

British India is to be put through a similar course of tuition, and our Government should surely be supported in giving guarantees likely to induce English capitalists to enlist primarily in such distant enterprises, in fact, "to set the stone rolling," and to become the foster-fathers of native industrial energy.

The money dealers may at first profess to care little for undertakings yielding but 5 or 6 per cent. per annum, but there is in India a large class of uneducated persons who, ignorant of trade, and without faith in their countrymen engaged in it, simply hoard up their capital. A safe investment under Government guarantee, with trustworthy management, will be as fascinating to them as to the parallel class in Europe. We may thus, in time, expect the Indian public to be tutored; and works of irrigation will form a valuable initiatory lesson, for they are already well aware that water is of the first necessity to the land, that it is sold at high rates, and that it brings large returns.

Although we regard these railway and irrigation associations as engines of certain political value to the country, as well as of possible profit to shareholders, we must not shut our eyes to the fact that great doubts have been expressed as to the policy of guarantees. It has been urged by some—and plausibly—that all necessary public works should be executed by the State, that so the accruing profits might go in diminution of public burdens. But though Government can raise money easily, and disburse it, *perhaps*, cheaply by its staff organisation, it may be gravely questioned whether any advantages thus arising could compare with those likely to result from stimulated enterprise. Once roused and wisely wielded, the spring of individual acquisitiveness will be found more potent than all the purer dispositions of ministers of finance or public works. No such minister ever advanced his country like a Robert Stephenson, because, noble and efficient

as may be the love of approbation and the sense of duty, these may be yet made to give out more power by the incentive of pecuniary profit. Our private engineers will find practicable and profitable works in every corner of India if capital only be forthcoming to repay them for the search; and if the people of India are acted upon as above suggested, we believe that energy will be created where none now exists, capital will be coaxed from its lurking-places, and a move be made towards obtaining a material guarantee for the good order of the great colony, which direct connexion of Government with public works would not secure. Nowhere more than in India is some salutary influence required to awaken enterprise. The experience and glories of the past appeal in vain to the native. No zemindar restores a tank or a bund, though he knows the land now desert was once fertilised by mighty works whose ruins lay around him.

The presence and continual agitation of a few vigorous enterprising men, well supported by capital, will do more towards changing unchangeable India than all your Orders in Council and Acts of Parliament. They will operate by the force of example; by showing that there is something contemptible as well as prudent in the eternal "tomorrow;" and that "good intentions" may sometimes arrive at realisation. Let us hope that men of such calibre are connected with the undertaking now so fairly started, and that their progress in the desirable road may be so sound and speedy as to warrant the Indian Administration in a more extended application of the guarantee system.

INDIA IN 1858 AND INDIA IN 1859.

THE revolt in India is a fact that every one can understand; it was a strong and striking event readily to be seized by the popular mind, and this has made the India of 1857 and 1858 memorable; but the influence of peaceful events, although more permanent, is not always so readily acknowledged, for there is a pomp, a bustle, a horror in war which raises stronger emotions, and few therefore are to be found who have observed that real revolution in India which has followed the revolt and has marked 1858 as an historical epoch. So a comet which has approached nearer the earth and has no more physical importance and significance than the other two more dimly visible which accompanied it, marks the year to many as the comet year, and it is not till years have passed away and the comet year is found not to be fraught with cometary influence, that its phenomenal dignity is felt to be naught. The revolt will give pictures for years to come to the art-painter and the painter with the pen, but changes more miraculous, though less picturesque, will, year after year, be developed. At present the keenest of us see but little of it; we can see but the signs and tokens of what is coming on, rather than recognise the beginning of that great march of events which announce the adoption of India as a member of the civilised world. Slowly did the new America rise above the wilderness of the savage—so slowly that the advent of the United States in the last century as one of the league of nations was beyond the belief of the many; but yet in that country the domain of civilisation was extended to a new world. In this century its extension by the adoption of India is a fact more remarkable as yet than the throwing open of China and Japan to external influence, because these remain in their integral, self-adopted organisation, but India is directly leavened by the Anglo-Saxon spirit.

The change of government at present is one of name—Queen Victoria for that of Honourable Company—but it is one of fact, for it confirms the progress of principles adopted in the last years of the Company, and which have now received full sanction and free course. The old Government relied on the development of civilisation in India from within, a kind of Paraguayan self-growth which was to achieve the virtues of civilisation without the evils of contact with its professors—without the reception of their vices, without the annoyance of their superiority, without the blighting effects which are brought by the higher races on those of weaker mould. The experiment in

India has been brought to a violent close, as was that in Paraguay, as has been the fate of that long-lived experiment at isolation in Japan; but it could not have continued, and assuredly it could not have succeeded, for paternal government cannot be perpetual, as the law of nature makes men of the children of to-day, and fathers of those who once obeyed as sons, and the paternal Government which has taught its children to think has taught them the limits of its own mission.

The present Government of India seeks for the free development of civilisation by the free contact of English mind, and thus it has a more powerful machinery of progress than could be compassed by the old select but restricted system which has now fallen, shaken to its base, in a year which has been strangely fatal to the mandarin or bureaucratic system. In India, it has lost supremacy; in Russia it is threatened by the creation of a people and a middle class, and the freer action of provincial aristocracies; in Prussia its sanctity is more endangered by the Regency of 1858 than by the revolution of 1848; and in France there is a tendency to limit centralisation by the encouragement of separate action in the provinces. India had reached seemingly a high point of centralisation in the hands of the one Governor-General and Legislative Council of India, but in reality the turning point has been reached. The presidencies and sub-presidencies have, in fact, acquired a freer action, and the government of the Punjab is the type which is conquering and subjecting the governmental types of the other presidencies. In the hands of Lawrence, the Punjab might be called a praetorship, but he has made it a proconsulate, and India is now about to undergo a system of division, which will rapidly efface the sacred presidential bounds. The reconstitution of the governments of the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces is attended with a real change of administration, and the system of commissionerships, which has spread over the presidency of Bengal, is preparing the way for a further division of the local governments.

The reconstruction of the police under English officers is going on over India, and the judicial and magisterial system is likewise under change. The late Government reached the height of its aspirations in a Black Act, or scheme for what Samuel Johnson called levelling downwards, but instead of the domination of English citizens by their native subjects, and the occupation of the bench by native magistrates, the reform is directed to an augmentation of English magistrates. In some of the non-regulation and outlying districts, laws more in conformity to English law have been introduced, and English records substituted for the chicanery of native craft. These are experiments which, by their success, will strengthen the authorities in the elder governments. The adoption of the European type and scrip for native purposes has this year received a further recognition, and we can scarcely doubt their general reception at an early period.

While the local governments and authorities are acquiring freer action, the system of municipalities, which was of an experimental character, has now received a further application, and many of the large cities of India have new municipal commissions and road boards, with the power to carry out local improvements. This is another step, which cannot be taken backward, and which bears rich promise of benefit to India.

Experiments may be tried by the old administrators with the native army, and convenient jobs may be favoured, but the time has passed for us to be burdened with a native army, and India, as an integral part of the empire, must be placed on the same military footing as the rest. There must be one main army, and there may be local corps, but with the opening of the hill regions of healthy climate, there must be the stations and arsenals of the English regiments, backed by the militia and military resources of the English settlers and the hill tribes. These hill-stations and sanitariums have taken a recognised place in military administration, and each year, as railway communication spreads, will they become more important, whatever efforts may be made to establish a native army. Already Bombay is held by the garrisons in the uplands,

and the central stations of the Himalayas are becoming the basis of military power in the North-West.

In no year has the advancement of the natives been more real than in this year, notwithstanding all expressions of hatred and vindictiveness. Vengeance has fallen upon our enemies of the revolt, but prosperity beams with greater promise on the mass of our subjects. Unless on the scene of war, their condition has generally improved, wages have risen, prices are more favourable, taxation less heavily and less bitterly felt, and the efforts made for their material prosperity in the last few years are bearing fruit. At the same time a most salutary check has been placed on Young India, and native aspirations to political and administrative powers are brought within due bounds. Nothing, indeed, could be more fatal than the system of the late Government, which would have resulted in placing the military, police, and central administrative power in the hands of the natives before they had received political and municipal education, before they had been trained in the habits of citizens, or disciplined in the due observance of social obligations.

The position of the English settlers in India has undoubtedly brightened. They feel they are no longer cut off as outlaws and admitted on sufferance as interlopers, but that they carry with them their own rights as citizens and have free scope for their lawful exertions. This is a manifestation of strength untold for the advancement of India, beyond any money vote of the Government and all the guarantees for public works.

The public works of India have, notwithstanding the necessities of the Government, been materially extended. The three presidential railways have opened a further mileage, and have each reached a useful working length, but the promotion of the railway system is provided by the concession of lines from Calcutta to the Mullah and from the same city to Dacca, with the acknowledgment of the line from Calcutta to Darjeeling, by the consolidation of the undertakings in the valley of the Indus, by providing a southern line for Madras, and the steady growth of the Bombay and Baroda Railway. The electric telegraph, which has proved a valuable political servant, is beginning to be of use to commerce, and has been extended beyond the Strait of Manar to Ceylon. Steam has become more fruitful on the Ganges and the Indus, and has made an opening on the Gogra, while, being an enterprise of acknowledged profit, it must now rapidly spread and include within its operations the rivers of India.

More attention has been given to cotton, which will be a means of promoting local improvements, tea and coffee are affording employment to European cultivators, the raw products of India are engaging the capital of our merchants, and coal is an established resource of the country. The successful application of gas in India will be an encouragement to this branch of mining. The great boon to India, however, beyond even the railway guarantees, is the further concession of public works to joint-stock enterprise, by the establishment of the Madras Irrigation Company, which will give a great stimulus to the productive resources of India.

The finances of India must still be regarded with some anxiety, because they must be brought under the same wholesome operation as the other institutions of India; and though the timid in India and at home may regard it with dread, it is a great congratulation that during the period of transition India can have the support of home credit. That the opium duties are doomed, and that the salt-tax must be abolished, few having the least foresight can doubt; but India can be carried through a crisis not severer than that to which she has been subjected by wars of conquest and by internal revolt. The temporary deficit is to be covered by the creation of fresh resources, by the vigorous prosecution of public works, and by the free development of private enterprise. Guarantees can weigh but for a time, even nominally, on the Indian exchequer, and reproductive public works need no longer be stayed when the European money-market is open, wherein the Governments of France, Russia, and Austria find that abundant resources suffice for large demands. China and Japan will open fresh channels of trade to India, and everything promises her a career of vast prosperity under enlightened and zealous administration.

INDIA.

CALCUTTA papers to the 23rd November have been received, but their news had been anticipated by the Bombay mail, which came down to the 25th November. The journals give a favourable impression of the consequences of the Indian Proclamation and the General Amnesty. They state that the respectable classes belonging to the native population are disposed to yield obedience and to regard the establishment of the Queen's direct authority with pleasure. The officials would appear to be doing something in order to convince India that the Proclamation is real, for we read of persons condemned to die being released, and sent out with copies of the royal document, so that they may be living proofs of the mercy which it reveals. Addresses to her Majesty are being prepared in several places, and there will be no end of loyal professions and good wishes. "There are also," says a Calcutta journal, "several among the native princes who, we are told, intend following the example, and her Majesty will, therefore, receive quite a rare collection of autographs, which may serve as an addition to her Majesty's private museum."

CHARACTER OF THE ADDRESSES.

The *Times* correspondent says:—"All over India the Proclamation has been received with a tame uniformity of approval, and all classes are preparing loyal addresses to her Majesty. They are, without an exception, decorous and formal, being usually drawn up by English barristers, and signed by as many natives as happen to see them. Not that they are not genuine. As far as I can learn, all classes of the population most decidedly approve the change; but address-writing is not the Asiatic way of expressing delight, and in adopting an English fashion the natives lose their originality."

CHINA.

ADVANCES from Shanghai are to the 6th November. The new tariff and trade regulations were to be signed on that day by Lord Elgin. It is understood that the duties on imports have been fixed at an *ad valorem* rate of 5 per cent., and on exports to approximate the same rate. The duty on tea and silk is to remain the same as before. The duty on opium is fixed at the rate of 30 taels per chest, but the article is not to have the benefit of the inland transit clause. It is stated that all the Plenipotentiaries have agreed to the arrangements regarding the trade regulations and tariff.

Lord Elgin proceeded up the Yang-tse-Kiang on the 8th November, accompanied by the Retribution, Furious, and Cruiser, and the gunboats Lee and Dove. It was his intention to go up to Hankow, the westernmost of the ports to be opened to foreign trade. As the expedition would have to pass Nankin, and other cities held by the rebels, it was a question whether its progress would be interfered with. It was expected that the expedition would be absent at least three weeks. It was reported that the rebels from Nankin had been committing great destruction among the places in that neighbourhood.

At Canton, matters, so far as trade is concerned, have improved considerably since the date of our last. Several vessels have left with the new teas, and others are on the point of getting away. For imports, also, the demand is increasing. The British Consul has again resumed his post there.

Sir John Bowring has been suffering from severe illness, and it is expected that he will go to Manilla for the benefit of his health. This will probably cause a delay in the prosecution of Sir John's favourite scheme—the formation of a sea wall, road, and frontage, which are said to be much required for the health, safety, and adornment of Hong-Kong.

COCHIN-CHINA.

THE French Emperor's chartered steam transport Scotland, Captain Kendall, arrived at Hong Kong from Turaon, on the 18th November, having stopped at Macao to land thirty men and three officers, all suffering severely from fever and dysentery. Four out of nine Spanish transports which had left Manilla with cavalry had arrived, and landed the men and horses in good order. There had been no fighting during the period of the Scotland's absence, but an advance on Seguin was to take place early next month. Hué will not be attacked until the north-east monsoon is well advanced. The troops, especially French, are suffering terribly from dysentery.

The *China Mail* says that at Manilla, on the 26th ultimo, three Annamese mandarins, who had been captured by the allied French and Spanish forces, were presented to the Captain-General of the Philippines, and it was with some difficulty they were assured that it is not the custom of civilised nations to torture and put to death prisoners of war. They had good reason, from the conduct of their own countrymen and neighbours, in dreading death at the hands of their captors; for two French Roman Catholic bishops have suffered martyrdom in Central Tonquin within the last two years. One of these, Monsieigneur Melchior, died so lately as the 28th July, 1858.

OUR LAND DIFFICULTIES.

(From the Melbourne Herald.)

GENTLEMEN,—In the *Home News* of the 17th May, under the title of "Spirit of the Journals," is an article headed "Mismanagement in Australia," quoted from your paper; and what is very singular, the only quotation given as an illustration of the "Spirit of the Journals."

The influence of the *Times* throughout the civilised world is such that to pretend to ignore any statement therein made, simply on account of its incorrectness, however self-convicting the article may be, is puerile: it requires to be positively contradicted upon good authority; and this very power of the press involves a responsibility which, in regard to colonial matters, I fear is not sufficiently felt. Statements made by prejudiced or interested persons, who are supposed, and rightly so, to be in a position to give good and correct information, are taken without due caution as to the facts of the case being truly set forth, or the motives of the parties stating them; and nothing, however monstrous, seems too absurd to fasten on the poor Australians. Witness, for instance, your greedily swallowing the hoax of the "Croons" correspondence, and now again in the article which has called forth these remarks.

I fear to make this letter too long, or it may not be read by you, or published in the journal which I hope will kindly act as a medium of communication, otherwise I might more fully retort upon you the whole pith of your article, commencing with even Dryden's theory of "remoteness of place having the same effect as remoteness of time," and ending with a complete statistical refutation of the statement that the population of this colony is running out almost as fast as it poured in.

You state, "The lands of Australia, as we have often shown, are locked-up in comparatively few hands. Fixity of tenure, under different names and under different circumstances, has been given to those who originally took possession of them." This is simply and notoriously untrue—there is not a single acre of land held by any individual in the whole colony of Victoria with a fixity of tenure, that has not been purchased from the Crown, and paid for in hard cash; the squatters have only annual licenses, and even these licenses during the year for which they have been granted, have proved no protection against, perhaps, the best portion of their run being sold, and in such sections and in such a manner as not to give the squatter a chance of purchasing a block large enough whereon he could run even a small flock of sheep, without the severest competition with every class of the community, from the man with his 50*l.* to the large speculating capitalist.

Again, you ask a question and state a position; I will answer the one, and upset the other. What is "a successful gold-digger, who has saved 1000*l.*," to do with such a sum in Victoria? The natural resource of such a man—the purchase and cultivation of a small farm—is denied him." With his 1000*l.* he could purchase more land of the best description than he could cultivate—build himself a sufficient homestead, with ample money left for cattle and tools, as well as to pay wages and provide rations until the crops came in. The surveyor-general has just reported a half-million of acres as being surveyed and ready for the market, and the *Gazette* shows, week after week, that no man need be without land if he has money to purchase it.

It would take a pamphlet to go into the whole question you have raised in your article, which, in its general tenor, is quite erroneous and very mischievous; your facts upon which you ground your arguments are fallacious; of course, the superstructure raised on them cannot stand, and believing, as I do, in the *Times*, I cannot but regret that the conductors of such a journal should have allowed such a carelessly written article, affecting as it does the most material interests of one of the finest and most flourishing colonies in the universe, to have found its way into its columns.

The cause of the comparative absence of cultivation in Victoria (and even on this head you are greatly misinformed), is to be sought for in other circumstances than the land regulations, which I assure you do not operate in the manner you suppose. These causes I propose to explain so soon as I can find sufficient leisure. In the mean time, as population is our most essential want, and your article having a direct tendency to deter the intending emigrant from looking to this colony as his final resting-place, I could not resist the desire to contradict your statements, and which contradiction, I am convinced, will be endorsed by every well-informed person in the colony.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

P. STANLEY TOMLINS.

Melbourne, 6th August, 1858.

DEATH OF LORD CLYDE'S FATHER.—The venerable parent of our Indian Commander-in-Chief died at Granton, on the 22nd December, at a very advanced age, and was interred on Monday, in Warriston Cemetery. The funeral was strictly private.

COMMERCIAL.

1858.—COMMERCIAL HISTORY.

We have elsewhere briefly referred to the chief political events of 1858, and confining ourselves to commercial or social events we must at once notice that they have been uniformly quiet and progressive. The events which have convulsed Europe politically, endangered thrones, overthrown ministries, filled all the journals with angry and controversial leaders, and altered the relations of Governments, have not ruffled commerce. Sometimes, as in 1848, when revolution paralysed it, and in 1854-55, when war diverted it from its ordinary course, political events have a serious or disastrous effect on social well-being; but in contrast to those years 1858 has seen commerce quietly but steadily progressive. The disease which smote it came in 1857. At the beginning of the year it was suffering from a disaster peculiarly its own. At other epochs, as at 1793, 1811-12, 1822, 1826, &c., it could be fancied and said that a change from peace to war, or from war to peace, or a great change in commercial or money laws, had made commerce bankrupt. No such pretext could be urged in 1857, further than the general interference of Governments with trade, substituting at all times false rules for true ones, and the convulsion of that year was exclusively the consequence of the mismanagement of commercial men. They were in too great haste to get rich, took too much credit, traded beyond their means, got wildly excited by the gold discoveries and other means of great prosperity, indulged in vain dreams, and entered into fruitless enterprises that ended in general failure. The disgraceful conduct of bankers and banks and great merchants, of which so many instances have of late years been forced on our notice, and which have been much discussed in 1858, when the evil deeds of the Glasgow Western Bank were brought to light and the directors of the Royal British Bank were punished, were the consequences of a general delirium which had come to an end before 1858 began. Now, instead of emulating such proceedings the public bears against them an emphatic testimony and warning. From that convulsion, 1858 at its commencement was sober, depressed, and sad.

The Bank of England was gradually increasing its resources—and the law which purports to regulate it, and had been suspended to enable it to continue its operations, had again come into force, but the bullion in its coffers did not exceed 11,500,000*l.*, and its minimum rate of discount was 8 per cent. The money-market was in a condition stultifying for trade. In the last two months of 1857 the value of the exports had declined 4,800,000*l.*, and in the first two months of 1858 3,800,000*l.* The imports followed the same rule, and in the first four months of 1858 were upwards of 10,200,000*l.* less than in the four months of 1857. Pauperism, which at the close of 1857 had increased from 881,795, the number of paupers in England and Wales at the close of 1856, to 938,468, continued to increase in 1858, and in the second week of March the number was 1,003,204, an augmentation from the beginning of the year of 64,736. The increase was chiefly in the manufacturing districts; in the metropolis there was a decrease throughout the year. In Lancashire and Cheshire the increase in the early part of the year, as compared to the same period of 1857, was 50 per cent. The partial suspension of exchange caused a suspension of work in our factories, and the people suffered, particularly in the cotton districts, more than at any period since 1848. They bore the reverse without a murmur, though it would have been more to their credit had they not been so extensively pauperised after a considerable period of prosperity.

Soon, however, things began to mend. There was no deficiency in broadstuffs or in the raw materials of our fabrics; the harvest of 1857 was excellent. The old trade relations between England and other countries were renewed as soon as their accounts could be adjusted, and if they were not nearly so extensive with America and some other countries as in 1857, they increased with India, Turkey, Russia, &c. Gradually the Bank coffers were filled with gold, the money market became easier, and the rate of discount was successively lowered till it

reached two-and-a-half per cent. at the close of the year. Now the Bank has 19,100,000*l.* of bullion. Gradually the number of paupers diminished till it fell at the end of July as low as it was in 1857. According to the latest monthly return it was in October 16,805 less than the number at the same period in 1857, or had decreased 2.03 per cent. Gradually both the import and the export trade increased, till in the eleventh month of the year the value of the exports exceeded the value of the eleventh month of 1857 by 1,690,621*l.*, though it fell short of the value in the same month of 1856 by 295,639*l.* Considering how vast was the derangement—the value of our exports to the United States alone having fallen off in the first six months of the year from 11,722,952*l.* in 1857 to 5,939,924*l.* in 1858—remembering the great number of stoppages and bankruptcies which occurred at the close of 1857 and the beginning of 1858, the country has gone through one of the widest commercial convulsions ever known, and has received only slight wounds, which are already almost seared over. All the substantial interests of the community—its agriculture, its manufactures, its mining, with the single exception of its shipping, which cannot long continue to suffer as trade revives—are all in a sound and healthy condition. Food is cheap, and employment plentiful. The present revived prosperity, the former great expansion and sudden collapse of trade, are all plainly due to trade itself—the Government has in no wise interfered with it. Thus our free trade, imperfect though it be, has carried the nation with great success through as remarkable a series of changes, natural and political, as ever the world has seen in the short space of ten years—including the gold discoveries, the wonderful improvements in art and science, and the establishment of new Governments in Europe—and has also relieved the Government from all care on the subject and all odium and all discontent from public suffering. Good and evil are now seen by the people to be the natural and necessary results of their own well-advised or ill-directed exertions.

The prices of the funds and of some railways were at the beginning and end of the years as follows:—

	First Week. On opening.	Last Week. On shutting.
Consols.....	95½	98
Reduced.....	95½	97½
Exchequer Bills... 3s. to 7s. p.m.		36s. to 39s. p.m.
Great Western.....	56½	55½
North-Western.....	98½	95½
Brighton.....	107-109	113-114
Caledonian.....	85½	88
Great Northern.....	97-98	107-108

Securities of all kinds were higher priced at the close than at the beginning of the year, but had scarcely risen so much as might have been expected. The public, it may be inferred, had not much money to invest.

We cannot hope for any further official information of the state of trade for the next six weeks, except that which the numerous mercantile circulars, constituting a very peculiar and useful branch of literature, and usually published at the close of every year, will supply, and therefore we must refer to the accounts for the eleventh month, the abstract of which we publish as descriptive of the trade at the end of the year. By that it will be seen, and no substantial difference has occurred in December to alter the relations further than to make them more favourable, that our imports of cocoa, coffee, corn, and flour, cotton, guano, hair, hemp, metals, potatoes, rice, sugar—but not molasses—tar, tea, &c., have been greater than in 1857. Our imports, on the contrary, of animals, bristles, clocks, flax, hides, oils, provisions—except eggs—quicksilver, oil-seeds, silk, spirits, tallow, timber, wine, wool, &c., have been less than in 1857. At the same time the price generally of all commodities has fallen, which has both checked importation and given a smaller relative value to our imports. Accordingly, the value of these in ten months, of which only we have yet the returns, was 106,172,816*l.*, as compared to 123,451,221*l.* in ten months of 1857, a decline of 14 per cent. As the excess of imports over exports constitutes the nation's gain, we must

remind our readers that the reduction in the quantities of our imports is not so great as the reduction in their value, and that the difference is further compensated by an import of the precious metals in eleven months of 9,916,815*l.* above the exports. The trade of 1858 has not been either very great or very profitable, but it has recovered, and is now in a sound condition.

The chief elements of future prosperity, however, are to be found in the quantities of food and raw material imported. We remark, therefore, with pleasure that, although our harvest was good, the wheat and flour imported in the eleven months of 1857, compared with the imports of 1858, were as follows:—

	1857.	1858.
Wheatqrs.	2,988,933	3,988,528
Flour.....cwt.	1,702,358	3,652,725

All this is for our own use. Of the raw materials of our manufacture, cotton, silk, and wool, considerable quantities are re-exported, and our supplies, therefore, of these depend on the re-exports. The imports and re-exports were as follows in the eleven months of 1858:—

	Cotton. cwt.	Raw Silk. lbs.	Wool. lbs.
Imported.....	8,050,914	5,686,423	107,519,851
Re-exported ..	1,227,150	2,104,272	24,228,005

In eleven months of 1857 the quantities of these articles retained for home consumption were respectively, 6,523,458 cwt. 7,969,392 lbs., and 78,049,943 lbs.; so that our actual supplies of cotton and wool are in excess of 1857, while our actual supply of silk is in great deficiency. In 1857, however, the importation of silk was 3,200,000 lbs. in excess of 1856, and we therefore could in 1858 advantageously sell larger quantities to the other silk manufacturing countries of Europe and not ourselves be in want. Both wool and cotton have been proportionably more in demand than silk, and more accordingly has been retained. In all cases we believe that the demand and the price are the best and most certain regulators of supply, and we, therefore, like the men of Bradford, deprecate giving an artificial stimulus to the production of cotton, or any other commodity, when the production of wool, or something else, is equally requisite. In fact, products, in the long run, always pay for products, and it is impossible for one to be stimulated into excess without deranging, in some degree, the market for others.

In the month of November, 1858, the value of our exports exceeded the value in the same month of 1857. The value in the two months and in the eleven months of the two years, was as follows:—

	VALUE OF EXPORTS.	
	In November.	In Eleven Months.
1857.....	£ 8,285,815	£ 115,007,196
1858.....	9,976,436	106,555,562
Difference	1,690,621	8,451,634

The exports in the month, therefore, were 1,690,621*l.* more, and in the eleven months 8,451,634*l.* less than in 1857. We may anticipate that the value of the exports in December, 1858, will be some 1,500,000*l.* more than in December, 1857, so that at the end of the year our exports, as compared to last year, will show a reduction of some 7,000,000*l.*, or about six per cent. as against 1857, while they are now in value somewhat above the exports of 1856. By the end of the year, the value of the exports of 1856 and 1858 will be about equal—say 115,000,000*l.*—a very large amount, and more than double the average value of our exports prior to 1849. In spite, then, of the great convulsion at the end of last year, our trade in 1858 has been tolerably extensive and prosperous, and the close of the year teems with promises of a great and prosperous trade in the year now commenced.

THE BANK OF TURKEY.—It seems by the advices from Constantinople that the Ottoman Government are still anxiously endeavouring to bring about a combination for the establishment of this bank, and in doing so to repair, if possible, their apparently unsatisfactory treatment of the capitalists with whom they were last in correspondence.

TRADE OF ELEVEN MONTHS.

(From the Board of Trade Monthly Returns ended November 30, 1858.)

I.—IMPORTS.			II.—EXPORTS.			IV.—SHIPPING.—Entered Inwards.				
Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.			Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.			1857.		1858.		
Principal Articles.	1857.	1858.	Principal Articles.	1857.	1858.	Countries whence Arrived.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
ANIMALS—Oxen, Bulls, & Cows ..No.	61,045	56,463	COCOA	2,446,028	3,531,985	Brit. Poss. North Amer.	2,135	991,537	1,405	711,932
Calves	23,843	24,727	COFFEE	14,930,544	27,602,672	East Indies	705	526,717	688	546,395
Sheep and Lambs.....	159,426	156,737	COTTON, RAW—Total	1,143,593	1,227,150	Australia	130	102,112	117	86,943
Pigs	10,194	10,530	COTTON MANUFACTURES } value £	120,142	98,519	All other Parts	2,503	470,539	2,589	485,920
ASHES—Pearl and Pot	111,750	119,329	GUANO	19,459	19,441	For. Countries—Russia.	3,163	728,524	3,039	715,962
BARK	342,579	314,995	HIDES, Untanned, Dry	117,951	147,354	Sweden	1,305	252,703	1,394	260,796
BONES	53,240	74,656	Wet	58,715	52,888	Norway	1,275	214,465	1,314	229,509
BRIMSTONE	771,550	980,042	LEATHER—Gloves	470,757	380,732	Denmark	1,916	197,234	1,619	180,211
BRISTLES	2,447,545	1,818,025	METALS—Copper	37,965	42,990	Prussia	3,023	635,297	2,335	425,558
CAOUTCHOUC	16,756	20,941	Tin in Blocks	7,375	5,480	Other Germ. States	1,945	442,354	1,415	308,946
CLOCKS and WATCHES—			OIL—Palm	206,706	154,460	Holland	2,032	392,378	1,821	374,866
Clocks	235,020	209,150	Cocoa Nut	110,808	102,399	Belgium	916	180,197	1,035	179,142
Watches	80,401	83,719	Olive	821	551	France	3,283	473,741	5,851	680,490
COCOA	6,453,386	9,343,017	QUICKSILVER	1,402,212	692,210	Spain	809	128,993	814	130,110
COFFEE	51,902,237	52,379,698	RICE, not in the Husk	1,214,944	1,072,141	Portugal	567	89,808	610	87,942
CORN—Wheat	2,988,933	3,988,523	SALTPETRE	62,913	65,190	Italian States	661	149,970	772	169,315
Barley	1,593,947	1,499,783	SEED—Flax and Linseed	33,505	129,595	Turkish Dominions.	289	89,342	366	94,754
Oats	1,657,053	1,758,236	Rape	45,759	112,529	Wallachia & Mold.	215	42,112	517	94,754
Peas	153,171	128,478	SILK—Raw	1,636,101	2,104,272	Other Europ. States	85	14,774	138	30,126
Beans	260,881	365,723	Thrown	234,231	341,612	Egypt	253	110,122	407	108,849
Indian Corn or Maize	1,014,353	1,573,803	MANUFACTURES—Ran- } pieces	300,451	203,459	United States	1,157	1,120,540	1,180	1,086,859
Wheat Flour	1,702,358	3,652,725	dannas, Corahs, Taffaties, &c. }	731,900	367,296	Mexico, For. W. I.,	520	190,557	614	223,924
COTTON, RAW	7,667,051	8,050,914	SPICES—Cassia Lignea	6,435	10,958	and Cen. America	327	99,637	315	91,170
COTTON MANUFACTURES—			Ginger	193,676	169,466	Brazil	958	409,473	1,114	487,270
CREAM OF TARTAR	526,348	448,503	Nutmegs	2,971,181	4,608,878	Other States in Ame-				
CRYES and DYING STUFFS—			Pepper	990,432	601,726	rica, Africa, Asia..				
Cochineal	17,237	13,396	SPIRITS—Rum	107,883	67,941					
Indigo	62,800	62,632	Brandy	281,075	268,640					
Lac dye	8,196	9,253	Geneva	45,169	85,936					
Logwood	33,575	21,386	SUGAR—Unrefined	38,631	20,314					
Madder and Madder Root	325,499	264,612	Molasses	8,483,594	6,776,172					
Garancine	27,858	28,110	TALLOW	56,607	57,931					
Shumac	13,193	9,332	TEA	9,479,522	8,143,674					
Terra Japonica	5,218	5,218	Unstemmed	815,319	1,076,301					
Cutch	1,083	1,642	Manufactured, and Snuff	1,887,202	2,109,910					
Valonia	21,034	17,002	WINE	32,945,634	24,228,005					
ELEPHANTS' TEETH	7,623	9,974	WOOL—Sheep and Lambs'	130,871	108,614					
FLAX	1,776,023	1,172,204	Alpaca and the Llama Tribe	12,779	17,620					
FRUIT—Currants	253,514	245,247	WOOLLEN MANUFAC- } value £.							
Lemons and Oranges	653,105	765,005	TURES, not made up							
Raisins	206,202	197,001								
GUANO	179,455	309,557								
HAIR—Goats' Hair or Wool	2,742,509	2,862,685								
Manufactures of Hair and										
Goats' Wool	190,624	143,181								
HEMP	702,783	740,174								
Jute	575,513	579,151								
HIDES—Dry	252,656	216,596								
Wet	551,931	367,790								
HIDES—Tanned	5,104,855	3,536,380								
HOPS	10,960	12,732								
LEATHER—Boots, Shoes, and										
Goloshes, of all kinds	176,347	142,591								
Boot Fronts	545,387	574,664								
Gloves	4,075,956	3,360,388								
METALS—Copper Ore	81,753	83,991								
Copper	94,980	107,720								
Iron, in Bars	44,137	21,316								
Lead	10,341	12,272								
Spelter	16,874	20,117								
Tin	42,743	47,701								
OIL—Train	15,600	15,938								
Palm	713,371	647,368								
Cocoa Nut	182,276	164,982								
Olive	15,153	7,450								
Seed Oil, of all kinds	10,540	63,878								
OIL SEED CAKES	85,380	145,218								
POTATOES	633,697	1,020,004								
PROVISIONS—Bacon & Hams	362,642	151,510								
Beef, Salt	120,837	76,369								
Pork, Salt	68,300	358,028								
Butter	418,389	319,179								
Cheese	346,208	319,179								
Eggs	119,609,200	127,409,000								
Lard	171,082	98,087								
QUICKSILVER	471,083	3,318,989								
RICE, not in the Husk	2,747,507	3,318,989								
SALTPETRE	391,747	297,078								
Cubic Nitre	295,127	397,935								
SEEDS—Clover	143,002	129,564								
Flax and Linseed	823,358	749,040								
Rape	177,820	102,490								
SILK—Raw	9,005,403	5,686,423								
Waste	16,694	13,813								
Thrown	607,890	340,607								
Broad Stuffs—Silk or Satin	177,451	244,815								
Gauze, Crape, and Velvet	26,397	31,077								
Ribbons	365,100	355,641								
Plush for Hats	111,545	120,726								
Bandannas, Corahs, Taffaties, &c.										
SPICES—Cassia Lignea.....lbs.	344,690	190,980								
Cinnamon	225,470	437,071								
Cloves	590,374	600,412								
Ginger	368,078	1,485,081								
Nutmegs	20,920	25,303								
Pepper	293,331	205,438								
Pimento	3,932,154	8,223,240								
SPIRITS—Rum	22,107	35,259								
Brandy	5,555,613	6,448,059								
Geneva	2,067,210	774,143								
SUGAR—Unrefined	114,245	114,245								
Molasses	7,212,628	7,886,273								
TALLOW	883,440	704,997								
TEA	984,100	910,867								
Unstemmed	10,218	8,001								
Manufactured, and Snuff	59,280,423	67,021,843								
TURBENTINE—Common	1,116,495	974,334								
WINE	84,384	85,803								
WOOL—Sheep and Lambs'	980,472	789,050								
Alpaca and the Llama Tribe	8,261,961	8,902,541								
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES—										
Not made up	22,230,824	24,917,584								
Partially made up, Shawls, &c. lbs.	1,378,483	1,914,400								
YEAH, dried	164,880	193,932								
	9,078,469	4,932,983								
	110,995,577	107,519,851								
	2,200,177	1,998,831								
	1,200,225	772,990								
	17,223	15,554								
	67,184	70,023								

GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

London, Friday Evening.

As usual in the last week of the year, which is almost a general holiday, trade has been quiet, and we have no alteration of consequence to notice. But though the markets are quiet they cannot be considered unfavourable. To-day the demand for wheat was rather more active; the price, however, is now almost as low as ever it was, and the price of flour is, we believe, lower than ever it has been. This condition of the chief food market is extremely favourable to our manufacturers and all consumers; and we learn from Glasgow, Manchester, and other places, that business was never more flourishing. From India and the United States the demands are increasing; and in the increasing consumption in the manufacturing districts, the agriculturists and the holders of corn may expect that prices will be somewhat better. The imports, however, have been so large and the harvest was so good—potatoes, too, being plentiful and excellent—that no considerable rise can be expected.

The condition of trade at the commencement of this year affords a favourable contrast to the condition of trade at the commencement of the year just closed. Then all was distrust and dismay in the commercial and manufacturing districts, insolvencies, accomplished and impending, were everywhere visible, and money was at a rate to render it hopeless to obtain profit on ordinary business transactions where discounts were required. Now the gloom has wholly disappeared. Confidence, if it has not been wholly re-established in every direction, is improving, and trade is gradually approaching into its usual activity. It is quite true that a reduced amount of business has been transacted in almost every staple branch of our manufactures, the home consumption has been less, and the export trade diminished, but it is equally true that the trade which has taken place has been of an unusually sound and legitimate character, and that general prudence has characterised the proceedings of all classes of producers. No doubt there has been a certain amount of speculation going on in tallow, corn, scrip iron, and articles of produce, but, compared with past years, the amount is insignificant. Altogether, then, we venture to congratulate the manufacturing world on the prospects which the present year presents. We find that a good many branches of manufactures are fully employed, that orders are in reserve likely to continue full employment for some time longer, and that the workmen are engaged at fair wages. There have been a few symptoms of "strikes" among certain classes of operatives, but, if we except the coal trade, the strikes have been local in their action and their causes, and have lasted only a very brief period. The business of the week has been to a certain extent interfered with by Christmas festivities, but altogether nothing has occurred to check the activity which has prevailed for some time past in the manufacturing districts.

One of the few circulars yet issued, that of Mr. Thomas Thornburn, says of the Scotch iron trade:—"At the opening of the year a hopeful feeling prevailed that the low prices then engendered by the commercial crisis of 1857 would promote an extensive demand, large purchases were made at from 53s. to 57s. per ton, and the price gradually rose to 60s. by the middle of March; but it being obvious that the make was continuing considerably in excess of the total deliveries, a quick reaction set in, the price declined to 52s. 6d. by the end of April, and has since fluctuated between 53s. and 56s. for mixed numbers. The pig iron produced in the year reached the immense quantity of 945,000 tons, which, at the average price for the year, represents a total value of 2,551,000l. sterling. Of this there were consumed, and exported foreign and coastwise, 810,000 tons. It will thus be perceived that the stocks, which are now 295,000 tons, in warehouse-keepers' and makers' stores, have increased 135,000 tons in the year. The foreign shipments exhibit a decrease of 64,000 tons, the local consumption of 59,000 tons, the exports coastwise show an increase of 84,000 tons, compared with 1857. Meanwhile, the foundries, engineering, and malleable iron-works on the Clyde are manifesting signs of approaching activity, which will be further strengthened and consolidated by the decided and perceptible revival now happily begun in the general trade of the country."

LIVERPOOL.—The cotton market has not been quite so brisk as it was last week. The business done both for speculation and import was limited, but still for the period of the year very fair; and prices have been well maintained.

MANCHESTER.—The latest advices from India and China received during the week are very encouraging. They state that the import trade was very brisk, that heavy sales were taking place, and that manufactures already on hand not only went off freely, but also those expected to arrive. This description of the state of business not only applies to India but to the China markets, and the result is that an advance on most descriptions of goods has been established. Shirtings are higher by 8d. per piece, and Jaconets, madapolams, and other light goods 1½d. per piece. The markets are strong, and manufacturers are so full of orders, that they will not enter into any fresh contracts except at a

further advance. The home trade is quiet, but the prospects generally are considered to be better than has been the case for many years past.

LEEDS.—A few parcels of goods were disposed of, but no very great amount of business was done. In fact, stock-taking, balancing of books, and Christmas revels have interfered with the ordinary current of business. There is, however, one satisfactory feature, that markets are firm, and that prices for the best quality of goods are moving upwards. Stocks are low, and the tone of business cheerful.

ROCHDALE.—The wool trade has had a slight improvement. Full prices were paid, and the belief in a fall is gradually fading away. Altogether the woollen trade is in an unwonted state of activity for the season. Flannels are not very greatly in demand, but prices are sustained.

BRADFORD.—The manufacturers have not had a very busy week, but there appears nothing to complain of either in the business doing or the prospects of the new year.

GLASGOW.—The cotton market has been active throughout the week, and prices remain about the same as last week. The yarn and goods market has been very active, and prices have advanced. It is expected that higher prices will have to be given, as the India demand continues large and manufacturers are full of orders. The pig-iron trade has had a quiet week, but a fair business has been done in mixed number warrants.

BIRMINGHAM.—Trade continues very fair, but not very brisk. The same may be said of the other hardware districts.

THE COAL TRADE has been active, and the mining districts in full employ.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

A DISPUTE has arisen between the London, Brighton, and South Coast, and the London and South-Western Companies respecting the Portsmouth traffic. Both companies have been using a portion of line in common from Havant to Portsmouth until recently, and sharing the Portsmouth traffic in the proportion of one-third for the Brighton and two-thirds for the South-Western. It appears that, owing to the London and South-Western Company having come to an arrangement for leasing the direct Portsmouth Railway for 18,000l. a year, the Brighton and South Coast Company were unwilling to allow their neighbours to run over the line to Portsmouth until new terms had been come to with respect to the traffic in question, and formal notice was given to the South-Western directors to the effect that their trains would be prevented traversing the railway from Havant to Portsmouth after the 27th Dec. The Brighton and South Coast Company had taken up a small portion of their rails on the main Portsmouth down line, which the South-Western men carefully relaid. The line eventually remained in the possession of the Brighton Company, and consequently the trains of the South-Western Railway Company are at present prevented from going to Portsmouth. Meanwhile the public ask, what is being done by the Railway Companies Association lately formed with the promise of healing or averting all creditable contests of this nature?

The half-yearly meeting of the London and Greenwich Railway Company is called for the 11th January, when a half-yearly dividend of 17 7s. 6d. per cent., or 5s. 6d. per share, will be recommended on the ordinary stock.

A further agreement has been made between the London and North-Western, the Great Northern, and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Companies, in reference to the matters lately in dispute. They now agree to a general division of competitive traffic, to be settled by arbitration in case of difference. Other compromises have also been effected, by which it is hoped to bring about a general pacification. The three companies are to seek Parliamentary powers for these arrangements in the ensuing session, the notices having already been given.

The extension of the Morayshire Railway (from its junction at Orton with the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway) to Craigellachie, a distance of five miles and a half, has been opened for public traffic. It appears the line has been completed at a cost under 4800l. per mile.

It was rumoured this week on the Stock-Exchange that the North-Eastern Railway Company are about to lease the North British Railway on terms equal to a dividend of 8½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock of the company.

A call of 5 per cent. is to be paid on the shares in the East of Bavaria Railways Company by the 8th January; and a call of 20 per cent. on the shares in the Empress Elizabeth Railway Company by the 24th January. The shares in these undertakings are held principally in Germany.

It is stated that the agreement between the Lombardo-Venetian Railway Company and the shareholders of the Maria Antonia Railway, of Florence, is about to be forthwith carried out.

The 5l. shares of the Royal Swedish Railway Com-

pany—one of the victims of John Sadleir's frauds—were dealt in this week at 5s. per share.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Dundee and Arbroath Railway was held on Wednesday, at Dundee. A dividend of 2½ per cent. for the half-year upon all the stock of the company, payable after the 1st of January, was unanimously agreed to.

At the respective special meetings of the London and North-Western, and Chester and Holyhead Railway Companies, held on Thursday, the agreement between these two companies were definitively confirmed. The event has been followed by a fresh rise of 1½ per cent. in the latter company's stock.

COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY.—The works between the Junction and Downpatrick are proceeding rapidly towards completion, the permanent way being laid to Annacloy, and all masonry finished. The rails will be laid down to the Quoile River by the middle of next month. There is every prospect of the line being opened for traffic to Downpatrick within the next three months.

THE BORDER RAILWAYS.—So keenly disputed are the merits of the rival Langholm and Liddesdale lines in the east country, that some of the Hawick manufacturers have been obliged to put up notices forbidding discussion of the subject in their mills.—*Carlisle Journal*.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

ON Tuesday a special meeting of the Travellers' and Marine Insurance Company was held, for the purpose of receiving a report of the directors of the proposed purchase of the business of the Maritime Passengers' Assurance Company. The chairman stated that the directors had agreed for the purchase of the business of the other company. Resolutions were unanimously passed confirming the agreement, and authorising the directors to issue the necessary debentures.

A general meeting of the Commercial Dock Company is called for the 14th of January, to declare a half-yearly dividend, to elect four directors and one auditor in the room of those who retire, and to elect a director in the room of Mr. John Masterman, who has resigned.

Vice-Chancellor Kindersley proposes, on the 18th of January, to make a call of 17 15s. per share on the contributaries of the National Patent Steam Fuel Company.

The half-year's dividend, to the 31st of December, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, is advertised on the shares of the South Australian Banking Company.

A general meeting of shareholders in the Bank of London is called for the 20th January, and a half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Commercial Bank of London for the 18th January.

The half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Unity Bank is called for the 21st January.

At the meeting of the Canada Company, held on Thursday, the distribution declared was at the rate of 17 10s. per share free of income tax, and the report and accounts were adopted. It was announced that the recent returns from the commissioners exhibit a steady improvement in the company's affairs.

COASTING TRADE OF FRANCE.—This trade, for merchandise of all kinds carried from one French port to another in 1857, either in the same sea or from one sea to another, was carried on by 256 ports, of which only 13 have connexion with Algeria. The general movement of merchandise was 2,573,265 tons, or 1,877,299 tons between the Atlantic ports and 695,966 tons in those of the Mediterranean; the quantity carried from one sea to the other was 118,950 tons. Out of the 2,573,265 tons of merchandise carried coastwise during 1857, Marseilles sent 280,868, Havre 238,359, Bordeaux 215,309, Nantes 164,846, Rouen 145,489, and Arles 87,822. Next come Charente, Cete, Dunkirk, Honfleur, Rochefort, and Port de Bouc, with quantities varying from the minimum of 41,476 tons to the maximum of 69,989. These 12 ports have absorbed 58 per cent. of the total quantity. Among the most important articles conveyed by coasters to and from ports in the same sea, and from one sea to another, are—corn and flour, 884,833 tons; common wood, 319,228; materials of different kinds, 292,462; sea salt and sel gemma, 286,148; wine, 180,783; coal, 119,888; and rough castings, bar iron, and steel, 108,834. The above-mentioned merchandises compose together 64 per cent. of the general movement. The number of voyages made by coasters in 1857 was 80,712. The quantity of merchandise and produce of all kinds from one Algerian port to another in 1857 was 55,149 tons. Algeria received 55 per cent. of the above quantity.—*Galignani's Messenger*.

DECIMAL WEIGHT.—The *Liverpool Albion* states that the new weight, equal to 100lb. avoirdupois, to be called the "Cental," will be adopted exclusively for all transactions in the Liverpool Corn-market on and after the 1st of February next, all other weights, except for minor portions of the "cental," and all measures of every kind whatever, being from that date excluded. At Hull, likewise, it has been resolved to adopt the "cental," not only for all grain, flour, and meal, but for seeds also; and Wakefield and Leeds are expected to concur in the movement.

HOME, COLONIAL, & FOREIGN
PRODUCE MARKETS.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Mincing Lane, Friday Evening.

BUSINESS has this week been, in nearly every instance, of a merely nominal character, the leading markets being closed until the 4th. The few transactions have, however, given evidence of the stability of most markets, and a steady and improving trade in the new year is very generally anticipated.

CORN.—The fresh supplies of both English and foreign wheat, and indeed of most other articles of the trade, have been moderate, and although the buying has been only to a moderate extent, the tone of the market has in general been firm. English and Foreign wheat sold at the full terms quoted in our last. In flour there was rather more doing without change in price. Malt is if anything the turn cheaper, choice new were not being quoted over 67s. Barley is more plentiful, and Foreign 1s. to 2s. cheaper; white peas are 1s. cheaper, the weather checking consumption; oats in moderate supply and inactive, but not lower.

CORN ARRIVALS.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	qrs. 5,189	—	2,932
Barley	" 2,376	—	20,088
Oats	" 12,943	—	—
Beans	" 728	—	2,716
Peas	" 289	—	650
Flour	sk. 19,102	—	1,925
Ditto	brls. —	—	25

LONDON AVERAGES.

	Qrs.	s.	d.
Wheat	2903	at 42	8
Barley	243	" 34	0
Oats	1314	" 23	11
Beans	269	" 38	6
Peas	42	" 58	4

POTATOES.—With average supplies of home-grown and liberal imports of foreign, trade has ruled dull: York Regents, 80s. to 100s.; Kent and Essex, 80s. to 90s.; Scotch, 70s. to 80s.; Cups, 60s. to 70s.; Belgian Reds, 55s. to 70s.

PROVISIONS.—At Newgate and Leadenhall trade has been dull, except for Beef, which sells readily at full prices, prime up to 4s. 2d. per stone. Mutton has declined considerably; prime Downs sold at 4s.

LIVE STOCK.—As usual close after Christmas the supply has been short, and prices firm, although the demand was not active. The following were the numbers at market and current quotations:—

MONDAY.

Beast.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
2,010	7,050	50	100

3s. 8d. to 5s. 0d.	3s. 10d. to 5s. 2d.	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.	2s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.
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THURSDAY.

1,050	5,600	210	150
3s. 8d. to 5s. 0d.	3s. 10d. to 5s. 2d.	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.	2s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.

SUGAR.—The only transactions of moment, are a landed cargo Bahia at 36s. 6d. for export, a floating cargo Maceio at 26s. 9d. for Trieste, and 1500 bags Mauritius at 39s. to 42s.

SPIRITS.—Small parcels rum have been placed on full terms. Large sales of Otard's 1858 brandies have been made for arrival at 5s. 7d. to 5s. 8d. on the quay.

COFFEE.—Business is confined to a cargo of 8900 bgs. Rio at 48s. for Trieste, and 1000 bgs. native Ceylon at 50s. to 50s. 6d. for good and fine ord.

TEA.—The market is quiet, but quotations steady. **COCHINEAL** very firm, in consequence of unfavourable crop accounts.

METALS.—Considerable transactions have taken place in spelter at advanced prices: ranging up to 28½ 10s. for W.H. plates. To-day the market is not so brisk. Other metals are not altered materially.

JUTE.—About 7000 bales have changed hands at full prices, but the market closes less active.

COTTON.—Very little passing, and the market dull.

OILS.—Olive has rather a downward tendency; linseed scarce, and worth 80½.

TALLOW.—The market has been steady through the week, and closed to-day at 51s. 8d. for Russian yellow candle, on the spot and for delivery. The official market letter remains as on last Friday.

In other articles the transactions have been entirely devoid of interest.

ALGERIAN RAILWAY.—Mr. Henry Smith, of Birmingham, contractor, has been in Paris with a staff of English engineers, investigating the project of the proposed railway from Algiers to Oran. He had an audience with Prince Napoleon, and has since left for Algeria, whither his staff of engineers had preceded him to prosecute inquiries into the project.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRIA.—Under the authority of the Minister of Finance, the bank has announced the issue of one-florin notes in the same proportion in the new currency in which notes for one, two, and five florins in the old are withdrawn. The amount of new notes is not to exceed 10,000,000, and they are secured by the mortgaged State domains. An increase of the metallic reserve is likewise promised.

MONEY MARKET AND STOCK-
EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY EVENING.

THE demand for money, which has been active all the week, was extreme to-day, and it generally is considerable at the close of the year. For some time no bills have been discounted below the Bank value, and to-day higher terms were demanded. In the Stock-Exchange 3 per cent. was freely given for loans for short dates, every person finding it more for his advantage to pay a high rate for temporary accommodation than have on this day a scanty balance at his banker's. But this extreme demand is merely temporary, and to-morrow will probably be relaxed. The public funds have been dull in the week, with very little business doing. They preserved the same character to-day. Consols closed at 96½, Exchequer bills continue at 86 to 39 premium. From Paris the prices come steady, and there, as here, the funds are quiet.

Railway shares, as the traffic accounts continue to be good, are generally looking up, and likely to improve. To-day the shares of the Birmingham line were in much request, and they were at 97½, buyers. North British too, which the Berwick Company is expected to purchase, were rather run on, and advanced to 62, buyers at that price. We notice with regret that the proceedings of the Joint-Stock Banks, in placing the Victoria Debentures on the market in a manner something unusual, excite attention and remark; while their success and their great resources giving them advantages over individuals, induce them so to extend their business as to beget alarm for the ultimate results. We trust they will continue to be prudent and to eschew all but real banking business.

The already announced Russian Loan continues to be expected; and as it is to be contracted chiefly for promoting manufacturing and commercial enterprise, which in the end may pay well, it is looked forward to rather with favour than apprehension.

The Public Securities throughout the last week of the year have been generally heavy. No political cause can be assigned for this. Several loans, indeed, are announced, which have some influence over the market, but we believe that the principal cause is the great profit which has of late years been made by employing money in trade. When banks pay dividends of 15 or 20 per cent., it is not likely that money will be eagerly pressed into securities that yield only 3 or 4. At present trade is dull, but there is a prospect of its reviving, and of making again something like the large profits it made in 1856 and 1857. As long as hopes of such a result are entertained fixed securities will not rise in price very rapidly.

The first parcel of debentures of the Railway Loan for the colony of Victoria will be offered to public tender at the London and Westminster Bank on the 7th instant. The amount will be 1,000,000, and a further sum of like magnitude is expected to be brought forward during the year. A deposit of 5 per cent. will be required upon each tender, the remainder to be paid on the 1st of February. The debentures are for amounts of 100, 500, and 1000, redeemable in twenty-five years, with interest accruing from the 1st of October last. The London committee point out that the revenue of the colony for 1857 was 3,307,467; that it is estimated to realise a similar total this year; and that nearly one-half is expended annually on internal improvements. The total to be obtained in the short space of four years is 8,000,000, of which 7,000,000 is to be drawn from the London market. Let us add to this that the finances of this young colony have already been once in a very dilapidated condition; that the amount of revenue for which credit is claimed is enormous to be collected from less than 300,000 people; and that a very large portion of it is collected on trade, any decline in which will materially affect the resources of the Government. In 1857 the revenue of the United States was nearly twice as large as in 1858. The revenue, therefore, on which the borrowers and lenders rely is gathered by a system of taxation that may on any day tumble to the ground. Moreover, interest is to commence from October last, or months before any revenue can accrue from railways yet to be completed. The public cannot deprecate too strongly the practice of individuals and Governments borrowing large sums now to be paid by future industry.

One of the strong points of the shipowners' case is the very low freights from India, the consequence

—as we learn from the circular of Messrs. Curry, Kellock, and Co., Liverpool, shipbrokers—of "the large fleet that has gone to the East in the war service." The enormous amount of tonnage, they say, that has accumulated in the Indian and China ports (about 500,000 tons), has reduced freights from thence to a nominal rate." It is probably known to our readers that the enormous amount of tonnage employed in the war service or as transports are not included in our shipping returns, and, being exclusively British, were they included would affect very favourably the statistics of our shipping. Moreover, the owners of these transports, carrying troops and stores to the East, take into their consideration the probability or not of obtaining return cargoes, and they are so well paid for carrying men thither that they can afford to come home empty without loss. Another cause for the diminished employment of our shipping is said, by these gentlemen, to be "the discontinuance of the guano charters," as well as the general contraction of trade. They give us hope, however, of a revival. "Outward freights have considerably improved," "ship-building in the colonies has been diminished," and, as a consequence, "second-hand large colonial ships are improving in demand." The condition of the shipping which is left will be improved too by the losses of shipping in 1858, "which have been enormous, considerably over those of 1857," however much some shipowners and underwriters may thereby suffer.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, the 29th day of December, 1858.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued..... 32,855,315	Government debt.. 11,015,100
	Other securities ... 3,459,900
	Gold coin and bullion
	Silver bullion
£32,855,315	£32,855,315

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Proprietors' capital 14,553,000	Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)
Reserve	Other Securities 16,950,153
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Commissioners of National Debt, Savings Banks, and Dividend Accounts) ..	Notes
Other deposits	Gold and Silver
Seven Day & other Bills	Coin
£41,090,404	£41,090,404

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated the 30th day of December, 1858.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 28.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

EDWARD DIXON, Gravesend, oilman.

BANKRUPTS.

JONATHAN HILLS, Dartford, miller.
JOSEPH CARE, Alcester, Warwickshire, licensed victualler.
JOHN CHEETHAM, Birmingham, general dealer.
WILLIAM PEARSON, Kidderminster, licensed victualler.
JAMES MCINTYRE, Morthyr Tydvil, draper.
RICHARD and WILLIAM JAMES ROTHWELL, Rochdale, woollen manufacturers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

A. R. STEWART, Aberdeen, dyer.
W. BISSET, Old Machar, Aberdeenshire, gardener.
G. ROBERTSON, Kirkwall, general merchant.
R. WAUGH, Coatbridge, baker.
J. ROBB, Edinburgh, builder.

Friday, December 31.

BANKRUPTS.

GUSTAVE DUYSTER, Old Trinity House, Water-lane, glass-merchant.
JOHN ALFRED MELEN, High-street, Shoreditch, tobacconist.
ROBERT McHAFFIE MELLISS, Manchester, merchant.
EDGAR AUGUSTUS GLOVER, Liverpool, hotel keeper.
HENRY WIST, 14 and 15, Cannon-street, upholsterer.
WILLIAM CAWLEY, Stockport, draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

WILLIAM TURNER, Hawick, grocer.
WILLIAM BURNS or WILLIAM STRUTHERS BURNS, Edinburgh, lace dealer.
ALEXANDER M'BOY, South Mean Echt, Aberdeenshire, farmer.
JOHN BOYD, Paisley, draper.

SHARES AND STOCKS.

ENGLISH STOCKS.										ENGLISH STOCKS.										FOREIGN STOCKS.										FOREIGN STOCKS.									
Fri.										Fri.										Fri.										Fri.									
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p. c. 4-year										Do. do. Scrip										Austrian Bonds, 5 per cent										Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 p. ct. in £ st									
3 per ct. Reduced Ann.										Do. Bonds, 4 per cent., 10007.										Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent										Ditto 4½ per cent									
Ditto for Opening										Ditto under 5007.										Ditto 4½ per cent 1853										Sardinian Bonds, 5 per cent.									
3 percent. Consols Ann.										Bank Stock for account Aug. 5										Ditto 5 per cent., 1829 and 1830										Spanish Bonds, 3 per cent									
Ditto for Opening										3 p. ct. Cons. for account do										Ditto 4½ per cent., 1843										Ditto 3 per cent. Deferred									
New 3½ per cent. Ann.										Ditto for Opening										Ditto 4½ per cent., 1855										Ditto Passive Bonds									
Ditto for Opening										India Stock, for account do										Buenos Ayres Bonds, 4 per cent.										Ditto Com. Cert. of Coupon not fd.									
New 2½ per cent. Ann.										Exchequer Bills, 2d. and 1½d. p. day										Ditto Deferred 3 per cent.										Turkish Scrip. 6 per cent.									
New 2½ per cent.										Ditto 10007.										Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent.										Ditto per cent. Guaranteed									
5 per cent.										Ditto 5007.										Ditto 3 per cent.										Venezuela 5 per cent									
Lrg Ann. Jan. 5, 1860										Ditto Small										Danish Bonds, 3 per cent., 1825										Ditto Deferred 2 per cent.									
Ann. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1850										Ditto Advertised 11										Ditto 5 per cent. Bonds										[Divs. on above payable in London.]									
Ditto exp. Jan. 5, 1860										Ditto Bonds, A 1855 3½ p. ct.										Dutch 2½ p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders										Belgian Bonds 4½ per cent.									
Ditto " Jan. 5, 1860										Ditto under 10007.										Grenada Bonds, New Active, 2½ p. c.										Dutch 2½ p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders									
Ditto " April 5, 1855										Ditto B 1850										Ditto Deferred										Ditto 4 per cent. Certificates									
India Stock, 10½ per cent										Ditto under 1000										Guatemala										Peruvian Dollar Bonds									
Do. Loan Debentures																				Mexican 3 per cent										PARIS.									
																				Peruvian Bonds, 4½ per cent										French Rentes, 4½ per cent									
																				Ditto 4½ per cent. (Uribarren)										Ditto 3 per cent									
																				Portuguese Bonds, 3 per cent., 1853										78½ 20c.									

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COAL-MINING COMPANY (LIMITED).—We take the liberty, unasked, of alluding here to the prospectus of the Gloucestershire Coal Mining Company which appears in another part of our impression. The remarkable detached coal-field of the Forest of Dean is now known as supplying house coal of good quality to Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, the district between the Wye and Severn, and, in fact, to all the country within compass of the broad-gauge lines. But its general opening and recognition as a coal-field are yet so comparatively recent that the public are quite prepared to learn that mineral operations within its borders have been by no means regarded by private capitalists as reducible to such a certainty as those in the elder fields of Durham, Northumberland, Lancashire, Staffordshire, or South Wales. A mineral district is not created in a day. A mining population is not to be extemporised. Engine works, foundries, powder works, manufactories, in short, connected with every branch of industry necessary to successful mining, are not found ready to the hands of those who break ground in new fields, and when they do locate themselves, their numbers are so few at first that, for want of competition, the prices they are at liberty to demand are so many checks upon industry. Credit, again, except in specially mineral districts, is sparingly given to the mineral speculator. And the cautious country tradesman cannot be wondered at who declines, as he says, "to bury his money underground," to alter the system of his dealings, and foster what he considers a lunatic attempt to get gold from the earth. The county of Cornwall, with which we are acquainted, is a peculiar instance of a district tinged throughout with mineral enterprise. Every soul in the county, from the Lord-Lieutenant to the peasant child, is at home in such matters, and could interpret the recondite pages of the *Mining Journal* to a Cockney without faltering. But this is the ripening of seed sown by Jews and Phœnicians in remote ages, while the Forest of Dean now struggling for a position as a coal-field was not dreamed of half a century ago. But its time of trial is now past, and the extension of the broad gauge system in every direction, as well as its immediate connexion with the sea, is now carrying its produce far and wide. We have means of knowing that the proprietors of the pits under notice are themselves large holders in the association they promote. Two of the gentlemen they have joined with them are experienced Scottish coal-owners. That a third owns the next coal-field is a distinct vote of confidence. The certifying engineer holds an excellent position. These facts we know; and supposing that, as stated, three-fourths of the capital is subscribed, we see no reason why the remainder should not be readily forthcoming in these "piping times."

FRENCH LOAN BANK.—Accounts from Paris state an expectation that the contemplated scheme for a new loan bank will be shortly put forth. It appears that it is to be called the Commercial and Manufacturing Credit Company, and that its capital is fixed at 1,600,000*l.*, in 20*l.* shares. Deposits, not exceeding in the aggregate one-half the capital, may be received at interest. The company are to discount home and foreign bills, to make advances on warrants and goods, to grant limited loans on Government securities for ninety days, and on mortgages for six months, to collect dividends and debts, and to receive securities upon commission for safe keeping. The advances on Government securities and mortgages are each to be restricted to a fifth of the subscribed capital, but the transactions in bills, warrants, &c., seem to be left to discretion. The total liabilities of the company are never to exceed six times the amount of the capital. Subject to the consent of the Minister of Finance, subscriptions may be made to foreign loans and foreign companies.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE ISTHMUS SCHEME.—The Paris correspondent of the *Express* says:—"The telegram stating that the Sultan had washed his hands of the Isthmus of Suez business, and that the Pasha of Egypt would not allow the works to be commenced without his sanction, was suppressed in Paris, and none of the journals have felt at liberty to allude to the subject. It was, however, apprehended at the Bourse that the Lesseps bubble, was about to burst. The shares were done at 10 and 15 discount."

THE SUPPLY OF TEA.—The reports current in the first part of the season, that the supply of tea this year would be short, although they did not get much credence at first, seem as if they were actually to prove true. The advices just received say that at all the ports the supply is remarkably short, and, owing to the small stocks, the tea-men are enabled to keep up prices to a figure which prevents foreigners from buying freely. The export this year to the present time shows a decrease of 9,000,000*lb.* on that of last year to the same period, and of 18,000,000*lb.* on that of 1856-57.

THE COINAGE IN LOMBARDY.—Accounts from Venice state that the Archduke Maximilian has just adopted two important measures. The first authorises the mints of Milan and Venice to issue monthly 800,000 florins in zwanzigers of foreign manufacture (the circulation of which has hitherto been prohibited) in exchange for new Austrian money of a corresponding value. The second is intended for the convenience of the working classes, and directs the distribution among

the district commissaries of as large a quantity as possible of copper money, in order to operate an exchange at par with the old pieces of five centimes.

THE UNITED STATES MINT.—According to the report of the directors, the entire amount of bullion in all the several monetary establishments during the year was:—Gold, 51,494,311 *dols.* 29*c.*; silver, 9,199,954 *dols.* 67*c.*; total, 60,694,265 *dols.* 96*c.* The coinage operations during the same period were as follows:—Gold, 52,889,800 *dols.* 29*c.*; silver, 8,233,287 *dols.* 77*c.*; cents, 244,000 *dols.*; total, 61,357,088 *dols.* 06*c.* The amount of gold of domestic production deposited during the year was 40,977,168 *dols.* 55*c.*, derived as follows:—From California, 40,591,140 *dols.* 88*c.*; from Oregon, 9181 *dols.*; and from the Atlantic States, 376,846 *dols.* 67*c.* The gold from Fraser's River is found to be considerably alloyed with silver, more so than the average of Californian gold; its value is 17 *dols.* 50*c.* per ounce after melting. The gold from Platte River is equal to 19 *dols.* 92*c.* per ounce. Some Chinese stamped ingots of gold received at the Mint were valued at 19 *dols.* 97*c.* per ounce troy. The production of silver from the mines of Lake Superior increases from year to year, but usually with the disadvantage of a large alloy of copper. The Director of the Mint concludes his report with an interesting table, showing the relative fineness and value of the precious metals of various nations.

MEDITERRANEAN TELEGRAPH.—Intelligence has been received by the Mediterranean Extension Telegraph Company, announcing that their superintendent at Malta had proceeded to Cagliari, and after testing the line at that place had given his opinion that the existing fracture is about midway. In order to facilitate the repair of the cable the company proposes to make use of the Elba, a vessel lately employed by the Turkish Government for telegraphic operations in the Archipelago, and now hourly expected at Malta.

COTTON AT NATAL.—Government are taking active steps for encouraging the cultivation of cotton by the natives. At the experimental native village, in Mr. Fynn's magistracy, about fifty acres will be sown before November; and at intervals along the line of country between the Umhlutuzan and the Umkomas, patches of cotton cultivation, it is expected, will appear within the same period. In like manner, it is intended to induce natives in other suitable localities to commence this species of industry. The assistance and co-operation of the missionaries are confidently anticipated, and will be very valuable. Mr. Payne, who recently arrived with seed and other appliances for this enterprise, is busily engaged on Mr. Thompson's estate, Clairmont, and intends to commence operations on other estates shortly. The principal landowners in this neighbourhood have offered him liberal facilities for his experimental cotton cultivation on their lands. We will desiderate an experiment on an adequate scale, on the middle and upland districts. So far as it has been tried, we believe the cotton plant thrives admirably at Ekukanyeni, the church mission station, near Maritzburg; and the opinion of the most competent judges is in favour of inland cotton cultivation.—*Port Elizabeth Mercury*, Nov. 13th.

THE IRON TRADE.—The preliminary meeting of the ironmasters of the district was held at the hotel, Dudley, on Thursday, Philip Williams, Esq., in the chair. The attendance was numerous, and a resolution proposed to the effect that present prices of bars (8*l.* per ton, and other descriptions of finished iron in proportion) should be re-confirmed, was unanimously adopted.

TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF UPPER CANADA.—Yesterday an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices in Morgate-street, for the purpose of authorising the directors to exercise the borrowing powers of the company in accordance with the 10th clause of the Canadian Act of Parliament passed in 1858. A resolution, enabling the directors to increase their borrowing powers to the extent of 875,000*l.*, was put and carried, and a vote of thanks passed to the chairman.

THE RIVAL RAILWAYS.—As a consequence of the contest which has arisen between the Brighton and London and South-Western Railway Companies, the latter have issued a notice in which they state that "the London and Brighton Railway Company having intimated their intention to obstruct the South-Western Company in the use of the railway between Havant and Portsmouth, and as it is possible they may carry that intention into effect for a time, the public are respectfully informed that the New Portsmouth Railway will be opened on Saturday next, the 1st of January, as already advertised, but as between London and Havant only." Passengers for Portsmouth are to perform the remainder of their journey by omnibus.

MUSULMAN EXTRAVAGANCE.—Intelligence from Alexandria says:—"The conditions imposed by the English company for the loan which the Viceroy wished to contract are so unfavourable that, in spite of the urgent necessities of the Egyptian treasury, it has been decided not to accept them, and the affair is consequently at an end. Scarcely of money, however, is not in the East, whether on the banks of the Nile or on the shores of the Bosphorus, any reason for suppressing useless expenditure. At this very moment they are building on the banks of the Nile, near Cairo, a magnificent palace at an immense cost. For the rejoicings on the occasion

of circumcising a son of the Viceroy, 200,000*fr.* worth of fireworks was ordered of a Frenchman. There is no extravagance in this, if we compare it with the seven millions which the Sultan has expended in building and fitting up a theatre at Constantinople.

THE BANK OF AUSTRIA.—The advices from Vienna give the details of the new financial arrangements between the Government and the Bank. The State owes to the Bank 15,000,000*l.*, and this debt is to be discharged by handing over to that establishment 3,000,000*l.* due by the Southern Railroad to the Government, 2,000,000*l.* in bonds which arise from estates belonging to the Government, and 10,000,000*l.* by the mortgage of estates held by the Crown. Against the latter the Bank are to be allowed to issue 10,000,000*l.* of 1 guilder notes, convertible into silver, to pay off the notes of 1, 5, and 10 guilders which are still in circulation. The measure is stated to have produced a good effect on the Vienna Exchange.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- A Handbook of Railway Law.* By Arthur Moore, Esq. W. H. Smith and Son.
Southern Lights and Shadows. By Frank Fowler. Sampson Low and Co.
Life in Victoria in 1853 and 1858. By W. Kelly. 2 vols. Chapman and Hall.
Songs by a Song-writer. By W. C. Bennett. Chapman and Hall.
What will he do with It? By P. Caxton. 4 vols. 8vo. W. Blackwood and Sons.
Twelve Years of a Soldier's Life in India. By Rev. G. Hodson. 8vo. J. W. Parker.
Mildred Norman, the Nazarene. By a Working Man. Longman and Co.
A Musical Gift from an Old Friend. Walton and Maberly.
Hints for the Table. W. Kent and Co.
Painting Popularly Explained. By Thomas John Gullick, Painter, and John Timbs, F.R.S. W. Kent and Co.
The States of Central America. By E. G. Squier. Sampson Low and Co.
Reissue of Scraps and Sketches. By George Cruikshank. W. Kent and Co.
Frederick the Great and his Merchant. 2 vols. R. Bentley.
The Physiology of Common Life. By George Henry Lewes. No. I., "Hunger and Thirst." W. Blackwood and Sons.
Tales from Blackwood. No. X. W. Blackwood and Son.
Descriptive Ethnology. By E. G. Latham, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. In 2 vols. John Van Voorst.
Japan and her People. By Andrew Stemmetz, Esq. Routledge and Co.
Outlines of English History. By Henry Ince, M.A. James Gilbert.
Sketches of and from Jean Paul Richter. A. W. Bennett.
Poems and Ballads of Goethe. W. Blackwood.
An Inquiry into the Evidences relating to the Charges brought by Lord Macaulay against William Penn. By John Paget, Esq.
The Virginians. No. 15. (January.) Bradbury and Evans.
A Popular History of England. By Charles Knight. Bradbury and Evans.
Winter Evenings. By Leitch Ritchie. In 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.
Dublin University Magazine. No. CCCXIII. January. Hurst and Blackett.
Fraser's Magazine. No. CCCXLIX. January. J. W. Parker.
Blackwood's Magazine. No. DXIX. January. W. Blackwood.
Titan. No. CLXVI. January. James Hogg.
The English Woman's Journal. No. XI. Vol. II. January. Piper, Stephenson, and Co.
The British Workman. No. IV. Yearly Part. Partridge and Co.
Revue Britannique. No. XII. Décembre, 1858. Paris: au Bureau de la Revue, 60, Rue Neuve-Saint-Augustin.
Le Follet: Journal du Grand Monde. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.
The Gallery of Nature. By the Rev. Thomas Milnor, M.A., F.R.G.S. Part III. W. and R. Chambers.
Davenport Dunn. By Charles Lever. Part XIX. Chapman and Hall.
Harry Roughton; or, the Reminiscences of a Revenue Officer. By L. J. F. Hachan. 8vo. Simpkin and Marshall.
The Ladies' Treasury. No. XXIII. Vol. III. Ward and Lock.
The Art Journal. No. XLIX. January. James S. Virtue.
The Historical Magazine. No. XII. Vol. II. Trubner and Co.
The Life and Remains of Douglas Jerrold. By his Son, Blanchard Jerrold. Crown 8vo. Kent and Co.
The Wars of the Roses. By J. G. Edgar. 8vo. W. Kent and Co.

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12 Tea Spoons do.	1 16 0	1 4 0	1 7 0	1 16 0
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1 Gravy Spoon do.	0 7 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 13 0
4 Salt Spoons (gilt bowls) do.	0 6 8	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 14 0
1 Mustard Spoon do.	0 1 8	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 6
1 Pair Sugar Tongs do.	0 3 6	0 5 6	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Pair Fish Carvers do.	1 0 0	1 10 0	1 14 0	1 18 0
1 Butter Knife do.	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Soup Ladle do.	0 12 0	0 16 0	0 17 6	1 0 0
6 Egg Spoons (gilt) do.	0 10 0	0 15 0	0 18 0	1 1 0

Complete Service.....£10 13 10 15 16 6 17 13 6 21 4 6

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Two Dozen Full-Size Table Knives, Ivory Handles.....	2 4 0	3 6 0	4 12 0
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12 Table Spoons.....	1 18 0	2 8 0	3 0 0	3 10 0
12 Dessert Forks.....	1 10 0	1 15 0	2 2 0	2 10 0
12 Dessert Spoons.....	1 10 0	1 15 0	2 2 0	2 10 0
12 Tea Spoons.....	0 18 0	1 4 0	1 10 0	1 18 0
6 Egg Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 12 0	0 15 0	0 18 0	1 1 0
2 Sauce Ladles.....	0 7 0	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 16 0
1 Gravy Spoon.....	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 13 0	0 16 0
2 Salt Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Mustard Spoon, gilt bowl.....	0 2 0	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 0
1 Pair of Sugar Tongs.....	0 3 0	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 7 0
1 Pair of Fish Carvers.....	1 4 0	1 7 6	1 12 0	1 18 0
1 Butter Knife.....	0 3 6	0 5 0	0 7 0	0 8 0
1 Soup Ladle.....	0 13 0	0 17 6	1 0 0	1 1 0
1 Sugar Sifter.....	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 8 6
Total.....	11 14 6	14 11 3	17 14 9	21 4 9

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