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AND

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

VOL. X. No. 468.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1859.

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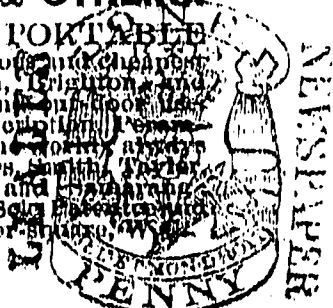
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THE LEADER.

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Review of the Week.

HAVING reached the verge of the precipice, Ministers turn back, with the desperate desire to preserve themselves from the yawning peril. They have made a bold stroke for safety. On Wednesday, Lord John Russell intimated his intention to move an amendment to the Government Reform Bill on its second reading, and named Thursday as the day on which he would state the precise terms of the proposed amendment. Thursday night came; the Opposition benches were packed in "awful array," and Lord John Russell was on his feet. "I beg to give notice," he said, "that on the motion for the second reading of the Government Reform Bill, I shall move as a resolution, that this House is of opinion that it is neither just nor politic to interfere, in the manner proposed in this bill, with the freehold franchise hitherto exercised in boroughs in England and Wales, and no readjustment of the franchise will satisfy this House or the country that does not provide for a greater extension of the suffrage in cities and boroughs than is contemplated in the present measure." Mr. Wyld instantly capped this Whig profession of faith, by giving notice that he would move, as an addition to Lord John's resolution, "that in the election of any member or members to serve in Parliament, the votes shall be taken by ballot;"—a pill both for Lord John Russell and for Lord Derby. The "natural" leader of the great Liberal party had fired his shot; the smoke had cleared away: what harm had been done to the enemy?

Mr. Disraeli had nothing to say to Lord John Russell or to Mr. Wyld, but he was not floored; on the contrary, a question put by Mr. Foltjambe, with reference to a discrepancy between a parliamentary paper and a county register of the number of voters in the borough of East Retford, brought him up firmly upon his legs. He was quite "himself." He took the opportunity to explain that never had any proposition been more entirely misunderstood, than that of the Government, relative to the alteration of the county franchise. Government never had the least intention of doing anything so wrong as to deprive country freeholders of the votes they already possess in the boroughs. The outcry against the Government Bill has been founded on an entire misconception of its purpose; and, in short, since there had been this unlucky misapprehension concerning it, Government had taken upon itself the reconsideration of the whole scheme, and before the period for the second reading of the bill, will make all right, and lay new clauses on the table—a new bill, perhaps! In the meantime Ministers hold their own, but it must be with fear and trembling.

On Wednesday evening, they sustained a staggering defeat on the motion for the second reading of their Church-rates Bill. Sir John Trelawny moved that it be read that day six months, and a majority of 254 to 171 combined to cast out the bill. Sir John Pakington cried out, that the question was being made the stalking-horse of party tactics; but the steady progress of opinion, in the House as well as out of it, on the subject, bears evidence against the supposition that the vote of Wednesday was merely a consequent

of the momentary state of parties. In truth, the "no compromise" measure of Sir John Trelawny stands too well with the House for such a measure as that advocated by Sir John Pakington to displace it.

But a much more serious defeat is impending. The affair of the Charles-et-Georges has been made the ground of a real party attack on the Ministerial position. In both Houses, on Tuesday evening, there were motions for papers and additional papers on the subject; and the attack was commenced. Lord Derby thoroughly appreciated the nature of the movement, and rightly designated it as an indirect mode of passing a vote of censure upon the Government; but Mr. Disraeli was affected to see nothing more in the evening's proceedings than a "conversation" on the subject of "papers that had no existence." Lord Wodehouse, the leader of the attack in the House of Lords, and Lord Grey, both denounced the Government for having been false to its treaty obligations to Portugal, whose rights, they declare, the British Government was bound to uphold, even at the sacrifice of the French alliance. In the other House, there was the same outspoken condemnation. And in both Houses the defence was the same; the assumed necessity for maintaining the French alliance by any and every means; the worst defence that could be set up in the face of the universal suspicion of truckling that attaches to our foreign diplomacy. Rumour whispers that there is a design to give Ministers the option of resigning on the question, in preference to standing the fatal hazard of the Reform die.

The motion for the second reading of the Indian Loan Bill gave rise to a strong debate upon the subject of the new Indian Government, the chief speaker being Mr. Bright. Lord Stanley's best endeavours to develop India, by means of a better system of Government in all its departments, will be frustrated by the fifteen guardians of the old system by whom he is surrounded, is Mr. Bright's augury. Mr. Bright, however, does not despair of seeing India prosper, and he never hesitates to express his belief in the capacity of Lord Stanley for the fulfilment of the great task he has undertaken. To bring about a more healthy financial condition, very great retrenchments must be made in the civil expenditure; but, according to Lord Stanley, it is to the reorganisation of the army that we must look for the most immediate amelioration of the present state of the Indian Exchequer.

Lord Bury has drawn attention once more to the subject of our differences with France respecting the Newfoundland fisheries. The fact is made apparent that, ever since the Treaty of Utrecht was signed, 1713, diplomacy has been busy with the subject. The most that recent diplomacy appears to have done is, to have made unwarrantable concessions to France, to the sacrifice of British interests. In 1857 a treaty was drawn up giving to France great advantages over the British fishermen, but the unanimous opposition of the Legislative body of Newfoundland, which, by a clause in the treaty, had the right of veto conferred upon it, has caused it to be a dead letter. Lord Bury desires to have the question discussed upon some defined principle, and he has therefore, very pertinently, demanded of Govern-

ment upon what principle it is conducting the diplomatic correspondence which is now in progress.

The aspect of foreign affairs has not been greatly changed by the simulated peace-language of the *Moniteur*. Telegrams tell us that Lord Cowley has taken his departure from Vienna, on his way home direct to London, and the accompanying comments are, that his mission has been entirely bootless. On the other side of the picture, we have the Prussian Government expressing its confidence that, in conjunction with England, the war-tide will be safely stemmed. Keeping our eyes upon the two powers most likely to fall to loggerheads—France and Austria—we do not see any indications of either peaceful intentions, or sincerity of purpose. The precautions which each of these two powers is taking are irritating to each. Within the week, we have had some small glimpse at the behind scenes of French policy. Prince Napoleon's friends have determined that their chief's retirement from the high official post which he has held for such a brief period, and which was prepared for him with such elaborate pains, shall not be left a mystery. Prince Napoleon and his cousin are at issue as to the Imperial policy with regard to Italy; he demands that the policy of non-intervention in the affairs of Central Italy should be plainly expressed by the Imperial Government, and at the same time he calls upon his cousin to notify to the great Powers that he will firmly support the demands of Piedmont, and give her assistance in the event of troubles breaking out in the Duchies of Parma, Piacenza, and Tuscany, or in the Romagna, "or should Austria desire to occupy those countries under pretext of establishing order there." Against this "dangerous" policy, it seems, the Emperor's mind has been prejudiced by his advisers—MM. Fould and Walewski—supporters of "peace at any price;" and hence the defection of Prince Napoleon, and the possibility of the gradual springing up of an Opposition that cannot be otherwise than beneficial to France. In the meantime, the question of peace or war appears to hang upon a breath.

One event of the week is of a strangely interesting character. On Sunday last, an American ship was seen to enter the harbour of Queenstown, and a very little time elapsed before it was known that she had on board some seventy exiles, lately captives in the dungeons of Naples, and that amongst them was no less a person than the virtuous and heroic Poerio. Shipped by order of the Neapolitan Government for America, they had reached the bay of Cadiz, when they made such representations to the captain of the vessel as induced him to steer for the Irish coast, and the fugitives are now safe, under the protection of British laws. Their ultimate destination is as yet undetermined; but one thing is only too well known,—that, from the long confinement they had endured before their liberation, they are many of them in a shattered condition of health; and from the hurriedness with which they were sent out of their own country and away from their friends, they are many of them nearly destitute of means to provide for their daily wants. This fact needs only to be known: there never were exiles thrown upon our shores who more entirely deserved British sympathy.

Home Intelligence.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, March 7.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, LORD WODEHOUSE, gave notice of his intention to move the second reading of the Marriage Law Amendment Bill on the 22nd inst.

VACCINATION.

LORD GRANVILLE asked Lord Salisbury whether any regulations had been issued by the Privy Council with respect to vaccination under the Act passed last session.—The Marquis of SALISBURY replied that the attention of the Government had been directed to the subject, and that the officers of the Privy Council were in communication with the registrars throughout the country.

LORD COLCHESTER, in reply to the Marquis of Clanricarde, stated that arrangements have been made for the despatch of mails to Ireland twice every day, and for their arrival at Dublin in eleven hours.

Their lordships adjourned at half-past six.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, MR. SPOONER gave notice, for Monday, the 21st, of his annual motion respecting the Maynooth grant.

MR. DUNCOMBE announced that if the Reform Bill reached the stage of committee, he should move amendments by which the 60*l.* required as investment in the savings bank by way of qualification, should be reduced to 40*l.*, and the privilege of the franchise granted to the possessors of that amount lodged in any benefit society; that the lodger franchise should be reduced to a minimum of 4*s.* a week rental, or 10*l.* per annum instead of 20*l.*; and the payment of rates and taxes should not be exacted from the elector before he is allowed to record his vote.

THE INDIAN LOAN BILL.

LORD STANLEY having moved the second reading of the Indian Loan Bill, SIR G. LEWIS said he was not one of those who placed much reliance upon the Indian revenue, or upon the national wealth to be derived from India. But as we had destroyed the native states, and entered into engagements with that country, it was incumbent upon us, to carry on its government. When the form of that government was altered last year, and a worn-out constitution was put an end to, although the change was a wholesome one, he cautioned the House against supposing that it implied any alteration in the financial management of India, or imposed any additional obligation upon the Imperial Exchequer, the severance of India from the Imperial Exchequer being as entire in future as before the bill of last year. After reviewing the enormous military expenditure in India—the great incubus of Indian finance—and the means of reducing it by our paying a part of that expenditure, he observed that if we were to lend assistance to India, no means could be more objectionable than that of guaranteeing an Indian loan. What he wished to impress upon the Government was, to take the earliest means of endeavouring to reduce the force of the native army, and to rely upon a system of police, to be substituted as far as possible for a native army. It was the duty of Parliament to enforce a good financial administration in India, and compel the adoption of measures that would offer a certain prospect of the revenue of that country being sufficient to meet its expenditure.—MR. BRIGHT could see little difference between the doctrines of SIR G. C. LEWIS and the proposals of Lord Stanley. The finances of a country are a good test of its condition and of its Government; and, judged by that test, our Indian Government must be visited with emphatic condemnation. The debt is 80,000,000*l.*, the expenditure is increasing, and the revenue is diminishing and precarious. It is not safe to console ourselves with the reflection that this debt only amounts to three years' revenue, or that it is only a tenth of that of England. There is so little power of production in India compared with that of England, that the Government is unable to find a new source of revenue. If the Chinese Government, now that we have compelled them to legalise the use of opium, should undertake its home cultivation, three or four millions more of our Indian revenue will disappear. The home Government has no power to control the expenditure in India. The change of Government is one only in name, not in principle. Lord Stanley, honest and enlightened as he is, can do nothing against the fifteen instruments of the old system of injustice by which he is surrounded; and his instructions are notoriously disregarded in India. The native Governments had no debts, and very seldom a deficit. On the contrary, the fulness of their exchequers has been among our temptations to annex their states; but after seizing all we can, and raising all we can by taxation, our broken faith and shattered credit compel us to borrow in the money markets of England to carry on the Government of India. What,

then, was to be done? He suggested the reduction of the salaries of the Civil Service of India, and either the employment of a much larger number of Europeans in certain departments, or the giving much better salaries to a superior class of native officials. Moreover, with a better government in India, a small military force would suffice. He urged the reversal of the present system of policy in India; the establishment of something like municipal institutions there, and the admission into our councils and the incorporation with the Government of the best and most intelligent of the natives of India. He insisted that nothing like a change had taken place in the administration of India since the bill of last year; that the change was only in name; it was scarcely one of form, and none of principle. He was convinced that the course we had pursued had led, by a logical and necessary process, to the position in which we now found ourselves, and that unless that system was reversed, we might have another great revolt, with consequences most disastrous to this country.—MR. AYRTON did not take a disheartening view of the Indian finances, and assigned reasons for believing that when the means of communication were complete, in a few years, there would be such an increase in the land revenues as would render it quite equal to the charge. He recommended the Government to borrow money in this country at 3½ per cent., and to lend it to India at a rate of interest insuring the repayment of the principal in fifteen or twenty years. He suggested various reforms in the details of the Indian Government.—MR. EWART differed from Mr. Bright in respect to the financial prospects of India; he expected from the improvement of the means of intercommunication, a great development of the resources of that country.—MR. WILSON had not only no apprehensions as to the financial prospects of India, but he had the greatest hope of them. Almost every increase of the Indian debt had arisen from wars, and from expenditure upon public works which would be reproductive. If the increased interest upon the Indian debt were taken at 2,000,000*l.*, and the expenditure upon public works at 1,000,000*l.*, and there should be a deficiency of 3,000,000*l.*, he should not despair of seeing in the next three or four years such an increase of the revenue from existing sources, as would enable the Government of India to bear this charge. He disputed some of the conclusions of Mr. Bright regarding the land revenue of India; he condemned the policy of alienating in perpetuity waste of jungle lands, as repeating the error committed by Lord Cornwallis in his Permanent Settlement; and he justified the views of the late and former Governments in relation to railways in India and to certain branches of the Indian revenue. He did not anticipate a falling off in the revenue derived from either salt or opium. He disapproved an Imperial guarantee of an Indian loan; he believed that the future rule of England over India was more secure than ever, and did not fear for the resources of the latter country.—LORD STANLEY, in reply, maintained that the financial prospects of India were, on the whole, not discouraging. Though the debt had increased from time to time, the revenue had expanded in a still larger measure, and this process he expected to see renewed, and the additional liability created by the new loan extinguished by a fresh augmentation in the revenue of the country, when tranquillity was restored, and the reforms which the Government were maturing had been brought into operation. On the question of responsibility, he fully admitted the principle that the creditors of India had no claim whatever upon the English revenue. These creditors had, however, a first charge on the local revenue, and if the whole Indian income proved insufficient both to pay interest on the debt and defray the expense of defence and administration, a question might in that case arise as to the source whence funds should be supplied to carry on the government of that country.—SIR E. PEARCE observed that all the best authorities now agreed that, under present circumstances and present prospects, the finances of India presented an alarming aspect. Was India able to bear the burdens cast upon her? If not, and if this country would be ultimately responsible, it would be wiser and more economical to raise the money at once upon the credit of England.—MR. C. BRUCE reminded the House that the intimate connexion of Indian and English finance had been pointed out by the late Sir R. Peel in 1842. As the Legislature had now assumed complete control over the affairs of India, it was idle to attempt to repudiate its liabilities.—The bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

PAY OF SUBALTERN.

Colonel FRANKLIN called attention to the pay of the subalterns of the army, which, he said, exposed young men to the liability of being involved in debt.—After some remarks by SIR A. AGNEW, SIR W. COWLEY, and MR. W. WILLIAMS, General PEEL said he should be glad if he could give effect to the

suggestion consistently with justice to other branches of the service and the country.

SUPPLY.

General PEEL moved a vote of 1,050,000*l.* to make good the deficiency of certain Army grants for the year 1857-58, explaining the reasons of this supplementary vote; that it was a matter of account, and that it did not necessitate any actual payment.—The vote was agreed to.

The House proceeded with the votes belonging to the Army estimates, and adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve.

Tuesday, March 8.

THE CASE OF THE CHARLES ET GEORGES.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS the debate on this matter was introduced by LORD WODEHOUSE, who moved for additional papers relating to the Charles et Georges seizure. He complained of the incompleteness of the papers that had been presented, and proceeded to argue that the conduct of our Government was censurable because it had not stood to our treaties with Portugal, but had played into the hands of France.—LORD MALMESBURY replied, that when first introduced to the notice of the Government the case was so full of contradictions that it was impossible to decide whether Portugal was entirely right, and could justify the measures she had taken. The French Government met the Portuguese complaints with counter-statements, so that her Majesty's Government had no data on which to arrive at a decision as to which of the parties was in the right. He explained the steps he had taken and the correspondence he had entered into with Lord Cowley on the subject, and repudiated the charge of delay and negligence brought against him by Lord Wodehouse. The principle laid down by the French Government, that a vessel with a French agent on board who was responsible to his Government is no longer to be treated as a private ship, was in accordance with international law, and he insisted that if such a vessel violated any municipal law it was not a case for the ordinary tribunals, but for diplomacy. In consequence of Lord Cowley's representations, the French Government gave a positive assurance that an arrangement would be come to by which the mediation of a friendly power would be allowed. If the French Government recoiled from their assurance, that was not a reason for blaming her Majesty's Government. The course he had pursued, he was sure, had saved the country and Europe from the most serious consequences.—LORD GRANVILLE said Ministers should have shown more activity and judgment.—LORD KINGSBURN defended the Government.—LORD GREY thought the Government ought to have presented a formal note to the French Government, stating that there were serious grounds for thinking that France might not be entirely in the right. No man had a greater horror of war than himself, but he did not think that the best way of securing peace was to abandon an ally for too faithfully following the advice we gave her. The conduct of the Government in this matter had sensibly lowered this country in the opinion of Europe.—LORD DENBY said the mover of the question ought to have called on Parliament to pronounce a verdict against the Government, if he thought the course pursued had lowered its character in Europe. He objected strongly to the view of the question that had been adopted by the country, that we had incited Portugal to suppress the slave trade, and had deserted her, when she had exerted herself to follow our counsels. That was not the question. The question was, whether the Government, under the circumstances, had done their duty to the country. He denied that any violation of our treaties with Portugal had occurred, a circumstance which had been allowed by the Portuguese Prime Minister himself. The reason why we had not sooner interfered was, that the matter in dispute did not touch this country, as it was a difference between two independent countries, neither of whom asked for our interference; and because they had not furnished us with information on which to form a judgment. The good offices of the Government had been tendered to Portugal immediately that she had applied for them. He rejected the course of action prescribed by Lord Grey, of remonstrating with the French Government before they were convinced that France was in the wrong. He repudiated the notion that we had submitted to an insult, or had fallen in the estimation of Europe. He thought the course adopted by her Majesty's Government had convinced France of the unsoundness of the system of free immigration, and that this country had come forth with honour to itself and advantage to the interests of Europe, and, unless Parliament should condemn the conduct of the Government, he should be content with the course pursued.—After a few words from LORDS GRANVILLE, WENSLYDALE, and ST. GERMAIN, LORD WODEHOUSE withdrew his motion.

Their lordships adjourned at a quarter past ten o'clock.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. GLADSTONE took the oaths and his seat on re-election for the University of Oxford.

Mr. WHITE gave notice that in committee on the Reform Bill he should move that instead of disfranchising the workmen in the Government dockyards, the votes of those men should be taken by ballot.

Mr. COX also announced an amendment with the purpose of shortening the duration of Parliaments, while continuing the existence of the present house, the passing of any Reform Bill notwithstanding, until its term of service has duly expired.

Lord JOHN MANNERS stated that a vote would be proposed during the present session for the purpose of defraying the expenses required to clean and improve the Serpentine in Hyde-park.

THE CHARLES ET GEORGES.

Mr. KINGLAKE called attention to the affair of the Charles et Georges, and in moving for some additional papers relating thereto, entered into an elaborate review of the circumstances of the case, and urged various charges against the Government for timidity and vacillation, as manifested by their conduct of the case, and especially for having betrayed and deserted the Portuguese Cabinet during the controversy with France. The result, he contended, attested the incompetence of the Foreign Secretary, and had heavily compromised the honour and dignity of England. The motion was seconded by Mr. Buxton, who dwelt upon the ill effects likely to flow from the course taken by the British Government in this transaction, and its want of vigour. Mr. S. FITZGERALD, in an elaborate commentary upon the whole transactions, defended the conduct of the Foreign Secretary. He contended that the form into which the question was thrown precluded any interference on the part of Lord Malmesbury before the date at which he first offered the good offices of England to settle the controversy, and that in the subsequent correspondence the British ministry had neglected no step calculated to bring the affair to a pacific and honourable conclusion. Mr. Lowe disputed many of the positions of Mr. Fitzgerald, contending that the ground had totally failed him. The real issue before the House was what Lord Malmesbury did. The Charles-et-Georges was convicted, he observed, as a slaver, and he cited facts to show that she was justly convicted. He contended that the British Government were bound, without loss of time, to have made up their minds whether this was a case of slave trading or not, and, if Portugal was in the right, to have advised her as to the course she ought to pursue. No definite course was recommended to her, however, but one of dishonour. He asked on what principle a Government could be justified in a case like this in standing aside without the courage to give an opinion of its own. Mr. Bovill argued that from the outset the French view of the question relating to the seizure of the Charles-et-Georges was borne out by the facts of the case. This being so, the English Government could not interfere to support Portugal in a case where she was so clearly in the wrong. Lord JOHN RUSSELL justified the Government in some respects, and condemned it in others. His lordship remarked that this was not a case for censure, but for comment. It would, he thought, have been wrong to have encouraged Portugal in refusing to give up the ship under the menace of France, and thus risk the outbreak of hostilities. The circumstances, however, unquestionably proved that the conduct of the French Government was violent and wrong, and he insisted that the support afforded to our Portuguese ally by the Foreign Minister ought to have been more decided. The Solicitor-General analysed the legal bearings of the question, contending that the Government had but observed the restrictions prescribed by the accepted code of international law. He showed that our good offices were tendered unasked, and that Lord Cowley had proposed to Count Walewski to refer the matter to the arbitration of a friendly power, and when that proposal was rejected, he immediately proposed a mediation. In conclusion, he insisted that her Majesty's Government, using the valuable services of Lord Cowley, had from day to day exhibited their good offices with France in favour of Portugal. Sir R. BETHELL moved that the debate should be adjourned. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER remarked that there was no question properly before the House. The motion was simply for papers which had been promised. The motion was, however, agreed to, and the debate stood adjourned.

Mr. DRUMMOND obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend and explain the law relating to the combination of workmen.

Leave was given to Lord NAAS to introduce a bill for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Ireland.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes to one.

Wednesday, March 9.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS the Juries (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

CHURCH RATES BILL.

On the motion that Mr. Walpole's bill should be read a second time, Sir J. TRELAWNY moved an amendment, deferring the second reading for six months. He re-urged the objections so often advanced in the many previous debates on the subject against all attempts to compromise a question which could only be satisfactorily solved by totally abolishing the church rate. The bill, he contended, would not remove the injustice now inflicted upon dissenters in being compelled to support a church to which they did not belong. It was erroneous in principle, and, as he also pointed out, faulty in many of the most important details. Mr. HARDCASTLE seconded the amendment, declaring that of the numerous measures brought forward on the subject in successive sessions, the present was in many respects the worst. Mr. SOTHERON ESTCOURT, (who had a few minutes previously taken the oaths and his seat on his re-election for North Wilts) said that the House had now the advantage of a choice of measures, based upon different principles, which they could compare. The bill of Sir J. Trelawny, for the abolition of church-rates, was a rough way of dealing with the question. The proper mode was to ascertain what were the grievances complained of, and to devise suitable remedies; and he proceeded to consider the inconveniences and hardships of the present system as respected clergymen as well as Nonconformists, and the manner in which they would be obviated by Mr. Walpole's Bill, and by certain amendments of it. This measure he regarded as a reasonable mode of settling a difficult question, and more just than the total abolition or the entire commutation of church-rates. Sir G. GREY opposed the bill, insisting that its provisions were suited only to a very limited range of localities. There were many parishes, and many circumstances in, or under, which the measure could not be worked at all, and many more in which it would work ill. He agreed with those who thought that the only effectual method for terminating this long-pending controversy was to abolish the impost altogether. Sir J. PAKINGTON, rising with some warmth, said the speech of Sir G. Grey had forced upon his mind the conviction that the spirit of party was still to be paramount on this question to the spirit of peace; and, because the gentlemen opposite to him had shrunk from dealing with it, they would not allow others to deal with it. Sir George had, he said, shown why, according to the rules of the House, he ought to vote for the second reading, and had not assigned any reason why he should not do so. There were two principles in the bill, to neither of which Sir George objected; yet he declared he should vote against the second reading of it. In considering the real scope and intention of the bill, Sir John remarked that all property was subject to the charge of church-rate, and that there was no injustice in enforcing it; but, although this was a legal and ancient charge, he agreed that it might be grating to the feelings of dissenters to pay it, and he was willing to meet them in a spirit of peace and conciliation. This was the spirit in which the bill had been framed. The present Government had done what their predecessors never did, made a fair offer, and it remained for the House and the country to decide whether this question should be settled in a friendly spirit, or continue a subject of prolonged agitation. Sir G. GREY explained that he supported Sir William Clay's bill upon the assurance that there should be embodied in it certain amendments of which he had given notice. Sir R. BETHELL observed that, after the speech of Sir J. Pakington, he had some difficulty in understanding what was his notion of peace and conciliation. He had brought charges against Sir G. Grey which were groundless and unjust, and had conveyed them in language anything but conciliatory. He disputed the doctrine of Sir J. Pakington as to the origin and nature of church-rates, which he (Sir R. Bethell) characterised as the progeny of a wicked system of intolerance which dictated one mode of faith for all. The common law, even now, treated all the occupiers in a parish as men of the same form of belief; this was the foundation of the liability to church-rate, and to this the dissenters objected. Mr. DRUMMOND objected to the bill, because it partially waived a right on which he considered that no compromise was permissible. The church-rate was the ancient and inalienable patrimony of the church, and could not be surrendered except by a fraudulent sacrifice of her rights. Mr. BAILL gave his hearty support to the bill, as the only practical mode of settling this question and securing the fabric of the established church, while it relieved dissenters from the obligation of contributing to that church. Mr. Lowe admitted that the present state of the law was intolerable. The bill now before the House was, however, calculated, in his opinion, to make matters worse, and stimulate the dissension which it was most essential to allay. Mr. WALPOLE, in reply, combatted the objections which had been urged against this measure, whose provisions he sought to

explain and vindicate. He called attention to the important fact that the House had arrived at the second reading of this bill, when the only question to be determined was the principles involved in the measure, and not the mere machinery. The principles were two—first, the voluntary commutation, instead of the compulsory payment of church-rates; second, the exemption of those who objected conscientiously to paying them. No opponent of the bill, he observed, had pointed out wherein these two principles were open to objection. He vindicated its provisions, and insisted, in opposition to Mr. DRUMMOND, that it did not conflict with the principle of an establishment. Upon a division the amendment was carried by 254 to 171; the bill is, consequently, lost.

Sir J. TRELAWNY postponed until Thursday the motion for the second reading of his measure on the same subject, the Church-rate Abolition Bill.

The House rose at six o'clock.

Thursday, March 10.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS the Occasional Form of Prayer Bill passed through committee, and the Manor Courts (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

SINGAPORE.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY, in presenting a petition from the merchants, and residents at Singapore, asked her Majesty's Government what their intentions were with regard to the future government of that settlement. The importance of the position was sufficiently shown by the acquisitions which the French, Dutch, and Spanish nations were making in the Indian Archipelago, and he thought that we ought to have an officer with the same powers as the Governor of Hong Kong, competent to make treaties with neighbouring States, and to watch the aggressions of European nations. The Earl of CARNARVON stated that some correspondence was in progress between the Home Minister and Calcutta upon the question, but no final determination had been yet arrived at. Lord ELLENBOROUGH thought that Singapore and all the settlements in those waters should be placed under the government, not of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but under the Secretary of State for India. After some further observations from the Earl of DERBY, and Earl GREY, the subject dropped.

INDICTMENTS FOR CRIMINAL CHARGES.

The Lord CHANCELLOR introduced a bill to amend the law in respect of presenting indictments to grand juries in the metropolitan districts. He explained that, at present, after a magistrate had investigated a charge, that charge was, as it were, filtered by a grand jury, who very often, to the astonishment of magistrates and of parties accused, ignored the bills. The present system of grand juries allowed much tampering with witnesses, which would be remedied if a person committed by a magistrate was committed directly to trial. Within the metropolitan districts grand juries were useless, and they had frequently confessed it, and protested against the system themselves. Mr. Clark, the late Clerk of the Arraignment, used to call grand juries the "hope of the London thief." Still, he did not propose to do away entirely with grand juries, and explained in what cases they would still be of use. The bill, after some discussion, was read a first time.

Their lordships adjourned at a quarter to seven.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS the Earl of MARCH took his seat upon his re-election. Numerous petitions were presented on Reform and other subjects.

THE REFORM BILL.

Mr. MILES gave notice that, when the bill was in committee, he should move an amendment rescinding the provision under which the county voters qualified as owners of freehold property in the boroughs were to be disfranchised. Lord J. RUSSELL notified, according to promise, the terms of the amendment he intended to propose upon the second reading of the Reform Bill. He designed to propose a resolution enunciating the conclusion that the disfranchisement of that body of electors who now enjoyed votes for the county by a 40s. freehold franchise, on property situate in boroughs, was altogether unfit and impolitic, and that the occupation franchise in boroughs ought to be reduced below the present and proposed minimum. In reply to a question from Mr. FOLKES, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that it was not intended that any persons should be disfranchised by the bill, and that he should lay upon the table clauses reconciling the principle of the identity of suffrage between counties and boroughs with the recognised rights of freeholders within the limits of parliamentary boroughs. Mr. WYKE gave notice that he should move as an addition to the amendment proposed by Lord John Russell, that the votes at elections should be taken by ballot.

SAVINGS BANKS.

Mr. HANKEY called attention to the late funding of Exchequer-bills, and moved a resolution that in future no funding of Exchequer-bills held by the Commissioners of Savings Banks be made without

the special authority of an Act of Parliament. He strongly deprecated the permanent increase of the National Debt, and suggested expedients for relieving the Exchequer-bill market.—Sir S. NORRIS explained that the funding operation alluded to involved no increase in the National Debt. He justified the course which the Government had pursued, contending that the responsibilities that devolved upon them in connexion with the savings-bank funds were administered strictly in accordance with the public interests.—Sir H. WILLOUGHBY insisted upon the necessity of establishing some control over the Government dealings with the large fund created by the savings-banks deposits.—Sir G. C. LEWIS, agreeing in this conclusion, remarked that the motion before the house pointed to no practical result. The only available method was to bring in a bill on the subject.—Mr. T. BARING said it always appeared to him most objectionable that such a power of transferring unfunded to the funded debt, without any previous notification to the public, should be intrusted to the Government.—Mr. GLADSTONE observed that this whole subject was one upon which it was inexpedient for the House to come to any conclusion not founded upon a more thorough investigation. The powers entrusted to the Prime Minister, as trustee of the savings-banks funds, were most anomalous, and required revision. Future changes of securities might, he suggested, be regularly submitted to a committee of that house.—Mr. HENLEY dissented from certain views of Mr. GLADSTONE regarding savings-banks money.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, remarked that the motion was equivalent to a vote of censure upon the funding of Exchequer bills, which he had himself authorised upon discovering that the savings-banks funds in their existing investment entailed a loss upon the country, which that step would obviate. Deprecating the adoption of the motion before the House, he admitted that the position of the unfunded debt was most unsatisfactory, and required revision by the legislature.—Mr. WILSON having briefly spoken—after a few words of reply, Mr. HANKEY withdrew the motion.

MILITARY ORGANISATION.

Captain VIVIAN moved for a select committee to inquire into the effects of the alterations in military organisation regarding the War-office and Board of Ordnance which were made in the year 1855, and also to inquire whether any changes were required to secure the utmost efficiency and economy in the administration of military affairs.—General PEAR assented to the motion, and after some discussion relating to various points of detail connected with the administration of the army, the committee was ordered.

CHURCH RATES.

Sir A. ELTON moved a series of resolutions affirming the expediency of discontinuing church-rates, confiding the maintenance of the fabric of the church to the zeal and liberality of the clergy and laity; of empowering a corporation, formed of the incumbent and churchwardens, to hold and administer property appropriated to the church; and of transferring the powers of the present vestry with reference to the parish church to a new vestry, consisting of contributors to the church funds, the churchwardens to be chosen therefrom. He stated reasons why, in his opinion, the abolition of church-rates must form the main ingredient of any measure on this subject, and he proceeded to discuss the resolutions *seriatim*. Those who desired to see the settlement of this painful question should, he said, provide some reasonable machinery that would enable the churchmen to bear the burden that would be cast upon them, and thereby secure the passage of the bill in another place.—The HOME SECRETARY could not assent to the resolutions, at all events until the House had formally determined to abolish church rates.—Mr. COWPER supported the motion, which was opposed by Mr. NEWDEGATE.—Sir A. ELTON then consented to withdraw his resolution.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.

Viscount BURY called attention to the Newfoundland fisheries, and moved an address to her Majesty for copies or extracts of any correspondence between the English and French authorities in Newfoundland, or between the Governor of Newfoundland and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or between the English and French Governments, which might show the construction placed by the French authorities upon the treaties which now regulate the Newfoundland fisheries. The French, he observed, had advanced large claims, and obtained many concessions; and he thought that Parliament should know on what basis the negotiations which were now said to be in progress had been framed.—Sir E. B. LYTTON said this was a subject on which he had formed a very decided opinion, but the question involved very subtle points, and some grounds of danger. He hoped that the question would be settled and the danger prevented by amicable negotiation. He detailed the substance of communications between the two Governments, expressing a firm hope that the result of a commission about to

be appointed would pave the way to negotiations that would settle all disputes.—Mr. LABOUCHERE described the complication with which the question had become surrounded through the conflicting claims and rights of England and France. He rejoiced to learn that hopes existed and means were being taken for an amicable adjustment of the controversy. Not to thwart their endeavours, he suggested that the motion for papers should be withdrawn.—Mr. M. GIBSON expressed much suspicion that the rights of English subjects on the coast of Newfoundland had been sacrificed without necessity or equivalent. He agreed, however, that the motion should not be pressed while the negotiations were still in progress.—After a few words from Mr. WYLD, and some further explanation of the diplomatic position of the question by Mr. S. FITZGERALD, the motion was withdrawn.

The Municipal Elections Bill passed through committee, after its clauses had undergone a very long debate.

The Law of Property and Trustees Relief Amendment Bill was committed *pro forma*.

CHURCH RATES.

Sir J. TRELAWNY moved the second reading of his Church Rates Abolition Bill.—Mr. B. HOPE protested against proceeding with so important a measure at that late hour (half past twelve o'clock). He moved the adjournment of the debate.—After some remarks from Sir J. TRELAWNY, the House divided on the question of adjournment: for, 108; against, 173; majority 65. The resistance to further progress was, however, renewed, and ultimately the supporters of the measure gave way, and the debate stood adjourned.

The house also adjourned at one o'clock.

GATHERINGS FROM LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

At the assizes at Hertford, on Saturday, Mark Wood and William Edwards, two athletic countrymen were indicted for poaching, and for grievously injuring a gamekeeper, whose skull was fractured in the attempt to capture them. Baron Martin sentenced Wood to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for twelve, and Edwards, to four months' imprisonment.—Elijah Smith was indicted for night poaching and shooting at a keeper named John West. It was not clearly made out whether the gun was discharged by accident, or designedly; and the jury therefore acquitted the prisoner. He was then tried for poaching, convicted, and sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

A smith named Charles Davies, living in Clerkenwell, was charged before Mr. Corrie with attempting to murder his wife. On Sunday morning the police, hearing cries of "murder," entered the house, and found that the drunken savage had inflicted such wounds on his wife's head with a bill-hook that she lies in a hopeless state at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, whither she was conveyed. The prisoner was remanded for a week.

An examination took place at Clerkenwell Police Court regarding numerous charges brought against a man named William Heathcoat, of preying upon advertisers for situations. The prisoner's mode of doing business appears to have been to reply to advertisements, representing that he could procure a situation, the very thing wanted, and then, under various pretences, squeeze as much money as possible out of his grateful victims. The prisoner was remanded, and bail refused.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on Tuesday, a certificate meeting was held in the case of Jonathan Hills, the surviving partner in the firm of Hills and Hills, the Gravesend and Dartford bankers. He had left this country for Australia, in the hope, it was stated, of raising money from some relations who had accumulated wealth in that colony. The sitting was adjourned *sine die*, it being understood, however, that no appointment for a new meeting should be made without special leave and due notice being given to the creditors. Henry Gibson, described as a merchant in Gracechurch-street, then appeared to pass his last examination. This bankrupt had been engaged in various transactions extending over several years with the bankrupt Hills, and that, on the last occasion, the sitting for his last examination was adjourned for the purpose of further inquiry being made by the assignees into the accounts of both bankrupts. The assignees in Hill's case now sought to prove for a sum of 11,672*l.* against the estate of Gibson, whereas Gibson contended that he was a creditor upon the estate of Hills. After a lengthened inquiry, the Commissioner determined to suspend until the certificate meeting any further discussion of the question whether there should be a proof or a claim by the assignees of Hills against the estate of Gibson, and allowed Gibson to pass his last examination, subject to all questions the assignees might raise at the next sitting.

At the Middlesex sessions, on Tuesday, several well-known thieves and housebreakers were tried

and convicted, and were sentenced to various periods of penal servitude.

On Thursday, at the Middlesex Sessions, Harriet Newman was convicted of obtaining by false pretences from Frances Hill a quantity of linen, she stating that she was a laundress. The case has been several times before the police courts, when the prisoner stated that it must have been her sister who committed the crime, and declared her own perfect innocence. On the trial it turned out, however, that she was guilty, and that she had been more than once "in trouble" before. The Assistant-Judge said it was evident she was a dangerous person to be at large, and sentenced her to four years' penal servitude.—William Davis and Mary Ann King were convicted of stealing a purse containing money. It was stated that the man was well known in the prisons, and that the woman had been committed at least 200 times since 1847. They were not sentenced, but remanded for inquiry to be made respecting their antecedents.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on Thursday, the certificate (third class) of Captain George Washington Chasseaud, who was described as a merchant in Cornhill, was suspended for three years without protection; and the Commissioner said that, if any naturally indignant creditor chose to vindicate public justice by putting the bankrupt into prison, any application for discharge would be disregarded until he had suffered at least six months' incarceration.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

A COMMUNICATION from Fremantle, Western Australia, announces the arrival of the celebrated convicts, Robson, Redpath, Agar, Tester, and Saward, alias Jem the Penman. They are all engaged on the public works, making roads, &c. Redpath and Robson are engaged wheeling stones, with shackles upon their persons. Their health appears to be good, but they seem wretched and dejected, and weary of their lives. The celebrated Rev. Dr. Beresford, who, with a living of 1,000*l.* a year, committed forgery to an enormous extent, has also arrived in the colony, and is employed sweeping the wards in the new convict prison.

On Sunday morning, at Manchester, a shoemaker named John Mackie stabbed two men with a knife, one of the victims expiring almost immediately, whilst the other lies in a dangerous condition in the infirmary. The murderer was drunk and quarrelling with a woman, when a man, John Wheeler, interfered, and was deliberately stabbed in the back. William Benson, a joiner, followed the assassin, who turned upon him, and inflicted a mortal wound with the same weapon in the abdomen. Mackie made off, but has since been apprehended, and committed to take his trial for murder in accordance with the verdict at this coroner's inquest.

It has been intimated that, looking to the fact that by the Fraudulent Trustees Act lately passed the offence for which Mr. Strahan and Sir John Paul were sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment would now be visited by a punishment limited to three years, the infliction in their case will be commuted to a period of four years. Their liberation will, consequently, take place in October next.

On Sunday a murder was committed in a house in North-lane, Aldershot, by a soldier of the 9th, named Henry Benjamin Haynes. The house was a beer-shop called "the London Tavern." On this occasion some soldiers were in the house, and loud screams being heard, a rush was made to the room, when Haynes was seen with a razor in his hand, and a young girl named Mary McCowan, profusely bleeding from a wound in the throat, and in a minute or two she died. The soldier Haynes was taken by some other soldiers, and on Tuesday an inquest was held on the body before Mr. Chandler, of Basingstoke, deputy-coroner. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder," and Haynes was committed for trial.

John Buchanan, and Archibald Mitchell, engineers of the steamer Bogota, were charged before the Liverpool magistrates on Tuesday with causing the death of a fireman named Lauder. Several witnesses, chiefly firemen, saw the man tied to a ladder within thirty-six inches of the furnaces, and stated that he cried most piteously to be released from his position. He was tied to the ladder as a punishment for "skulking," but according to the evidence of the firemen, he complained that he could not perform his work on account of the heat. Life was nearly extinct when he was brought from the stoke-hole, and no subsequent applications caused him to rally. The men said they dared not interfere lest they should be punished. Their evidence chiefly went to show that the chief officer, although he said, "If the man does not do his work, tie him," did not further interfere. Mr. Mansfield remanded the case to this day, but admitted Buchanan to bail in two sureties of 100*l.* each.

IRELAND.

On Monday a deputation from the Neapolitan exiles consisting of Canon Del Drago, Priest Bianchi, Doctor Braico, Advocate Pica, Professor Shaventa, and a gentleman name Schiavoni, accompanied by an interpreter, waited on the Mayor of Cork, who received them with the warmest sympathy, and the same feeling was evinced by the other gentlemen present, some of whom spoke their language, or French; inquiries were made into the nature of their treatment, which, as has already been revealed to the world through Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet, was most cruel and wantonly degrading, they then presented an address to the Mayor. Some of the persons present having inquired into the means of immediate support which the exiles possess, it was stated that from the suddenness of their deportation, and not having been allowed to make any arrangements with their families or friends, none of them were well supplied, and over forty of their number were in absolute want. His worship and the citizens in the room, who pitied their distressed state, opened a subscription list, and in less than half an hour £30 were subscribed. The Neapolitans still remain at Queenstown, where they have been provided with lodgings, in some instances.

The commission for the country of Kerry was opened on Monday by the Right Hon. Baron Greene. His lordship charged the grand jury at considerable length, and proceeded to state the nature of high treason, minutely commenting on the several overt acts. The grand jury on Tuesday found true bills for treason felony against Daniel Sullivan, Florence Sullivan, John D. Sullivan, John Connor, and Patrick Hennessy. The prisoners were put forward and arraigned. They are all young men and were respectably attired. They pleaded "Not guilty." Mr. McCarthy Downing, the solicitor engaged for the defence, has suddenly abandoned his trust, alleging—"My letters to the prisoners, and their replies to me in reference to the preparation of their defence have been perused before delivery to either them or to me. Having communicated this extraordinary fact to the Government, I only await a reply to determine me in the course which I should take."

The Attorney-General having concluded his statement on Tuesday evening, Daniel Sullivan, the approver, was put upon the table. In reply to Mr. O'Hagan, Sullivan, admitting that he was an informer, swore he was sorry to have such an interest in the case, but he expected to get his living by it, for he could not live at home; and, being further pressed by counsel, he said he expected to be provided for by the Crown.

ACCIDENT.

A DISASTROUS fire took place in Marylebone on Sunday. The scene of the catastrophe was a tavern in Great Portland-street, kept by Mr. Price. Three persons perished in the flames, and several others were seriously injured. No delay took place in the arrival of the fire-escape, and it would appear as if the loss of life could only have been averted by a trap-door in the roof.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

On Saturday orders were sent to Chatham Dockyard to take on 400 additional artisans; and at Pembroke 150 extra shipwrights, with a proportionate number of other workmen, have been engaged. The whole of these men are working extra hours, early and late, to expedite the completion of numerous men-of-war on the stocks. At Woolwich nearly 300 extra hands have been taken on, and, in accordance with Admiralty orders, the following new vessels are to be laid down:—Repulse, ninety-one guns; Bristol, fifty-gun frigate, and Polverine, twenty-one gun screw corvette. The whole of the ships now in hand are to be completed as soon as possible.

The new breech-loading cannon, invented by Mr. Warry, has been again experimented with at Chatham. The inventor has effected another great improvement in the method of firing it, by which nearly twenty rounds per minute can be discharged. One of Captain Norton's leaden shells was inserted in the gun and fired at the canvas, against which it exploded on striking, the object being to show that metal shells, charged with Captain Norton's "liquid fire," may be made to fracture on striking canvas. The result of this experiment proved that such shells are sure to explode on striking and entering clay-mounds or earthworks, where the Boxer fuse and the Moorsom percussion shell fail to be effective. Mr. Warry's breech-loading invention can be applied to any metal guns, of whatever size, which can be rifled and rendered fit for service at an estimated cost of one-fourth the expense of turning out one of Sir W. Armstrong's rifled cannons.

Mr. John Anderson, F.R.S., inspector of machinery at Woolwich Arsenal, has been appointed assistant-engineer of rifled ordnance, to carry out,

in conjunction with Sir W. Armstrong, the manufacture of his guns for distribution to the Royal Artillery. Mr. Anderson was, a short time ago, presented with a compensation of £3,000 by the Council of the Board of India, for his invention in the manufacture of leaden bullets. More civilian appointments are also spoken of as about to take place in the Laboratory and the other manufacturing departments of the Arsenal, which will tend to the advancement and economy of the Government service.

At Chatham, the Cadmus, 21 screw corvette, is being made ready for sea, and the Charybdis, of the same class, is being got ready for launching; at this yard, too, the screw 91, Bulwark, has been laid down. The Algiers, 91, has had her crew turned over to her at Portsmouth, and has been towed out to Spithead. The Mersey, 40 screw frigate, from which great things are expected, has taken in the whole of her main-deck guns, and her coals. Her captain (Caldwell, C.B.), and chief engineer have joined, and she will immediately make her trial trip.

Arrangements have been entered into with Mr. Lancaster, the inventor of the Lancaster rifle, to rifle a large cannon on his plan, in order that the breech-loading principle, as invented by Mr. Warry, the maker of the breech-loading cannon which has attracted so much attention, may be applied to it. When this gun is completed, Mr. Warry states that he shall, with the assistance of three men to work the gun, be able to throw 1,000 balls per hour a distance of four miles.

Foreign Intelligence.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

In an article which appeared in the *Moniteur* on Saturday, the Emperor denies that France is now making warlike preparations; she has not exceeded the effective force she is accustomed to have during peace. Assuming that preparations in the arsenals have received any extraordinary impulse, it is only, he says, because changes were necessary in our materiel, our artillery, and in the whole of our fleet. It is quite absurd, says the *Moniteur*, to represent the Emperor as pushing on war, and to cast on him the responsibility of having aroused uneasiness, and of having caused warlike preparations in Europe.

On Tuesday the *Constitutionnel* received instructions to publish an article, signed by its political director, A. Renée, on the recent article of the *Moniteur*. It explains that the publication of the *Moniteur* article must not be regarded as a retrograde movement, caused by the crusade which an active propaganda had succeeded in raising against the Emperor, in Germany, as some persons have asserted.

On the same day Paris was astonished by the announcement in the *Moniteur* of the resignation by Prince Napoleon of the Ministry of Algeria and the colonies. Count Prosper de Chasseloup-Laubat, deputy and manager of the Western Railway, was appointed successor to the Prince. It is said that the Prince offered his resignation to the Emperor on Saturday last, immediately after the appearance in the *Moniteur* of the article which seemed to him in contradiction with the policy followed by the Emperor since New Year's-day, and more particularly with the promises made to his father-in-law, the King of Sardinia. The apologists of the Prince attribute his retirement from the Ministry to the antagonism subsisting between him and MM. Fould and Walewski. When M. Walewski learnt the danger that menaced so near at hand, he did all he could to obviate it; and he forgot for the moment his self-denial, and spoke with boldness, and resisted tenaciously the policy which he considered so fatal to the country. Of M. Fould it is affirmed that, believing war probable, and convinced that the consequences could not be otherwise than prejudicial, if not fatal, to the dynasty which he has now served so long, he resolved the moment war was declared to surrender his post of Minister. The friends of Prince Napoleon believe that his retirement from the Ministry is only temporary, and that before the lapse of many weeks he will again be in power, but not with the same colleagues. If this be true, M. Walewski's tenure of office will be very brief indeed.

Diplomatic communications between Paris and Turin are now very frequent.

The Minister of Marine has given orders to prepare the steam corvette *Reine Hortense* for sailing on the 15th inst. She was to have taken Prince Napoleon to Algiers on that day.

The preparation of state apartments at Fontainebleau is for the Grand Duke Constantine and his Duchess.

An aide-de-camp of General Goyon has arrived in Paris from Rome, charged with a mission to the Minister of War.

The *Débats* feels little doubt of the definitive success of Lord Cowley at Vienna. "Austria must be convinced of two things—the first is that the French Government desires peace, since it has voluntarily accepted the intervention of England, whose attachment to peace cannot be suspected; the second is that European public opinion, so strongly pronounced for peace, would not be indulgent towards the Government which should accept the grave responsibility of having rendered peace impossible. We should feel no surprise at hearing the confirmation of the dispatches which represent as very favourable the progress of the negotiations opened by Lord Cowley."

Nothing is yet settled respecting the Ministry of Algeria. Some think it will be broken up altogether—others that it will be reorganised. The persons spoken of as likely to succeed Prince Napoleon are Marshal Randon, General Martimpré, and, as above stated, M. Chasseloup Laubat.

It has been rumoured for some weeks past that Prince Napoleon is to have the honorary rank of Lord High Admiral.

The Emperor Soulouque is positively coming to Paris, not, perhaps, to reside there permanently, but to stay some time. His aide-de-camp, General Dessalines, has taken apartments for his sable Majesty at the Hotel du Louvre.

PRUSSIA.

The infant Prince was baptized at Berlin on Saturday last by the name of Frederick William Victor Albert. There was a very splendid illumination at night. The Prince and Princess Frederick William have addressed a public letter of thanks to the Prussian people for the numerous addresses of felicitation they have received on the occasion of the birth of their son.

A declaration of foreign policy made by the Prussian Foreign Minister, on Wednesday, was received with applause by the Prussian Chamber of Deputies. The Government expresses a decided opinion that, with the co-operation of England, it will succeed in getting existing treaties respected. England and Prussia are described as holding a most favourable position in mediating between France and Austria. The Prussian Minister also affirms that while there has hitherto been only a moderate hope of peace, matters are so changed that the peace is not likely to be broken.

RUSSIA.

The *Gazette of the Senate* of Tuesday published the treaty of commerce and navigation concluded between Russia and England, which was ratified by the Emperor on the 10th of January last.

AUSTRIA.

The semi-official *Dresden Journal* publishes a letter from Vienna, in which it is stated that Austria has, according to Article 47 of the final act of Vienna, proposed to the Federal Diet preparations for war. The article in the Paris *Moniteur* is said, however, to have produced a very favourable impression upon the Emperor of Austria and upon Count Buol. The leading statesmen believe that the Government will come to an understanding, and that peace will be maintained. So much inflammable matter is, nevertheless, collected in the Italian duchies that an explosion is to be feared. In the meantime the Vienna papers criticise in a sceptical spirit the statements of the *Moniteur*.

On Tuesday the official *Vienna Gazette* published a long article, stating several reasons, founded on international law, why Austria will insist upon the complete maintenance of its special treaties with the Italian states.

Lord Cowley left Vienna on Thursday morning at half-past seven o'clock for London via Prague. His lordship had an audience of the Emperor on Tuesday to take leave. It is said that Lord Cowley is the bearer of counter-propositions of a hopeful character.

On Wednesday the Paris *Constitutionnel* published an article signed "Boniface," on the armaments of Austria in Italy. The article states that the effective force of the Austrian troops in Italy has been increased from 50,000 to 180,000 men. The statement of the *Constitutionnel* is borne out by other accounts. Regiments, which, till lately, mustered 2,500 or little more, will soon be raised to 6,000; and the entire force in Lombardo-Venetia will be more than doubled. In these vast reinforcements, it is already noticed, there is a great proportion of young, raw, and unlikely troops. Numerically, however, it is certain that Austria will speedily double her strength in her Italian possessions.

Things are in a very unsatisfactory state at Milan, and those persons who have the means of doing so are about to quit the city. Many people are gone to Turin to finish the carnival in that city, and it is probable that some of the young men will not return to Lombardy. The troops are kept in barracks at Milan, which is a proof that the danger of an outbreak is considered imminent.

At Vienna the state of the public health is extremely bad. All the hospitals are overfilled, and there is hardly a house in the city in which there are not sick persons. The prevalent complaints are typhus fever, pulmonary and bronchial affections, and the smallpox.

SWITZERLAND.

A circular note of the Federal Council has been addressed to the European Powers, stating that Switzerland will, in case war should break out, defend with all her power as well her own integrity and neutrality, as also that of Savoy, the neutrality of which has also been guaranteed by treaties. The military and financial departments have been ordered to commence all necessary preliminary works. In case the signs of approaching war should become more threatening, the Federal Diet is to be forthwith convoked.

NAPLES.

A letter from Naples informs us that it is affirmed there, that the King is suffering from a disease in the articulation of the thigh bone, producing such extreme pain as to render life almost insupportable. This disease arises from an attack which his Majesty had some years back. In addition to this, the King suffers from a nervous fever which induces frequent delirium; and altogether the complication of disorders is so severe that even medical men do not hesitate to say that the case is incurable. How far the life of the King may be endangered is another question: it is, however, impossible for him to attend to public business, though, up to a certain time, the *Giornale Official* endeavoured to create an impression that the King was devoted to public affairs.

GERMANY.

The Hanoverian Minister of Finance has published a decree prohibiting, in pursuance of the treaty with the Zollverein, the exportation of horses from the kingdom to those countries lying on the Zollverein frontiers.

A letter from Dresden says:—"The Saxon military administration is actively employed at present. Orders have been given for 20,000 pairs of boots, and other articles required by the troops. All the soldiers on leave of absence, who are by trade either tailors or shoemakers, have been ordered to rejoin their regiments."

TUSCANY.

At the Pagliano Theatre, in Florence, while a performance was going on, a shower of printed papers suddenly fell upon the pit, containing the following political manifesto:—"Turin, Feb. 15. Brothers of Tuscany,—From this land to which God has confided the sacred deposit of Italian liberty; from this land, which, through so many sacrifices, has found means to construct a sublime seat of national council, a war cry will soon go forth. This cry will be for you a signal of resurrection. But, woe be to you, if you give way to untimely manifestations and useless and hazardous enterprises. Be ready, vigilant, and faithful; and when we come to you with the tricoloured flag, then fly to the arms of your brethren and the defence of Italian liberty."

SPAIN.

The Spanish consul at Tangiers has communicated to the authorities of that place the order, on the part of his Government, to deliver up the Spanish prisoners within eight days. He has threatened, in case of refusal, to blockade the ports. Three French war steamers have arrived at Tangiers.

In the chamber of Deputies some members of the Progressist party have brought forward a motion for the abolition of the penalty of death in political cases.

Mr. Preston, the new Minister of the United States has arrived in Madrid.

According to a dispatch of the 4th inst., the Englishman condemned to death for having struck a Spanish sentry at Algeiras has been fully pardoned.

TURKEY.

Advices from Constantinople to the 2nd instant, state that the army of observation on the Danube has been increased to 30,000 men, and that the Porte claims the right of appointing the hospodars. Sir Henry Bulwer is believed to have advised the Porte to grant concessions to the Principalities.

The French Ambassador has procured the dismissal of the Governor of Rodosto.

Hassib Pasha has instituted a council for financial affairs, composed of four Turks and three Europeans. The question has been raised whether Saffet Pasha should be ordered to furnish accounts, but the *Levant Herald* has received the first official warning for having denounced Saffet. Severe measures have also been taken against the correspondents of certain foreign journals.

According to another telegram, Sami Pasha has been appointed ambassador in Paris.

The Wallachian deputation has arrived at Constantinople.

ROME.

A letter from Rome says:—"There are crowds of foreigners in Rome, and the Carnival has been as brilliant as on any occasion before 1848; the windows are as gaily decorated and filled with as much beauty—the maskers as active in throwing *confetti* and bouquets. Perhaps the only difference is that there is a larger military force under arms; but, as it is not visible unless one seeks it out, it creates no uneasy sensations. The Prince of Wales has a window in the Corso, and is an object of great attraction. His Royal Highness is living a quiet, unostentatious life, and is pursuing his studies with great attention."

It is reported that the King of Naples has offered to furnish the Pope with four battalions of Swiss troops.

SARDINIA.

A letter from Turin, says that the Emperor Napoleon has excited hopes in Italy, which, his recent declarations must, it is to be presumed, completely dissipate. There is but one sentiment respecting the note in the *Moniteur*. Everywhere the utmost indignation is expressed. People bluntly say that Piedmont has been "betrayed" by Louis Napoleon. There is reason to believe that M. de Cavour and Victor Emmanuel, were utterly unprepared for it. The new attitude of the French Emperor, it is believed in Turin, will alter in nothing the intention of the Government. War with Austria will be undertaken, cost what it may. The opinion seems to be there, that, if Austria and France both withdraw their troops from the Roman States, the Pope will at once be overthrown, and a national Government formed, which will demand that the country be at once annexed to Piedmont. This example, will be followed in the smaller provinces. But the evacuation is not yet carried out, and there does not seem much chance that it soon will be. Volunteers continue to arrive every day, and are at once enrolled in the Piedmontese ranks.

The official *Piedmontese Gazette*, of Wednesday, contains the following:—"The Austrian army in Italy having been placed on a war footing, the King has thought it necessary to call in the contingents. He hopes the country will receive with satisfaction those measures which are necessary for the defence of the national independence and the honour of the country. The subscription to the national loan has considerably exceeded the amount asked for."

In Paris conjectures are thrown out that M. de Cavour will be unable to stand up against the blow administered to his hopes and his ambition from the Tuileries; and, if he falls, the war party in Piedmont will be utterly and hopelessly worsted.

AMERICA.

The America arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday with New York mails of the 22nd ult. The news is of but slight importance.

The bark Julia Dean, of Charleston, captured off Coast Castle by the United States frigate, Vincennes, on suspicion of being engaged in the slave trade, had arrived at Norfolk in charge of a prize crew.

Great preparations had been made throughout the Union to celebrate the birthday of Washington on the 22nd.

The Cuban and Tariff questions continued to occupy the attention of Congress, but there appeared no immediate prospect of anything decisive being done.

A telegram from St. John's, Newfoundland, says:—"The tenor of private advices received per Prince Albert render it certain that the British Government will grant a subsidy of 150,000*l.* to the Galway Steamship Company. Mr. Henley, chief electrician of the Atlantic Cable Company, has arrived here, with batteries and instruments, to commence operations with them on this end of the cable."

The steam-ship Black Warrior, bound from Havannah to New York, ran ashore on Rockaway Bar, Long Island, during a dense fog on the morning of the 20th ult. The passengers and mails were taken off in safety, together with the 280,000 *dols.* in Mexican dollars, which she had on freight. At the latest dates it was feared that without very favourable weather she would not be got off. Her value was about 135,000 *dols.*

Incessant rains for a week throughout the West has caused a freshet in the Ohio river, and at Cincinnati the water was up to the second stories of houses in Water-street. All the upper streams were overflowing. Travel on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad was suspended.

By the Indian we have intelligence to the 26th ult. In the United States Senate, on the 25th, the bill appropriating 30,000,000 *dols.* for the acquisition of Cuba, was taken up, and a long and animated debate took place upon it. Mr. Wilson (Republican) offered a moderate amendment, which was rejected by a vote of 13 to 10. Senator Brown, a supporter

of the original proposition, moved as a test vote, that the bill be laid on the table. This motion was lost by a vote of yeas, 18; nays, 30. These figures indicate the certain passage of the measure by the Senate; but in the House the result will doubtless be the other way.

A Washington telegram of February 25th says:—"The rumour that all the available naval force, including the sloop-of-war Vincennes, has been ordered to the Gulf, seems strengthened by a remark made by the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means to-day, that this American sea, as he termed it, belongs to us, and that we will and must exercise control over it. The next arrival from Mexico will, it is anticipated, bring highly important intelligence in connexion with the French and English fleets, and requiring a larger American naval force than has heretofore been kept in that quarter."

JAPAN.

The Shanghai market report of Jan. 7th says:—"Japan is now attracting attention as an opening for foreign trade. There have been eight or ten ships cleared for Nagasaki since the late treaties were signed, the Japanese Government admitting them under the Dutch treaty until ratifications are exchanged."

WEST INDIES.

HAYTI.

Advices from Jacmel to the 30th of January state that the new Government was looked upon with much favour by the people. One of its first acts was to repeal the exorbitant export duty on coffee, but upon examination of the finances they were found to be in such a disordered condition that the old duty was immediately restored. All the excitement of the revolution had passed by, and business had revived to its former briskness. Coffee was coming in freely from the coast and the interior. The Governor of Jacmel, one of the Emperor's officials, had been deposed.

MEXICO.

The latest intelligence from Mexico states that President Miramon had reached Orizaba with several thousand men, on his march to attack Vera Cruz. Great apprehension was felt regarding the result. Another authority announces that Miramon is collecting funds and treasure, with a view of abandoning Mexico. Arrangements are also rapidly progressing to furnish Alvarez with the needed arms and ammunition for his army.

Advices from Vera Cruz of the 12th inst. represent Juarez as preparing for a vigorous defence for the city against the threatened attack of Miramon. Juarez has a force already of 5,000 men and 200 field-pieces, and had ordered an additional force of 2,000 men from the interior. He had sanguine hopes of defeating Miramon.

It was reported at Washington that Santa Anna was to be solicited to assume the Mexican Presidency.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The Ethiopie arrived on Thursday with advices from Sierra Leone of the 12th January. Much uneasiness prevailed at Lagos. The slave trade was struggling for predominance over legitimate business. The chiefs of the Jaboo and other countries had interdicted oil being carried from the interior to the markets near Lagos, as they did not benefit by it, though the bulk of the people did. There was consequently, no trade at Lagos nor at Palma. The proposed withdrawal of Her Majesty's gunboat Brune from Lagos at such a moment had created some alarm.

At Accra trade was very bad, no oil being forthcoming. Everything was quiet on the Gold Coast. Very severe earthquakes had occurred on the 5th and 6th; no particular damage was done. Rain was very much required by the agriculturists.

Trade was dull at Sierra Leone. Small-pox was prevalent.

A melancholy accident had occurred at Gambia. Her Majesty's collector of customs was out walking with a brace of loaded pistols in his belt, when they both exploded, each ball taking effect on his legs; he was lying dangerously wounded.

EGYPT.

Intelligence has been received from Alexandria to the 24th ult. According to accounts from the Red Sea, Captain Pullon, of the Cyclops, had been charged by the Admiralty with the immersion of the submarine cable which is to put England and India in communication. He had left for the south-eastern coast of Arabia, carefully taking soundings along the line which the cable was to follow.

Some English soldiers, while occupied in digging the foundation for a small fort on the Island of

Camaran, found a tomb, partly destroyed by time, but enough of the inscription was left to show that it was that of the Chevalier de Cressac, an officer of the Venus frigate, who was charged by Louis XVI., in 1787, under the command of Admiral Rosily, to explore the Red Sea, and who died while on that service. The English officers have had the monument repaired.

CHINA.

LATER advices from China to the 19th of January state that the Furious and Cruizer, left behind in the Yang-tze-Kiang, had been able to get out, owing to an unexpected rise in the river, and were daily expected at Shanghai. Further operations appear to be contemplated against the "braves," the marines of the flag-ship having been sent to Canton. Admiral Seymour had also proceeded thither. Sir J. Bowring had returned to Hongkong from the Philippines.

M. MAZZINI AND THE ITALIAN CAUSE.

M. MAZZINI and his republican associates have issued a manifesto in the *Pensiero ed Azione*, of which the following is the substance:—

They begin by stating that they believe it to be their duty to declare the course which they intend to pursue in the present crisis, on the supposition, more than probable, that a war will take place in Italy, between Austria and the Piedmontese monarchy and Imperial France. They are convinced that a people is not regenerated, and does not become a nation by means of a lie, but by means of principles, and a profound attachment to truth, and a courageously manifested consciousness of right; that without unity there is no such thing as a country; that without national independence a nation has no existence; that without liberty real and universal, there is no such thing as independence; that the country of the Italians comprises all the country between the Alps and the southern shore of Sicily; that national independence consists in the free choice, by the votes of the citizens, of the institutions that are to give shape to the inner life of the nation; that the independence of a people can only exist and be secure, not under the interested, ambitious, and dishonourable protection of a foreign tyrant, but by the virtue of the people, its consciousness of its own power, and by the fraternal alliance of surrounding nations; in consequence of these principles, that every war in which the Italians should fight in the name of Independence, apart from Liberty, would only lead to terrible delusions, and to the substitution of new masters for old; that every war in which the Italians should be deluded by the hope of conquering liberty and independence under the auspices or by the aid of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, would be guilty of suicidal weakness should he attempt to plant, by the force of arms, in Italy the liberty which in France he drowned in blood; a crime, because Bonaparte, aiming at conciliating a French public opinion, which becomes every day more hostile to him, and at fascinating, by military glory and territorial acquisitions, minds desirous of liberty, meditates a descent on Italy only for the purpose of gaining territorial rewards for his supporters, and a throne for a junior branch of his dynasty, and of carrying into effect the "Napoleonic idea" of making the Mediterranean a French lake; that between the combatants for Italian liberty and Louis Napoleon Bonaparte is fixed a gulf impassable and eternal—the blood of Rome; that where the cry is not "Out with the foreigner," but only "Out with the Austrian," the war is not, and cannot become national; that an alliance of the Piedmontese monarchy with Louis Napoleon Bonaparte would at once produce an European coalition against the cause patronised by him for his own ends, and that the mere probability of such an alliance has already lost to Italy much of the sympathy with which all Europe was disposed to regard her cause.

These things taken into consideration, they declare, that if an Italian war be initiated and patronised by Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, they shall deplore the event, and abstain from all participation therein; that as regards the Piedmontese monarchy, the question of to-day is not, in their eyes, a question of republicanism, but of national unity and independence; that they are ready to follow to the field of action the Piedmontese monarchy, and will promote with all their might the success of the war, if undertaken with a distinct intention in favour of the national unity of Italy; but they will not protest against every proposal of a royal dictatorship, as a negation of the life of the country which it would deprive of all means of expression, dangerous on account of the despotism for which it might pave the way.

Abhorring equally the Austrian in Lombardy, and every other armed foreigner in Rome, or in any other spot of Italy; regarding with the same affection the Italian in Sicily and the Italian of the Alps they desire and pant for war, so it be not a war of

slaves—not a war like those of the middle ages, against one foreign foe in behalf of another—not a war for one fraction only of Italy—not a war for the mere aggrandisement of a dynasty—but a war of free men, a war of all for all, a war in the name of a national principle recognised as sacred throughout Europe—the war of a people which, faithful to the tradition of its sages and its martyrs, desires to make itself a country, a flag, a common bond of society.

Profoundly impressed by a sense of the immense and solemn responsibility which rests at the present crisis on the Italians, they proclaim to their brethren in the name of those who have died for them, in the name of the terrible lessons of the past, in the name of their future, the necessity of rallying round the principles contained in the present declaration. the necessity of initiating in a popular sense the struggle in the name and on behalf of the nation—the necessity, if the initiative should come from another quarter, to impose on the initiatives by universal manifestation the national programme, and to substitute for every other cry, the one cry of—"Long live Italy! Long live our country, one and indivisible! Long live national independence!"

POLITICAL MEETINGS.

On Sunday several thousands of persons assembled in Hyde Park, for the purpose of expressing their opinions on the Government Reform Bill. The proceedings were, on the whole, of a very orderly character. The feeling of the people went entirely against the Government measure.

The political friends of Mr. J. A. Turner, the member for Manchester, entertained that gentleman at a banquet on Friday night. He spoke against the Government bill. As might be anticipated, his advocacy of Reform, and especially of the vote by ballot, provoked dissent from a portion of his audience. Mr. Massey, the member for Salford, was the only other M.P. present. He spoke against the bill, but in somewhat vague language.

On Monday a series of great metropolitan meetings against the Government bill was commenced. A crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held in St. Pancras, at which both Sir B. Hall and Mr. Edwin James were present. These hon. gentlemen strongly denounced the measure, and resolutions calling for its rejection, and supporting manhood suffrage and the vote by ballot were adopted. Sir Benjamin made some personal explanations respecting Lord Ebrington's resignation, which were accepted as entirely satisfactory. Another meeting was held in the Lambeth Baths, attended by Mr. Williams and Mr. Roupell, both of whom denounced the Government Bill, and as warmly advocated manhood suffrage and the ballot. A meeting in favour of the enfranchisement of Chelsea was likewise held, at which the members for Middlesex were present. Mr. Torrens McCullagh took the chair, and said that if the inhabitants were united he had no doubt they would attain their object.

An out-door gathering at Sheffield on Monday, of rather an enthusiastic kind, unanimously pronounced against the Ministerial bill; the meeting was presided over by the mayor, and about 2,000 persons were present. At Newcastle there was a great meeting on the same day, at which resolutions condemning the Government Reform Bill as insulting to the people, and a memorial to the Queen to dismiss the Ministry, were agreed to; and at Norwich there was an immense gathering. The great hall was filled to overflowing, and strong resolutions were unanimously passed against ministers. All sections of the Liberal party were described as being thoroughly united. No such strong political excitement has been felt for many years. Both the city members were present, and Lord Bury said that all sections of the Liberal party had at length consented to waive minor differences. Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston had at length fused their two sections in one; and on the second reading of the bill that old Reformer, Lord John, would be seen, hand in hand with Lord Palmerston, giving his vote against a measure which had disgraced the House of Commons.

On Tuesday night an enthusiastic meeting was held at the Horns, Kennington, the second which has been held in Lambeth this week. Mr. Williams and Mr. Roupell were again present. The meeting adopted a petition to Parliament against the measure, and in doing so condemned the bill introduced by the Government as a perfect sham.

An overflowing meeting was held at Leicester, when amid the laughter of the crowded assembly, one of the speakers asked the stockingers of the town what they would profit by a savings bank franchise? Both the middle and working classes combined to express "contempt, indignation, and disgust" at the Government bill. Meetings of a similar character have been held in Dudley, Bedford, Keighley, and Hereford.

At Birmingham, on Wednesday, a crowded as-

sembly was addressed by Mr. Bright. It was even more than unusually enthusiastic; and such a strong feeling arose against Mr. Ernest Jones, who had gone down to oppose Mr. Bright, that it was utterly impossible for him to obtain a hearing, and he seems to have retired under the protection of the police. Mr. Bright confined himself to an exposition of the Government measure, and concluded by stating his belief that it would not be passed into law, and by calling upon the people to arise and do their duty. The hon. member said that if the measure was passed, he should so entirely despair of his country that he would lay down his arms, and relinquish the contest. The resolutions that were adopted condemned the Government bill, and announced the necessity for union among Liberal Reformers. It was also resolved to petition Parliament. A meeting of the Leeds Town Council was also held on that day, and a petition condemning the Government measure, especially as it affected the interests of the West Riding, was unanimously adopted.

Three important Reform meetings were held in the metropolis on Wednesday. Some of the inhabitants of Westminster met at St. Martin's Hall, the majority being working men. The proceedings lasted four hours. Sir George de L. Evans, M.P., and Sir John Shelley, M.P., were present, and spoke against the Government measure, which was very unanimously condemned in the resolutions passed. General Evans alluded to the arrival of Poerio and his fellow-exiles, and called for three cheers in their honour, which were enthusiastically awarded. At the Beaumont Institution, in the Tower Hamlets, more than 2,000 persons were present, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Ayrton, M.P., Mr. George Thompson, and Mr. S. Morley. The other meeting was held at Paddington. Sir B. Hall and Mr. Edwin James were present; and the meeting, as in the case of the Tower Hamlets, passed strong resolutions against the Government Bill.

Colonel Tynte, M.P., addressed the electors of Bridgewater this week upon the Government Reform Bill, and the assembly adopted a petition to Parliament against it.—At Brighton and Royton similar measures have been taken.

On Wednesday a crowded meeting, to consider the bill, was held at Southampton, at which Mr. Weggelin was catechised by his constituents. Resolutions in favor of the ballot were carried. At Wakefield, on the same day, 1,200 persons met and adopted a petition against the Government measure. At this meeting lists containing the names of nearly 600 county voters who would be disfranchised by the passing of the bill were circulated. On Wednesday, at Glasgow, a "conference of Reformers" was held, which passed condemnatory resolutions.

Woolwich has pronounced against the bill, and a great aggregate meeting is arranged to be held in that district. Meetings have also been held during the present week at Glossop, Bacup, Kendal, and Greenock, at all of which the Government bill was denounced as insufficient, and a large measure of reform demanded. Stockport, Bolton, Worcester, Bristol, and Paisley, are preparing to hold meetings with a similar object.

On Thursday a meeting of members of Parliament entertaining liberal opinions connected with the representation of Ireland, was held in No. 12 Committee-room of the House of Commons. The meeting was convened "to take into consideration the question of reform in the representation of the people of Ireland." A strong opinion, however, was expressed hostile to the Government measure prepared for England and Wales.

The chair was taken by Mr. A. McCarthy, and among the gentlemen present were:—The Right Hon. J. D. Fitzgerald, Mr. F. B. Beamish, Mr. McEvoy, Mr. Devereux, Sir Denham Norreys, Captain Green, Mr. John Blake, Mr. Hatchell, Sir Richard Levinge, Mr. De Vere, Mr. Chichester Fortescue Brady, Mr. Calcutt, Colonel French, Mr. Serjeant Deasy, Q. C. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted. "1. That the refusal of the Government to give any information as to their intentions with respect to the amendment of the representation of the people of Ireland is unprecedented, and deserving of strong condemnation. "2. That as we consider the main principles upon which the English Reform Bill is founded are most objectionable, we feel bound to state that no measure of Parliamentary reform for Ireland can be deemed satisfactory, which is not based upon a comprehensive extension of the franchise, accompanied by the protection of the ballot. "3. That we also consider that in any measure for the amendment of the representation of the people, the right of Ireland to an additional number of members should be considered."

On Thursday night a meeting was held of the inhabitants of Enslbury, at the Music Hall, Store-street; Mr. Duncombe, M.P., and M. Cox, M.P., were present; resolutions were passed advocating manhood suffrage as the basis of representation,

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, &c.

LITERARY CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

It was scarcely to be expected that a question so much mooted already as the authorship of the "Vestiges," could be disposed of by a mere *ipse dixit*, and we are not surprised therefore, that many doubters have arisen as to the accuracy of the assertion, or that Professor Nichol has plainly denied that Dr. George Combe had anything to do with the authorship. "I beg you distinctly to state from me," writes the Professor to the Editor of the *North British Daily Mail*, "that Mr. George Combe was not the author of that book" (that is, the "Vestiges"). To this, the *Critic* replies: "Notwithstanding the very strong and confident assertion on Mr. Nichol's part, we adhere to our statement. Secrets of this kind have been kept by authors, even from their most intimate friends; and although we are not yet authorised to state the precise grounds upon which we attribute the authorship to Dr. George Combe, we may go so far as to say that we have done so on the authority of a writer whose name in the world of science is inferior to none. As, however, Mr. Nichol seems to hint that he is in possession of the secret, perhaps he will have no objection to inform us to whom, in his judgment, we ought to attribute the authorship." Thus stands the matter for the present, and we hope that ere long both our contemporary and the Professor will see fit to be more explicit. Assertion goes very little in such matters, however respectable may be the authority.

One of the most important book issues of the week has been Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's catalogue of the Libri MSS., to be offered up for competition on the 28th instant and seven following days, omitting Sunday. By the word catalogue, it must not be supposed that a mere dry list of the lots is all that is given. Here is a goodly volume containing, on two hundred and sixty pages of type, and thirty-seven splendid plates, full descriptions and specimen fac-similes of the eleven hundred and ninety lots of which the sale will consist. The descriptive notes are very minute, of high bibliographical value, and the list of works cited in them contains the titles of nearly three hundred and fifty works in English, Latin, Italian, French, &c. These notes are the work of M. Libri himself, also the very erudite preface, or introduction, written in French, with an English translation on the opposite page. Altogether, this may be pronounced to be a pearl of catalogues, and in every way worthy of the important sale which has called it forth. The mere cost of preparation must be something far exceeding the price charged, and years hence it will possess a bibliographical value quite apart from its present purpose. Our readers may remember that the eminent collector, who has brought together these literary treasures, is the same M. Libri whose case occupied so much attention a few years ago. After a searching investigation into the charges against him, he was thoroughly acquitted of them all, and was even permitted by the French Government to remove his library. This sale is one of the largest and most important which has taken place for many years, and it will attract *virtuosi* and collectors from all parts of the world.

There is no secret now that the reports respecting the dissolution of *Household Words* and the creation of a new periodical, to be conducted by Mr. Charles Dickens, and supported by the contributors of *Household Words*, are true, that every preparation is being made for starting the new adventure, and that the first number will be issued on the 30th of April. The name selected for the new periodical is "*All the Year Round*"—rather an eccentric one, it must be confessed—and the motto chosen is the line in *Othello*, "The Story of my Life from Year to Year." *Household Words*, it is said, will not be continued.

The past week has not beheld the issue of many good books. We have Archbishop Whately's edition of Paley's "*Moral Philosophy*" (John N. Parker); "*Ellen Raymond*," by Mrs. Vidal (Smith, Elder and Co.); and "*The Bertrams*," by

Anthony Trollope (Chapman and Hall). Brother Prince, of the Agapemone, has also put forth some hundred pages of extatic nonsense under the title of his "*Journal*," which are published for him (but certainly not on their own account) by Messrs. Hall and Virtue.

Sparse items of gossip may be noticed. "Tom Brown," that is, Thomas Hughes, Esq., has joined the honorable society of Antiquarians. "Sam Slick" has been lecturing at Isleworth—where he has now taken up his permanent abode—on the North American colonies. This is a favourite subject with the Judge; for he delivered the same lecture at the Glasgow Burns' dinner; when he was called upon to propose "the Church of Scotland." Finally, Mr. William Longman has been delivering the first of a series of lectures, on English History, to the members of an association at Chorley-wood, in Herts, near his country residence. This lecture has been printed with much luxury of paper and illustration, and is an excellent specimen of a plain lecture intended for common sense hearers.

There is not much literary news from Paris. M. d'Argent, the son of the late marquis, has cited M. Guizot for what he calls an imputation on his father's memory. In his memoirs, the ex-Egeria of the *Roi-bourgeois* accused d'Argout of servility to Casimir Perier, on the flimsy ground that once when the former was going up the Legislative Assembly, Perier called out to him in an imperious tone of voice to "Come here!" Imagine a *casus belli* of that kind offered to the notice of John, Lord Campbell, at Westminster. But then we English are such thick-skinned dogs.

SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON'S LECTURES.

(FIRST NOTICE.)

Lectures on Metaphysics. By Sir William Hamilton, Bart. Edited by the Rev. H. L. Mansel, B.D., Oxford, and John Veitch, M.A., Edinburgh. 2 vols. W. Blackwood and Sons.

Every one who has studied under Sir William Hamilton, and has mentioned his name with laudation in general society, has been accosted with a query like the following:—"How is it that you students of mental philosophy and pupils of Hamilton estimate him so highly? We can understand the high opinion expressed of Reid; for he has left his essays as the exponents of his views. Brown's lectures enrich the mysteries of metaphysics with all the graces of poetry. There is a dignity, precision, and beauty in Dugald Stewart that entices the most exoteric and unread student. We can understand the high estimate formed of these Scottish philosophers. But, as far as we know, Sir William Hamilton has done nothing more than engage in a somewhat exciting controversy with Professor De Morgan about the possibility of reducing all conclusive reasoning to the syllogistic formula, write a few articles in the *Edinburgh Review* on Universities, and one or two distinguished philosophers living and deceased, and bring out an edition of Reid, with supplementary notes and dissertations. And yet our best metaphysicians and logicians seem to estimate his merits as far higher than those of all the rest of the Scotch school put together." This question has been put, and it is most pertinent and fair. To such querists our reply has generally been, that Sir William Hamilton's merits, like those of all philosophic teachers, must be measured more by his influence upon his students' minds than by any new truths taught, or even by any novel views of previously taught truths; and that mental philosophy is not a progressive science, like those which deal with any of the conditions or manifestations of material existence—such, for example, as chemistry, in whose past history you can allocate to each discoverer his special gains and trophies; as, for example, to Davy his discovery of certain metallic bases; or to Faraday his adumbration (now almost a demonstration) of the identity of heat and electricity. And we have generally, while defining Hamilton's general relation to the Scotch school

by the statement that he had engrafted upon Reid all that was sound and valuable in Kant, acknowledged the impossibility of explaining to anyone, who had not heard the lectures, their merits and excellencies until their publication. Sir William's logical course is not yet published. His lectures on metaphysics lie before us. We shall best discharge our duty to our readers by as concise a summary of their chief points as the subject, the space at our command, and our competency for the task, will allow.

Adopting Kant's division of the mental powers into those of knowledge, feeling, and desire, Hamilton confines himself almost entirely to the first, touching little on the emotions and less on the desires. The phenomenology of the cognitive faculties and their nomology; that is to say, the description of their aspects and manifestations, and the inquiry into the laws which regulate these, principally occupy him. There is little of ontology, or metaphysics proper, that is, the science of the results and inferences to be deduced from the psychology and nomology of mind—the questions of the being of a God, immortality of the soul, &c. These lectures, then, do not travel over the whole field embraced under the term metaphysics. They are lectures on the phenomena and laws of the intellectual powers, as distinguished from emotions and desires; ethics and logic, of course, are necessarily excluded, as far as the cognateness of the themes can prevent the partial treatment of these closely-related subjects.

Two lectures demonstrate the subjective and the objective utility of the study of philosophy, that is to say, the value of philosophy as the best means of mental training, as the centre of all studies, and the instrument of all studies. The latter contains a magnificent demonstration of the existence of the Deity as a belief necessitated by the freedom of our will as revealed to us by consciousness. A third lecture, rich and interesting in its history of the definitions of philosophy and of successive estimates of its proper objects, describes its nature, limits its comprehension, and defines it, as distinguished from empirical or historical knowledge, as the knowledge of things in and by their causes—the knowledge *cur res sit*, as distinguished from the knowledge *rem esse*.

The causes of philosophy—that is, the mental necessities which compel men to philosophise; that is, to discover the causes of phenomena—are the necessity, native to us, to look upon every phenomenon as an effect; hence, to be dissatisfied till its causes are discovered; and the desire to carry all our knowledge into unity, or to seek for general truths and laws. This love of unity is not only an effective means of discovery; it is a boundless source of error. It produces hasty generalisations and premature theories. Here, too, is to be classified, as a source of delusion, the influence of preconceived opinion. Wonder is an auxiliary cause of philosophy. The words of Socrates—"To attain to a knowledge of ourselves we must banish prejudice, passion, and sloth"—are taken as the text for a lecture on "the dispositions with which philosophy ought to be studied."

Doubt is the first step towards philosophy; but doubt as a transitory state, not as a resting place. As Aristotle has it, philosophy is not the art of doubting, but the art of doubting well. "There is a great difference," says Mallebranche, "between doubting and doubting. We doubt through passion and brutality; through blindness and malice, and finally through fancy, and from the very wish to doubt; but we doubt, also, from prudence and through distrust; from wisdom and through penetration of mind."

There is only one method of philosophy—that composed of analysis and synthesis—the decomposition of effects into their constituent causes, only that we may reconstruct the complex effects which we have analysed into their causes. The precedent analysis must not contain false elements, that the consequent synthesis may not furnish false results. Induction, generally termed an analytic, is really a synthetic process. Induction

is the conversion of the observation of many particulars into a law received as universal—a procedure manifestly synthetic.

Thus far we have followed "the lectures generally introductory to the proper business of the course." From this general view of philosophy generally, we proceed to the special treatment of the psychology of the cognitive faculties. Considerable space is occupied with the explication of terms, mostly of terms of common and recognised use among metaphysicians, but in some cases specially devised, where additional clearness and precision were wanted, by Sir W. Hamilton himself. Such is the term "conative powers,"—the desires, appetencies, orectic faculties, as others have denominated them, about the phenomena of which ethics and politics are concerned.

The relativity of our knowledge is expounded. "Rerumque ignarus, imagine gaudet." We know not substances, whether mind or matter, only their conditions or phenomena. The limitation of our knowledge is further defined. Knowledge is possible to us only as far as the inlets of our senses and perceptions allow. As Kant says, "In perception everything is known according to the constitution of our faculty of sense." Our knowledge is still further limited. Even the properties of existence we know not in their native purity. Our senses not only contribute to, but also modify, our knowledge of objects.

The value of the distinction between the terms "subject" and "object,"—between the *ego* and the *non-ego*—is impressed and illustrated. Consciousness involves the conscious self; *ergo*, the conscious self must be axiomatically taken for granted.

A hypothesis is a provisionally held theory, or general law. Hypotheses are allowable in the interim between the adduction of particulars and the synthetic induction towards laws, if two necessary conditions be observed. The phenomenon to be explained must be known to exist. It were absurd to account for apparitions until we knew that there were apparitions. The phenomenon must be otherwise unaccountable, else the hypothesis is unallowable. The comparative excellence of a hypothesis is thus determined. It must not involve anything contradictory, either between any of its own parts or between any part of it and some other established truth. The Ptolemaic hypothesis of the heavenly revolutions became untenable, when it was contradicted by the ascertained phenomena of Venus and Mercury. The Wernerian hypothesis in geology cannot be maintained, because water could never hold in solution substances we know it to be incapable of dissolving. Again, a hypothesis is probable in proportion to the number of the phenomena it explains.

All the primary classes of the mental phenomena are included under the one universal phenomenon of consciousness. Consciousness is therefore the faculty first to be considered. It cannot be defined, for it lies at the root of all our knowledge; still it may be philosophically analysed. It is the recognition of the mind, or *ego*, of its acts and affections. It is a knowledge actual, not potential; immediate, not mediate; it supposes a discrimination; it involves judgment; it is possible only through memory.

After, at great length, and with the most ample citation of authorities, illustrative, corroborative and adverse (and these refuted), showing that consciousness is the only source from which all knowledge of the mental phenomena must be obtained, considering the character of its evidence, and the different degrees of its authority under different relations, and expounding the more general phenomena it reveals, Sir W. Hamilton goes on to the consideration of the special faculties of knowledge, or the particular modifications of which consciousness is susceptible.

In our next number we shall conclude our summary of the lectures, hazard an estimate of their literary characteristics, and of the way in which the editors have performed their task.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CHARLES JAMES FOX.

The Life and Times of Charles James Fox. By the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, M.P. Vol. I. Richard Bentley.

This biography was projected by Lord John Russell, in pursuance of his having undertaken in

the fourth volume of Mr. Fox's correspondence to give, "in a connected narrative, the relation of Mr. Fox's political career, and an account of his times." The volume before us possesses the usual merits and defects of Lord John's compositions. There is an accumulation of materials without proper arrangement, and a deficiency of the requisite literary manipulation, from want of time. We must accept the work, so far as it has gone, as containing the collections of a politician on a particular subject—not, properly speaking, as the biography of Fox, such as it would have been with the same materials if it had been carefully written by a professional author. The book, for what we know—paradoxical as the assertion may appear—may be all the better for these supposed defects, that is, may show more of the man, if not, the writer—may exhibit not only the image of Mr. Fox, in dress, but that of Lord John himself, in his easy chair, seated in his study, arranging papers intended for publication, sufficient for information, though not to form an artistic unity. The papers are in themselves of value; and therefore we propose to bestow on them more than an ordinary share of consideration.

At the very outset of the work we are presented with three characters—Charles James Fox, William Pitt, and George III. These three distinguished men present the results of as many schemes of education. That of Fox was conducted without any regard to morals, or the control of the passions. His mind learned what it might, and his heart indulged itself as it would. It was not the liberty, but the license of instruction that was permitted. By the age of nineteen he had attained all the knowledge of the world and the school that he was likely to want, and found himself in Parliament by the force of family influence. His rival, William Pitt, is also a precocious child, but brought up in strict principles. The mother of Fox paid a visit to Lady Chatham in 1767, and gave this account to her husband:—"I have been, this morning, with Lady Hester Pitt, and there is little William Pitt, now eight years old, and really the cleverest child I ever saw, and brought up so strictly and so proper in his behaviour; that, mark my words, that little boy will be a thorn in Charles's side as long as he lives." A very singular prediction, exclaims Lord John, showing not only the early cleverness of the two boys, but the cherished ambition of their parents, the wise strictness of Lord and Lady Chatham, and the sagacity of Lady Holland.

George III., as a boy, was neither restrained like Pitt nor indulged like Fox. He showed no talent of any kind, except for dissimulation and secrecy. His mother described him as very honest, but wished that he was a little more forward and less childish at his age. Except to his brother Edward, he took to nobody, of which she was glad, "for the young people of quality were so ill-educated, and so very vicious, that they frightened her." Thus secluded, his mind—what there was of it—grew up in its own way. His parts were "tolerable;" his honesty wanted "that frank and open behaviour which makes honesty appear amiable." Nor was his religion "amiable;" he had "rather too much attention to the sins of his neighbour." He had "spirit" also, "but not of the active kind," and did "not want resolution," but it was "mixed with too much obstinacy." He was sullen and silent, too, when angry, retired to his closet to enjoy his ill-humour, and indicated sometimes that his memory was only too correct and retentive. He was, moreover, on the testimony of Lord Waldegrave, "uncommonly full of princely prejudices, contracted in the nursery, and improved by the society of bed-chamber women and pages of the backstairs." Lord John himself adds:—

"Prince George, with a mind more ready to imbibe prejudice than to assimilate learning, seems not to have acquired from any of his preceptors a knowledge of classical or even English literature. He never understood or appreciated Shakespeare, and few English gentlemen wrote in a style so inelegant and so ungrammatical. But if he attained no proficiency either in the lofty lessons of history or the delightful study of poetry, he seems to have learnt very early the habit of secrecy and dissimulation, so natural to a court. A characteristic instance of these qualities was observed by those near him when he first heard of the death of George II. He was out riding when the intelligence reached him; he said aloud, without betraying any emotion, that his horse had fallen lame, and turned towards home. When he dismounted, he said quietly to the groom, 'I have

said this horse is lame; I forbid you to say the contrary."

Lord John however accredits the king with "a conscientious principle and a ruling passion." He honestly desired to perform his duty; but cherished a strong determination to make the conclusions of his narrow intellect and ill-furnished mind prevail over the opinions of the wisest, and the combinations of the most powerful of his subjects. "His political prejudices prolonged the contest with America; his religious intolerance alienated the affections of Ireland; his national pride and his hatred of democracy promoted the wars against France, whether monarchical or Jacobin."

To all this the character of Fox was diametrically opposed. His abilities were brilliant, and his sympathies with the cause of freedom and the interests of mankind. He resisted the mad perseverance of Lord North in the project of subduing America. He opposed the war undertaken by Mr. Pitt against France, as unnecessary and unjust. He proved himself at all times the friend of religious liberty, and endeavoured to free both the Protestant and Roman Catholic dissenter from disabilities on account of their creed. He denounced the slave trade. He supported a reform in the House of Commons. These views and sentiments, concludes Lord John Russell, "made him through life obnoxious to the king. We shall see," he adds, "the results of this antagonism, which was throughout, on both sides, not only political, but also, in some degree, personal. Thus, for a great part of his life, he appears as a kind of rival to the sovereign upon the throne. We shall see that in 1784 this opposition of character produced a contest which is one of the most memorable in the history of our parliamentary struggles."

Nevertheless, the early career of Fox in parliament seemed to indicate a desire on his part to gain the favour of the Court. In 1772 he was named one of the Commissioners of the Treasury; two or three months afterwards he was dismissed, not very courteously, by Lord North. During this period of his life, Fox "entered deeply—almost madly—into the pursuit of gaming." He was duped, and borrowed to such an extent, that he cost his father no less a sum than 140,000*l*. This was the result of his lax education, and the paternal bad example. Mr. Fox spoke for the first time in behalf of freedom on occasion of the proposal for the repeal of the tea-duty, when Mr. Burke made his famous speech on American taxation.

The Public Fast of the 1st of June, 1774, in America, to which George Washington showed his adherence by visiting church, is the next incident dwelt on by Lord John Russell; and he is at Paris to fill in an entire episode relative to the great American patriot. Next November, with a new parliament, England was enabled to boast of a strong Government. "But a strong Government which over-leaps wisdom and violates justice, is one of the worst evils that can befall a country." George III., in his obstinacy, thought himself triumphant, but it was a triumph such as belongs to that "pride," which "cometh before a fall." Lord North was the nominal minister; but the King was really his own. Much better is it for a monarch of England that he should reign only, and not govern. Nor did the ill-consequences that ensued originate in the King's incapacity or narrow understanding; the best men of the time were but obscurely conscious of its great questions, and particularly the continental ones. The general state of things is graphically sketched in a few sentences by Lord John Russell.

"The Court of Great Britain was arrogant and confident; the Parliament indifferent, ignorant, and submissive; the Americans far from unanimous, but generally determined to be free subjects or a free commonwealth. The more moderate thought liberty might be preserved without separation; the more able and ambitious looked to separation as the opening of a higher destiny, the triumph of democracy at home, and the assertion of an equal place among the greatest nations of the globe."

In the opinion of Mr. Grattan, the best speeches during the American war were those made by Mr. Fox. That struggle indeed first summoned forth his energies. It was Mr. Fox who called the war ministry a Tory administration. Lord North thought proper to vindicate himself from the charge. He remarked that the Americans might with more justice be called Tories, for they appealed to the King's prerogative; whereas the cabinet upheld

the authority of Parliament. The colonists who took the part of the mother country were called Tories by the Americans.

"The fact is," continues Lord John, "that the old ground of the Tory party had been, from the accession of George III., abandoned, and the Whig doctrines of the Constitution, as they had been professed in the reigns of William III. and George I., were adopted by the leading statesmen of all parties, however they might differ as to the immediate questions of foreign or domestic policy. As to the remark of Lord North, it had no doubt some foundation, but the fact to which he alludes will bear a very different interpretation. The Americans could not object to the Houses of Parliament as advisers of the Crown, but when the House of Commons voted taxes to be levied in America, they naturally deprecated the interference of Parliament in a matter which properly belonged to themselves, and appealed to the Crown on the ground of their charter. Lord North soon again returned to his favourite policy of vain and foolish appearances of conciliation. The name of Howe was popular in America. Admiral Lord Howe was sent to join his brother, General Howe, and a joint commission was given them to treat for pacification. But as their instructions merely empowered them to receive submissions and remedy grievances, after the convention, committee, or association of any province, 'which have usurped powers,' should have been dissolved, these overtures were rather endeavours to divide the people of America, than to give them real satisfaction. They were, in fact, so considered."

Lord North, though secretly of opinion that the system he was pursuing would end in ruin to the King and to the country, continued still to obey the commands of his sovereign and observe a course of conduct that was due to weakness of character and a slavish spirit of devotion, fatal to the welfare of the State. Mr. Burke and Mr. Fox, were however, so ill supported by the public opinion of their country, that they were constrained to abandon the contest, and in 1776 absented themselves with their followers from the House when any question relative to America was in debate. Systematically, they made their bow to the Speaker, and formally withdrew. They indeed only appeared in their places on the matters of private bills and particular interest. Lord Mahon for this impeaches their patriotism; Lord John Russell, defends it. Nevertheless, Mr. Fox attended in his place—though alone—to oppose Lord North's bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, in respect to all persons suspected of high treason in America or on the high seas. He drew the attention of Parliament to the fact that France had long been secretly hostile to Great Britain, and that she was in treaty with the members of the American Congress, or with persons authorised and deputed from them. At length Mr. Fox triumphed, and the administration of Lord North came to an ignominious end. The interval, however, comprises the first effort of Mr. Pitt, and the great popular triumph of Fox in his being elected for Westminster.

Lord John Russell goes too much into detail in his description of the American warfare. He should have epitomised where he has enlarged, and subordinated these and other public transactions to his hero. But as it is, Washington and General Howe and Burgoyne fill the pages, and it is only in an occasional sentence that we catch the name of Mr. Fox.

The same fault prevails in regard to the parliamentary history of the time; for one paragraph bestowed on Mr. Fox, there are a dozen pages occupied with Mr. Burke, and other politicians of the period.

This first volume carries the reader down to the Shelburne administration, and the peace of 1783. Previous to that, however, was the Rockingham administration, which succeeded that of Lord North. A whole system, says our biographer, had passed away; and George III., its inventor, was no longer his own minister. Henceforth he had to reign as a constitutional King. Too long had he attempted absolutism;—the weapon that would not bend, broke in his hand. America, by insisting on her own independence, had secured the liberty of Great Britain. The affairs of Ireland now succeeded to those of America. Mr. Fox was in the Cabinet, but found his position uneasy, owing to the intrigues of Lord Shelburne. The death of Lord Rockingham on 1st July, 1782, brought their differences to a climax; and Lord Shelburne was in power. Mr. Fox, accordingly, resigned the seals into the King's hands. Unfortunately, he

failed in carrying the whole Rockingham party with him out of office. A personal antipathy to Fox was, besides, deeply rooted in the royal bosom. The Prince of Wales, too, now came upon the stage of politics, and, by evincing openly his want of respect for his royal parent, aggravated matters. "The King was shocked by the morals, thwarted by the politics, and deeply irritated by the personal connexions of his son." The new Government, however, made the concessions in relation to America that had been required, and the United States were regarded as free and independent. We shall await the following volumes of this work with considerable impatience.

PERSONAL MEMOIRS OF CHARLES II. *Personal Memoirs of Charles II.* By J. W. Clayton, Esq. 2 vols. Charles J. Skeet.

CAPTAIN CLAYTON who is already favourably known by his entertaining works—"Letters from the Nile" and "Ubique"—has taken a bold step in the work before us. It having occurred to him that no separate modern work was devoted to the simple biography of the merry monarch, though hundreds of historical volumes of general history and others referring to special portions of his reign would furnish ample materials for one, he determined to enter upon the task of its compilation. This difficulty lay, of course, not in the scarcity, but in the abundance of matter at his disposal, and he has conscientiously compressed the largest amount of interesting detail into the smallest conceivable space. The lively author of "Ubique" makes no pretensions to be a Dryasdust. He has not ransacked foreign libraries, provincial muniment-rooms and charter chests, or the dead stock of the second-hand book shops. His divining rod has disclosed no new springs. He has opened no new lights into the politics, conspiracies, or court life of the time. He will earn small thanks therefore from historical students. But he has diligently culled a biography from the vast network of recognised historical highways and byeways, open to him as to all. For statements of fact, he has laid under contribution the works of Whitelocke, Rushworth, Ormond, D'Ewes, Thurloe, Burnet, Clarendon, Pepys, Grammont, King, Jesse, Strickland, Jameson, Lingard, Huddleston, and many others; and has drawn his deductions with good sense and liberality. The result is a book of no slight value to the multitude, who must truly, now-a-days, read as they run, and who can find no time to wander on their own account into the fascinating fields of historical investigation.

THE RIVERINE REPUBLICS.

La Plata, The Argentine Confederation, and Paraguay. Being a narrative of the exploration of the tributaries of the River La Plata, under the orders of the United States Government. By Thomas J. Page, U.S. Navy. London: Trübner.

THE vague general notion which nine-tenths of newspaper readers have of the South American Republics is that they are fragmentary and insignificant remains of the great empire of the Spanish Main; that they are all deeply indebted to English bondholders, that their population have degenerated into worthless half-castes by constant intermarriages with the Indians, and that they are constantly either fighting against each other, or electing, deposing, tyrannised over by, and intriguing against, dictators of their own. These states naturally divide themselves into two classes; those lying along the north shore of the continent, and watered by the Amazon and its confluent; and those lying along the shores of the Parana and Paraguay, which bear you from Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, away up behind Brazil, into the north of the central part of the continent. The range of the Andes running close to the western shore of South America, is, speaking generally, entirely watered by rivers that fall into the Atlantic. And all trade with the interior that cannot be conducted by the channel of the Amazon, must pass along the River Plata, the navigability of whose branches for two thousand miles into the interior, Captain Page has practically established.

Many valuable volumes of this character have, in recent years, issued from the American press; whether at the expense and instigation of the federal Government, which has been lately voting "appropriations" for much less meritorious objects, we know not; at all events they have been the results and records of discovery and exploration, undertaken by orders given from Washington.

Of these, not the least important have been Dr. Kane's narrative of the Arctic expedition; and the accounts of the embassy to Japan, and of the exploration of the Chinese Seas, and Behring's Straits. The volume before us is an interesting and, as far as we can judge, a trustworthy addition to this important catalogue. In 1851, Mr. Page undertook the command of an expedition, for the survey of the Rio de la Plata, and its tributaries, and had also committed to him the task of contracting a treaty of commerce with the Republic of Paraguay. The latter task he achieved, although it would appear somewhat fruitlessly, for the States are now blockading the ports of that republic. As the result of the exploration of the rivers, we have the establishment of their navigability far into the interior, and many valuable hints as to openings for profitable trading at various points in their courses.

On the arrival of the expedition at Buenos Ayres Captain Page found Urquiza, President of the Argentine Confederation, who had been the emancipator of the republics from the power of Rosas, besieging the capital, that state having rendered herself obnoxious to the sister republics further up the rivers, by attempting to use her position at their mouth to her own exclusive commercial advantage. Captain Page and his vessel, the *Water Witch*, were detained till pacification was established by the agency of the American representative. And his instrumentality towards this most desirable object greatly facilitated the progress of the treaties with the republics, which have made the rivers entirely open to England and France, as well as to America. After this delay—a detention for four months—the *Water Witch* started up the country. About three years' sailing produced these results. The river Uruguay, which is the western boundary of the republic of the same name, and of which the chief seaport is Monte Video, was found navigable almost to the north-west corner of the state. The Parana was traversed to its head, that is, to the point where it loses its name in those of its confluent. The Paraguay was found navigable to a point two thousand miles from Buenos Ayres. The whole western frontiers of Uruguay and Paraguay were found to be in easy communication with the ocean. It was proved that ships can sail from the south-west to the north-west point of the Argentine federation; and that some hundreds of miles of the common frontier of Brazil and Bolivia, far up in the very centre of the continent, are also accessible. These summary results of the expedition we have gathered from the narrative, aided by the large and well-executed map which is appended to it. The book is enlivened, too, by a profusion of creditable woodcuts, representations of the principal ports of Guachio and colonist life, &c.

The main excellences of this work are of a commercial nature, indications to the enterprise of traders of new markets for fabrics, new regions of production of profitable materials. To the general reader, interested only in travellers' descriptions of scenery, men and manners, it will prove far from uninteresting. As partial confirmation of our commendation, we extract the following description of "a waltz with a lady of Concepcion:"—

"We were invited on the first evening of our arrival to a ball at the commandante's, where were assembled all the beauty and distinction of the place. The floor of the ball-room was of tile, the lights tallow; indeed, there was little to meet a cosmopolitan standard of elegance, but the good-breeding and native tact of the people made it an occasion of enjoyment to us all. There is no village or region of the earth so small or remote as not to have its 'upper ten,' so small or remote as not to have its dilemma. The knowledge of this fact placed me in a dilemma. Being the 'Señor Commandante,' I was expected to select, as a partner for the waltz, the most distinguished lady present. When all looked alike, it was impossible to discriminate; a mistake would have been a national insult. In this quandary, I placed myself in the hands of the commandante, who dashed off to a formidable row of females at the upper end of the room, from whence he brought forth a partner, assuring me she danced divinely. This I could not doubt, for what woman in Spanish America can't waltz, and waltz well? but was she one of a class so often found in this country, that 'never tires'?

"The music began; off we started, followed by the officers of the *Water Witch*, and all the belles and beaux of the town. Round and round, whirl and whirl—"Bravo, Señor Commandante!"—the invariable exclamation of our host as we passed—began to sound faintly in my ear; on, on we flew; I no longer

supported the lady; she carried me round. Was I about to realize the theory of perpetual motion? Sights and sounds were growing dim and confused, when, perhaps aroused by the noisy "bravo" of the commandante, I gathered my failing strength, broke away from the fair lady, and beat a retreat from the room. I was fairly danced down."

If the following description be not overdrawn, the pleasing impression which the expedition left upon our author's mind, and which the perusal of his work leaves upon his reader's mind, is far from ill-founded:—

"I can convey no faithful impression of the beauty of the face of the country. It presents throughout, from river to river, the most varied physical features; fine alternations of mountains, forests, and plains. The lofty Mbenaypey, crowned by primeval forests, and the Ytagua with its truncated cone, though but hillocks compared with the majestic eminences of the Andean range, are imposing objects in the mountain system. Through whole districts the sierras are covered by forests of gigantic trees, and slope by rounded wooded hills to the broad sunlit plains, which were everywhere brilliant with verdure, and intersected by perennial streams. The hill-sides were enlivened by the habitations of a numerous population, and the plains were covered by herds and flocks, which, with the approach of night, could be seen seeking the protection of corrals that dotted the campos. We saw no sterile wastes. The whole land seemed to be enriched by the vegetable tribes of tropical and temperate zones. The air was laden at times with the rich odours of orange blossoms and aromatic shrubs; and yet the climate there, as in every part of the basin of La Plata that I visited, is free from the humidity and excessive heat, which, in other sections of this continent, exhaust the powers of man, or increase those of nature beyond his control. All that fine country is occupied by a people simple, kind, and hospitable. Thefts are not unfrequent, but a higher degree of crime is rare. The administration of President Lopezis, so far as I could learn, unstained by bloodshed. Though the Paraguayans groaned for a quarter of a century under the sanguinary tyranny of Francia, they have been saved from the demoralizing civil contests that have almost depopulated other states of La Plata."

These interesting states are only commencing their mature existence. The policy pursued by Spain and Portugal, during the whole period of their supremacy, the same policy as was pursued by England, with her Colonies, until the war of American independence taught her its fatuity, of closing their ports to all communication and commerce with the world, and discouraging all industrial energy and manufacture, perpetuated as it was, after they threw off the yoke of European rule, by the cruel and repressive Governments of Rosas and Francia, prevented even the first steps towards commercial activity. These are only now being taken; but being taken eagerly, and with the confidence of success. Captain Page believes that, ere long, cotton, sugar, and tobacco, which grow with little culture, almost spontaneously, will become staple exports, and most of the Governments give land to immigrants for nothing. With regard to timber, he says:—

"We brought home sections of a variety of woods, and of their indestructible qualities I had some opportunity of judging in my frequent visits to the abandoned missions of the Jesuits in Paraguay, where the finest wood-work—columns, statuary, and roofing—exposed to the action of the elements for more than two centuries, were as untouched by time as granite or iron. "A ship built of Paraguay wood," says Azara, "will outlast four of European timber." The economy of nature also is most wonderful and beautiful. In the edible fruits, foliage, barks, fibres, and juices of its great forest trees, as well as in those of every species of minor vegetation, we find farinaceous food, a stimulant, or tea, more healthful than that afforded by the Chinese leaf, precious medicines, raw materials for the finest tissues and the most useful fabrics, dye-stuffs offering varied and unfading tinges, gums, resins. This exuberance of vegetable life is united with a climate as delicious as it is salubrious."

Of the progress of trade in these countries, the increase of population will be accepted as a reliable test. In the United States the population doubles itself in twenty years. In some parts of these republics the population has tripled in twelve years. Let this, too, not be forgotten: the Argentine races manufacture nothing. To a country like our own, which exports manufactures and imports materials, trading with these republics, there is a consequent certainty that they will buy, as well as sell, and that a fair balance of trade will thus be preserved.

Behind the Scenes in Paris; a Tale of the Clubs and the Secret Police.
James Hogg and Sons.

The author of this work—a reprint from the pages of our excellent contemporary "Titan"—has constructed a powerful fiction upon one of the numerous conspiracies against the life of Napoleon III., which the Imperial police have so much distinguished themselves by thwarting, or, as their enemies say, by inventing.

Singularly enough, the scene of the chapter, entitled "How to Play Regicide," is laid at the door of the Opera-house; and its action is an attempted assassination of the Emperor. This and other coincidences might induce some to suppose that the book was written subsequent to the Orsini affair; but the pledge of the talented author, that he had previously completed its task, his sufficient to establish his claim to be considered a farseeing man, if not a prophetic one. The chapter in question furnishes the following passage, which we extract as a specimen of his smartest manner. Among his remarks on the crowd at the door of the Opera-house he says (p. 253):—

"On these two carriages the looks of a motley crowd were fixed. But what looks! The looks of a people unworthy of liberty, because they can be so easily cheated out of it;—a people who, respecting little in this world, have so great a respect for power, that they worship it. There were looks of stupid admiration; of servile appreciation; of childish fascination. The sturdy Englishman pooh-pooled and scoffs at a show of finery, though he will go miles to see it; but the Frenchman enjoys it thoroughly. There are three ways by which a French mob may be tamed, and only three—a bon-mot, a dazzling show, and the mouth of a cannon. The present Emperor has had recourse to the latter two already. He is not celebrated for smart sayings, but a day may come yet, when his life at least, if not his throne, will depend on his ready wit."

One of the opening scenes is laid in a Parisian cellar dwelling. The characters are a starving mechanic and his family. We are introduced to a degree of wretchedness that we confess we would not have believed, except on the word of an old resident in Paris, to have existed in that city. We even till now believed that the absolute starvation of an entire family, whose head being able-bodied enough to seek work at his trade, could have at least made known the deplorable situation of his wife and children to the public charity board of that town; but our author gravely ignores any such resource. He evidently does not do so to relieve his hero from the degradation of public relief, because he makes him adopt the lower depths of begging and treason. We have either, then, marvellously erred all along respecting French charity, or one who, like the writer before us, boasts twenty years' acquaintance with that country has, by implication, cruelly libelled it. We cannot pretend, at a minute's notice, to decide the point; but we much incline to the latter alternative. But our sympathy for French charity has led us far astray from the point we had in view when we called the reader's attention to Girardin's cellar. Our desire was to quote for the reader's instruction, and to submit for his admiration, some true and forcible remarks on French domesticity. The ties "de famille" we have ourselves always observed to mean something more among our neighbours than do their representative words in our own language; and we share the author's views on their comparative strength among the two peoples as well as the nervous language with which he has clothed them, as follows:—

"England is a very boastful country, but there is not one of her many boasts so highly cherished, yet so utterly unfounded, as that of her domestic ties. I know that in saying this I call down thunderbolts upon my head. I care not—truth is more precious than popularity. But to prove it; and first between husband and wife. Has any, who has lived longer in France than the author, ever heard of a husband, in any class of life, beating his wife, knocking her about with his fists, brutally asserting his superior strength, and taking advantage of her weakness, as we hear of every day, in every class in England? And if to this it be answered that the husband abroad inflicts a far worse than bodily injury on his wife, and invades his love on some wretched mistress, I reply that I do not uphold their morality, only their domesticity. Again, as between parent and child; where, tell me, do you see in England that tender affection, respect and devotion, which we have seen a thousand times abroad in sons and daughters? Would it not appear even ridiculous to our old eyes, if a dashing young dandy, starting in his cabriolet for his club, were to press a kiss upon his father's brow each time he left the house? Or where do you see in England generation after generation content to live together in the same house? Is it not almost a rule that the young married couple shall install themselves rather in wretched lodgings than in the same house with their parents? Nay, the love of honour from child to parent is so strong in France, compared to England, that it is this which partly accounts for the number of made-up marriages; as many a son and daughter would rather marry a cannibal at once than oppose the will of a father or mother."

The hero, Paul Montague, who it need hardly be said is an Englishman, happens to have been a mem-

ber of the secret society charged with the above-mentioned plot against the Imperial life. Though personally no party to the attempt—his name having been removed from the roll prior to its organisation—he was proscribed and pursued by the police. His wanderings led him to the coast of Brittany and a night scene, when he finds himself exhausted, starving, and penniless among the mysterious stones of Carnac. Notwithstanding the comparative proximity of these wonderful remains to our shores, so few English travellers, and so limited a circle of English readers, are acquainted with them, that we venture to extract their picture—and a piece of broad scene-painting it is—from the pages before us.

"Deep purple clouds lay heavy over all the heavens; but, in the east, the morning sun was driving them before it, and came up triumphing, round and bold, and throwing back on each side a curtain of white mist, which rolled sparkling away. Paul looked up. Around him stood a score of huge gaunt stones, rough, grey, and irregular, and caught the rising beams upon the yellow lichen of their faces.

"He raised himself wondering, to wonder more. He was in a camp—an army—of stones. Far away, down the gentle slope, and up the smooth fields beyond, far in fact as he could see, and bounded only by the sky and triumphant sun, were stones—stones, nothing but stones. Their number was countless. Men have tried to count them in vain, and when the calculators have come together to compare their countings, one says two thousand, another twenty thousand.

"There they stood, in regular lines—some say eleven, some thirteen—at regular distances, and in regular descending size; those where Paul lay being the largest, standing higher than giants, and those at the further end, towards the east, smaller than pigmies.

"Was it Cæsar's army turned to stone upon the Druid's hallowed ground? The peasants tell you so.

"Was it the last resting-place of some band of Celtic patriots, and these their tombs? So some say.

"Was it, perchance, a stone temple raised to some unknown God, perhaps the Maker himself, and each stone of which designated some attribute of His divinity?

"Qu'en savez-vous? This field of stones, stretching for miles away, till its limits are lost in the smallness of the objects—this wild plain is called Carnac, the city of the dead. True name! whatever be its origin; since all they mean is dead, save the lifeless stones themselves, which live, though lifeless. The people that raised—the mechanical power employed to move these huge blocks—the mystic meaning of the eleven lines, and the regular distances of the pillars—all, all are unknown—lost to the world for ever.

"We have unearthed Nineveh; we have recovered Babylon; the wise men of the West have given tongues to the graven slabs of Nimroud and Khorsabad, and the Past has been dragged back a skeleton into the Present, and Learning played coroner over his bones. But here the corpse has lain beneath our very eyes for centuries, and refused to rot."

We have preferred to quote the preceding passages for our readers' pleasure and instruction to giving them the mere plot of the love story which runs through the book. The trials of the hero and heroine will find admirers in plenty among ordinary novel readers, but the extracts we have given will, we hope, procure recognition of the author and his excellent performance among readers of a far higher stamp.

On Liberty. By John Stuart Mill.

London: J. W. Parker.

Few persons who have directed their attention to the progress of political philosophy will receive without interest the announcement of a new work on that subject from the pen of Mr. Stuart Mill. The power which Mr. Mill has displayed, in his "Essays," and in his great work on "Political Economy," in dealing with the most important and difficult questions in the social science—the admirable clearness with which he unfolds his views—the high regard for truth, the fairness and perfect good temper towards opponents, everywhere manifest in his writings, entitle him at all times to attention. It is impossible that a work from Mr. Mill on these subjects should be wanting in that which will amply repay a careful study. This writer is no book-maker. His publications mark, each one, a step gained in human knowledge—an addition to that stock of truths whose good fruits yet to come no man can estimate. It is lamentable to think that the influence of such a writer should be retarded by the deluge of contemporary publications—by the noisier claims of worthless books, which must sink into their destined oblivion before the true value of his works can be fully manifest.

The subject of Mr. Mill's Essay is "The nature and limits of the power which can be legitimately exercised by society over the individual."

"A question (he says) seldom stated, and hardly ever discussed in general terms; but which profoundly influences the practical controversies of the age by its latent presence, and is likely soon to make itself recognised as the vital question of the future. It is so far from being new, that, in a certain sense, it has divided mankind almost from the remotest ages; but in the stage of progress into which the more civilised portions of the species have now entered, it presents itself under new condi-

tions, and requires a different and more fundamental treatment."

The question is indeed "not new," and the solution which Mr. Mill gives to it is familiar to all persons who have studied the subject of morals and government. That there are things as to which the individual member of society should be left free, and other things in which he should be controlled or restricted, is universally admitted. In no society, for instance, is it proposed to take away from the labouring class the disposal, according to their non-inclinations, of their own earnings, or to supersede such disposal by a system however wise or beneficent. No philanthropist, anxious for the success of Mechanics' Institutes or Evening Lectures, thinks of asking the Legislature to compel people to attend either. Nobody brings in a bill to oblige a sick man to take medicines, or to prevent a clown turning double somersaults, at the risk of his neck. A rough idea of the reasons for this sort of *laissez faire* is probably in the mind of even those who have hardly thought upon the subject. The acts which the laws leave alone are what philosophers call "self-regarding acts"—acts, the consequences of which, whether good or evil, fall on the doer. The law steps in—or ought to step in—only when the act in question interferes with the rights of other persons.

This is the subject of Mr. Mill's Essay. But its originality and principal value consists, first, in showing that it is not the law, but a power far more effective and much more tyrannous, which has a tendency to overstep the limits of the rightful exercise of human liberty; and, secondly, in pointing out the great importance to human progress of that liberty, and the mischief to be apprehended from the encroachments upon it by society.

"Like other tyrannies, the tyranny of the majority was at first, and is still vulgarly, held in dread, chiefly as operating through the acts of the public authorities. But reflecting persons perceived that when society is itself the tyrant—society collectively, over the separate individuals who compose it—its means of tyrannising are not restricted to the acts which it may do by the hands of its political functionaries. Society can and does execute its own mandates: and if it issues wrong mandates instead of right, or any mandates at all in things with which it ought not to meddle, it practises a social tyranny more formidable than many kinds of political oppression, since, though not usually upheld by such extreme penalties, it leaves fewer means of escape, penetrating much more deeply into the details of life, and enslaving the soul itself. Protection, therefore, against the tyranny of the magistrate is not enough: there needs protection also against the tyranny of the prevailing opinion and feeling; against the tendency of society to impose, by other means than civil penalties, its own ideas and practices as rules of conduct on those who dissent from them; to fetter the development, and, if possible, prevent the formation, of any individuality not in harmony with its ways, and compel all characters to fashion themselves upon the model of its own. There is a limit to the legitimate interference of collective opinion with individual independence: and to find that limit, and maintain it against encroachment, is as indispensable to a good condition of human affairs, as protection against political despotism."

The articles of liberty claimed by Mr. Mill for the individual are liberty of conscience, liberty of thought and feeling, absolute freedom of opinion and sentiment on all subjects, including the liberty of expressing and publishing opinions, however distasteful to others; liberty of tastes and pursuits, and freedom to write for any purpose not involving harm to others.

"No society in which these liberties are not, on the whole, respected, is free, whatever may be its form of government; and none is completely free in which they do not exist absolute and unqualified. The only freedom which deserves the name, is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it. Each is the proper guardian of his own health, whether bodily, or mental and spiritual. Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seems good to themselves, than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest."

No writer that we are acquainted with has hitherto set forth with such completeness, as Mr. Mill has in this essay, the benefits of this liberty—the real effects on the well-being of society, upon which the expediency of permitting it is grounded. It is only in this soil of freedom that human faculties can grow and develop themselves.

"It is not by wearing down into uniformity all that is individual in themselves, but by by cultivating it and calling it forth, within the limits imposed by the rights and interests of others, that human beings become a noble and beautiful object of contemplation; and as the works partake the character of those who do them, by the same process human life also becomes rich, diversified, and animating, furnishing more abundant aliment to high thoughts and elevating feelings, and strengthening the tie which binds every individual to the race, by making the race infinitely better worth belonging to. In proportion to the development of his individuality, each person becomes more valuable to himself, and is therefore capable of being more valuable to others. There is a greater fullness of life about his own existence, and when there is

more life in the units there is more in the mass which is composed of them. As much compression as is necessary to prevent the stronger specimens of human nature from encroaching on the rights of others, cannot be dispensed with; but for this there is ample compensation even in the point of view of human development. The means of development which the individual loses by being prevented from gratifying his inclinations to the injury of others, are chiefly obtained at the expense of the development of other people. And even to himself there is a full equivalent in the better development of the social part of his nature, rendered possible by the restraint put upon the selfish part. To be held to rigid rules of justice for the sake of others, develops the feelings and capacities which have the good of others for their object. But to be restrained in things not affecting their good, by their mere displeasure, develops nothing valuable, except such force of character as may unfold itself in resisting the restraint. If acquiesced in, it dulls and blunts the whole nature. To give any fair play to the nature of each, it is essential that different persons should be allowed to lead different lives. In proportion as this latitude has been exercised in any age, has that age been noteworthy to posterity. Even despotism does not produce its worst effects, so long as individuality exists under it; and whatever crushes individuality is despotism, by whatever name it may be called, and whether it professes to be enforcing the will of God or the injunctions of men."

We have attempted no more than to indicate the character and object of Mr. Mill's work, which is too full of thought to be abridged, or even exemplified by extracts. All who take an interest in such subjects will give to the work itself a careful perusal. The publication derives a peculiar interest from the tribute paid by the writer in his preface to the memory of his wife, whose recent death was deeply regretted by the large circle of intellectual women of which she was a distinguished ornament.

Essays, Biographical, Critical, and Miscellaneous.
By Peter Bayne, A.M. James Hogg and Sons.

THIS is a volume of eloquent essays by an American author, the largest portion of which has not been yet published. Their pervading spirit is a religious one, but which, while upholding the principle of faith, does not disdain the use of rational weapons, and uses them skilfully. The book starts from a high point, the philosophy of "Plato," and the author shows both an appreciation of the sage, and a capacity to deal with his system. Plato he calls upon us to acknowledge as the centre figure of Greek speculation. "He made all who went before his teachers; all who came after were, with more or less of intelligence and originality, his pupils." In an essay on the "Characteristics of Christian Civilisation," we have, as it were, an application of the author's principles. One profound remark he makes. It is this: While the revival of literature in the latter half of the fifteenth century had no tendency whatever to revive the Papacy, or to re-awaken moral life in Rome and in Europe, it was, in a true and literal sense, the fact that "the very Papacy was saved by Protestantism." Christianity was in peril of extinction when a Tetzels was found preaching the Gospel for money, which a Paul had offered for acceptance freely—selling "a pardon from himself" while selling an indulgence to another. Luther saved Christianity—but he saved Catholicism too. The Papacy, truly says Mr. Bayne, "was actually falling back into Paganism; it was rotting away; and that at the very time when the treasures of knowledge, which so many more or less explicitly believe and avow to be the one means of moral life for nations, were poured, with unprecedented exuberance, into the lap of Christendom." Again, "Popery, startled by the shock of the Reformation, roused itself in the sixteenth century to a new activity. It shook off the Paganism of the Leos and Bembos. Protestantism thus—as I suppose even Roman Catholics would in a sense admit—was the means of saving Romanism from sheer putrescence and destruction. But the history of the Papacy since the Reformation has proved that the resuscitation of its life was no sound and complete resuscitation, but rather a specious, an outwardly imposing, but an indubitable, lapse into a deeper disease. By associating itself with Jesuitism, it brought the abomination of desolation into the temple; and by allying itself universally, even in these days, with European despotism, it has denied the unity of truth—truth social and truth religious, and visibly abdicated its right to lead the human intellect."

In this, and other essays, we cannot but perceive the extensive influence possessed by the German over the American literature. An essay on "Wellington," however, shows a genuine English feeling; and another on "Napoleon" a due estimate of European politics. In these essays the author has evinced great skill in painting war-pictures. Napoleon was the Hannibal of a later time, Wellington the Scipio.

From these high themes, the essayist next descends to treat of the "Elementary Principles of Criticism," which he characterises as "a minor metaphysical science." In his remarks on poetic art, he tells us that Aristotle required imitation, Bacon invention, Coleridge plastic energy, and Car-

lyle "the incorporation of the everlasting reason of man in forms visible to the sense, and suitable to it." The author, however, prefers Professor Masson's definition, that poetic faculty consists in "the power of intellectually producing a new or artificial concrete." And we must confess that this definition looks scientific enough. Mr. Bayne is a bold man, however, in selecting for his ideal example of poetic excellence Goethe's "Sorrows of Werter." From this topic the author naturally passes on to consider our poets—"Tennyson and his Teachers," meaning thereby Scott, Byron, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, Coleridge, and Hunt, on each of whom he pours vials of eloquent commendation; Mrs. Barrett Browning, Ellis, Acton, and Currer Bell. These form separate papers. They are all first-rate. The series concludes with two essays on British painting, and Mr. Ruskin. The volume is one in which, like a mirror, we may contemplate the age wherein we live.

Each for Himself. By F. Gerstaecker. Routledge. As a picture of Californian life and experiences, this work is unrivalled. The characters are mostly German, and full of originality. The charming portrait of the tender, true, and loving wife, Julia Hetson, and her devotion to her hypochondriac husband, is a delightful episode in the volume.

Sir Gilbert. A Novel. R. Bentley.

THIS is no song or story of "olden" time, as might be inferred from the title, but a veritable novel of modern days, with modern characters and modern incidents, none of which however can fairly be said to be novelties in the repertory of fiction writers of the day. If we cannot give "Sir Gilbert" a position in the highest rank of tale writers, still we must place it on a very respectable elevation, far above the ordinary rack of circulating library writers. The interest turns upon the loves of Frederick Tresham and Sir Gilbert Ravenhill. The first a University *roue*, but with many virtues, loving and beloved by Averilla Mortlake, heiress and ward of Canon Tresham, Frederick Tresham's father, in her penchants, *un peu volage*; the last a wealthy, amiable, and nervous personage with mental and physical infirmities, aggravated by the brutal conduct of Colonel Laudon, who, for his own wicked and sordid purposes, forces him into the army, where he disgraces himself by an act of cowardice in battle—a secret known only to one or two, among whom is Cyril Carnac, a kind of Zamiel, whose evil influence is felt up to the close of the story, when he is effectually disposed of at a fire, which happens in a theatre where he has gone to see his wife sustain the character of prima-donna. There is also another secret, which the ubiquitous and omniscient Cyril becomes possessed of—namely, that Sir Gilbert's father had shot Averilla's father in a duel. Sir Gilbert, in consequence of a pecuniary compact with Cyril, woos Averilla, whose fortune more than her attractions, great as they are, is the temptation; Sir Gilbert, at the same time, being truly in love with a noble-hearted lovely creature, Julia Calverley. However, urged on by Cyril, he proposes marriage to Averilla, and is repulsed; a strong scene ensues, in which the affair of the duel is for the first time disclosed to the unconscious pair. Sir Gilbert leaves the presence of the lady, maddened with shame, and in the intensity of his agony makes his way to the place where his father lost his life—the inference is by premeditation—immediately after the fatal duel.

We may safely say it is a tale which once commenced will be sure to be perused by the reader; and had extracted the description of a painful interview between the heroine and Sir Gilbert, but found our space was not sufficient to insert it; we therefore commend the work to the notice of those devoted to this class of literature.

The Earth we Inhabit: its Past, Present, and Probable Future. By Captain Alfred W. Drayson, Royal Artillery, author of "Sporting Scenes in South Africa," &c. A. W. Bennett.

THIS is a curious book, and should command much scientific attention. The author, in the course of his experience as a practical surveyor, discovered certain inconsistencies in the measurement of distances and areas that set him thinking. Geodesy and astronomy, he found, were not the correct sciences that they claimed to be. Their results continually differed. The more perfect the instruments, the more skilful the operators, the worse for the sciences. Later measurements constantly give longer distances than earlier. Had the measuring metals contracted? Or the earth expanded? Compelled by evidence, at length Captain Drayson decided, that "the earth grows;" that it is larger than it was, and will be larger than it is. This conclusion, it seems, would much simplify the study of astronomy, and would account for the varying calculations of different periods. Do not, however, the other earths grow as well as ours? Yes, replies the Captain. Whereupon we again ask, whether that fact would not maintain the same relations between the growing

bodies at all times, supposing the growth of each to be equal, and so the growth of one would fail to account for the acknowledged differences? Captain Drayson is well able to answer this question; and we await his reply.

The discrepancies of all sorts which he brings forward in support of his theory are numerous and extraordinary. Among the positive arguments for the growth of the earth he notices the cracking of old buildings and walls, that appear as separating one from the other. Besides, the milestones are seldom in their right places. In many parts of England they have been moved within the last twenty years. There are also fossil remains at the North Pole of tropical seeds, plants, &c. Admit that the earth has increased in growth, and the mystery is explained. Countries that once joined each other are now separated by seas. "How would these changes be effected?" asks Captain Drayson. "By a rapid convulsion, or by a gradual expansion?" The latter he deems "most like Nature's usual proceedings. Do we find trees or shrubs, men or animals, increasing by convulsions?" He likewise explains the apparently great ages of the antediluvian patriarchs on the same theory; and proceeds upon mathematical calculations that are evidently correct. But his sheet-anchor consists of his astronomical facts, relative to which we repeat the question that we put above. According to the Captain—or rather in strict accordance with the positive and recorded evidence that he produces—nearly every observatory in England has shifted its position several hundred feet; some of the continental observatories have thought nothing of a skip of a few hundred yards. The observatory of Christiana has travelled north, and has moved 36, or 3,600 feet, during the last twelve years. The accepted latitudes of different places continually differ from their actual measurements. In fact, measured distances will not agree as they ought with astronomical observations.

"When we observe," continues Captain Drayson, "in the official *Ephemeris* that the position of stars, planets, sun, and moon, are given to the one-thousandth part of a second, and when we also remark that the lengths of base lines are known to the one-hundredth part of a foot, it does appear curious that, when the two departments came to be compared, discrepancies of four or five seconds, and of four or five hundred feet, are found not only to exist, but to remain without any satisfactory explanation. Let it but be granted that the earth is growing and its orbit increasing, and nearly every such mystery, which has puzzled the learned for a thousand years, at once vanishes."

The submarine telegraph cables are summoned to bear witness in favour of the growth of our mother Earth. These cables laid between England and various parts of the Continent, fastened at each end, have what is called a certain amount of slack paid out.

"Some of these cables exceed one hundred miles in length, and there are very few of them which have escaped being torn asunder after they have been submerged for a short period. From information with which we were favoured by one of the principal officials of the telegraph, in answer to an inquiry which we made upon the subject, it appears that suddenly the telegraph ceases to work; and upon electric tests being used, it is discovered that either the gigantic iron cable has actually been rent asunder, or the interior copper wire only has been broken. The fracture looks usually as though the cable had been pulled apart by enormous force. The usual cause assigned was a ship's anchor, but this cause was called upon to explain the fact, because no other possible reason could be assigned."

"These be truths," as the clown says in "Measure for Measure," and we trust that Captain Drayson's measurements, and his remarks upon them, may receive their due measure of attention and be thoroughly sifted by the scientific. The question is one, in several respects, of great practical importance. Let it therefore be put forthwith in a train, as it may be, of settlement—whether this earth of ours be increasing in size, and extending its orbit, or not? An answer is requested without delay.

History of France; from the Earliest Times to 1858. By the Rev. James White, author of the "Eighteen Christian Centuries."

William Blackwood and Sons.

History may be either a dull chronicle or a lively narrative. Mr. White, whose dramatic powers have been tested on the stage, has here exerted them in the character of an historian, and so skilfully that the volume before us is likely to become one of the most popular of the season. Its style is rapid, flowing, graphic; the subjects are well grouped, and the argument both learnedly and lucidly conducted. He proposes, at the outset, to unfold, for his "reader's benefit," "like a series of dissolving views, the strongly marked periods of a great nation's career; wild populations reclaimed by contact with their Roman conquerors, and sinking into barbarians again under the

trampling heels of another race of invaders from the forests of Germany. A little while longer they will see the civilising element, which was never entirely obliterated, asserting its power over the mixed races of the Franks and Gaels; and, gradually combining, gradually reforming, gradually softening, and giving way to the bent of their inborn genius, they will see the descendants of those ferocious tribes claiming to be the most polished, the most warlike, the most accomplished nation in Europe." Such is the author's design, and it is admirably executed. In fact, Mr. White has treated his subject like an elegant poet, and has accordingly produced a most captivating work.

According to Mr. White, France is not so well conditioned in regard to her boundaries as she might be, and as nature intended her to be. How comfortably would she repose with her south guarded by the Mediterranean and the Pyrenees; her west by the Atlantic, her north by the British Channel, and her east by the Alps, the Swiss Mountains, and the strong current of the Rhine. But a line is arbitrarily drawn across from a certain part of the Rhine, and confines France within boundaries on the east and north. But though nature has been thus checked, France is yet favourably situated and bounded; and moral boundaries are not always identical with the material. So it is with her.

The story of Philip Augustus and our lion-hearted Richard, and their crusading quarrels, is told by Mr. White with graphic power. Here the history of the two countries meet, and blend, and continually intersect. Mr. White is not favourable to the Crusaders. His portraits are photographs, and exaggerate certain features. The colouring of romance and tradition is thrown aside, and the prosaic fact substituted. Alas for human heroism! It will not endure such stripping; it is as repugnant to conception as Mr. Thomas Carlyle's "naked House of Lords." Heroes are much indebted to their costumes, both on and off the stage.

Mr. White also treats us with a vivid sketch of the Hundred Years' War between France and England, dating from 1337 to the loss of the English possessions in 1450; for, as he tells us, "the historians give good measure in their valuation of a hundred years." Of the three great battles fought in this great strife Mr. White justly remarks that there is a wonderful amount of sameness. For example, our army is caught in an unsafe position, and is threatened by overwhelming numbers. The leaders try to temporise, and offer great sacrifices to avoid the fight. The French, presumptuous and self-willed, refuse all accommodation, assault with impetuous courage, and are exterminated, horse and man. This, adds the historian, "is not complimentary to the generalship of our chiefs, but speaks trumpet-tongued of the courage and endurance of our men." As it was, so it is yet. Witness certain events in the Crimea.

As the character of Louis XI. has been recently produced on the stage, we refer the reader to the portrait by another dramatist of the same monarch, though not in the dramatic form.

We confess that we take a more favourable view of the character of this calumniated monarch, and regard him as the founder of the *Tiers Etat*. It was not altogether in mockery that this man was the first who was addressed as "Majesty," and entitled "the Most Christian King." He had, at least, policy and perseverance, and perhaps wisdom, though it has been the fashion to call it cunning. Moreover, he was successful in creating the system that he initiated. This, too, was a self-supporting mind. The political problems he proposed were "worked out in the solitude of his own thoughts; for he boasted that he formed all his plans without the aid of others." Perhaps the right estimate of Louis XI.'s character, is to regard him as the first of the politicians of France. The king was his own Richelieu, and governed as well as reigned.

We wish we had space to cite our author's descriptive narrative of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew; but it is when approaching the period of the French Revolution that Mr. White gathers his strong energies together, and prepares for the contest.

Mr. White's philosophical acumen is considerable, and the example of America is well put and appreciated. The tidings that came over with every ship were soul-stirring. "Here were the very questions which had filled the works of the encyclopedist, carried out to the arbitrament of arms before their eyes. No taxes without representation; No supreme power except by the will of the people; No dominant sect; No privileged birth; No inequality of condition. Here were the exact statements in their theoretical essays translated into the reality of life." We all know the results. Here Mr. White had a mighty theme. He has recognised its greatness; and striven, not altogether in vain, to "rise to the height of his great argument." To be sure, Mr. White gives rather a royalist colouring to the horrors of the time; but he sees the moral clearly enough. To the

character of Napoleon he is also just; and of Wellington he is a great admirer. "Caesar," he says, "never equalled either of them in military tactics, or political organisation, or literary skill."

We can most honestly commend this history of France, as eloquent, life-like, vivacious, and faithful.

General Debility and Defective Nutrition; their Causes, Consequences, and Treatment. By Alfred Smee, F.R.S.

John Churchill.

A work by Mr. Smee is sure to be of value; the present, which contains the substance of an oration delivered by him before the Hunterian Society of London, on 9th of last February, is a highly useful treatise, and calculated to be of great practical benefit. His remarks on defective nutrition are eminently suggestive. They apply to rich and poor, for both, though from different causes, often suffer from lack of food;—these yield to necessity, and those starve in the midst of abundance, from caprices of the appetite. Mr. Smee regards these instances, in most cases, as symptomatic, and proceeds from them often as data to regulate his practice. Sometimes the signs of debility arise from intemperance; at other times from anxiety, from deficiency of employment, or constitutional causes. Railroad travelling, also, brings inconveniences with it. The action of food, moreover, is different in different persons, and requires regulation by specific attention. For this, and other reasons, it is well for every household to have attached to it a medical adviser, at an annual payment, whose office would therefore be to preserve health rather than to cure disease. This is Mr. Smee's concluding advice to his reader.

Town Swamps and Social Bridges. The Sequel of "A Glance at the Homes of the Thousands." By George Godwin, F.R.S.

Routledge, Warner, and Routledge.

This work is by the editor of *The Builder*, and is a worthy appendix to his "London Shadows," the social value of which has been attested by those best acquainted with the subject. The book contains an exposure of the "nuisance-neighbourhoods," and proposes the remedy for the evil. Among the alarming facts stated are these:—100,000 persons in England died, in the year 1858, prematurely; and twice as many soldiers die every year as would be the case if the rate of mortality amongst them were only as great as among the general population. In both cases the mischief arises from the want of pure air; our soldiers, in particular, have been kept in places and under conditions where healthful life is impossible. Mere over-crowding, under otherwise good circumstances, produces enervation, disease, and death. The evil in respect to the barracks was pointed out in *The Builder* a year ago. "Surely, by this time, the evils pointed out have been remedied? Not in the slightest degree. We went into the barracks a few days ago (February), and found it precisely in the same state as before." Alas! it will require many books like this to effect the needed reforms. Success to all of them.

Logic in Theology; and other Essays. By Isaac Taylor.

Bell and Daldy.

FIVE-SEVENTHS of this work appear for the first time; the other two consist of the author's well-known introductory essay to "Edwards on Free-will," and an essay on Unitarianism in *The Eclectic Review*. Mr. Taylor's eloquent style needs no commendation, and his philosophic power, so far as he goes, is indisputable. But he would not be accepted as a guide beyond a certain point by those to whom the continental systems are familiar. Mr. Taylor's mind is of that class that early arrived at a certain sort of perfection. Then it made itself up, and will not now on any account unmake itself. It will not advance, it will not progress, but confines itself to the same circle of ideas, which again and again it illustrates, but never increases. He is a popular logician, and dreads, worse than death, and more than he loves truth, what may be unpopular. Nevertheless, we always read him with pleasure, and sometimes with profit.

Why should we Learn? Short Lectures addressed to Schools. By Emily Shirreff.

John W. Parker and Son.

THIS is a treatise upon the value of knowledge; and the theme is one peculiarly appropriate to the time, when knowledge is so freely offered that the recipients are not always sufficiently impressed with its real worth. Too many estimate it for the worldly gain to which it may lead; too few for its own intrinsic virtue. The man, however, who is uneducated remains a child. Education confers the true manhood; and this is a gift the true value of which cannot be rated too highly. Such is the argument of the above little work, which is especially commendable for its pure, simple, and effective style of composition.

The New Testament; translated from Griesbach's Text. By Samuel Sharpe, author of the History of Egypt. The Fourth Edition.

Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co. The fact of this work having arrived at a fourth edition evinces the desire of the public for a correct translation of the Scriptures, and should be quoted in favour of the argument for a new, accurate, and authorised version of both Testaments. The Hebrew Covenant in particular requires the most sedulous revision, with the utmost care and knowledge in the performance of the needful task.

Amenities of Literature. By Isaac Disraeli. A new Edition, edited by his Son, the Rt. Hon. B. Disraeli, Chancellor of Her Majesty's Exchequer. In 2 vols. Vol. I. Routledge, Warner, and Routledge.

This well-known work, memorable as having been compiled after the author had been afflicted with loss of sight, and dictated to his son, whose filial assistance he so warmly acknowledges in the preface, is here reprinted in a correct and popular shape, and will be always welcome to the library shelf, as a book of reference and occasional amusement.

The Crescent and the Cross; or, Romance and Realities of Eastern Travel. By Eliot Warburton. Fifteenth Edition. Hurst and Blackett.

"WHAT a church is to a city, Palestine is to the world," truly says the author of this book, which, of all the books of travels hitherto, has had most success. It may, indeed, be regarded as a classic on the subject. The author, though but a common-place reasoner, is a most imaginative describer, and the poetic feeling, as much as the piety, of this work accounts for its extraordinary circulation.

The Flirting Page, a Legend of Normandy: and other Poems. By Charles Dranfield and George Denham Halifax. James Blackwood.

SOME six-score pages of rather respectable verse, divided between two authors, need not immoderately afflict either reader or reviewer. The productions are in a light and lively vein, and indicate much of juvenile buoyancy; nor are they exclusively gay: there are some essays in a graver mood that have merit and promise in them. We shall probably meet these writers again.

Lyra Anglicana; or Poetry, and its English Representations. A Poem in four parts. By B. Courtenay Gidley. Gresham Press.

THIS poem is sufficiently described in the title. It is written in heroic couplets, in the style of Pope's imitators—a style gone by, and not likely to be recalled by any modern versifier, however respectable. The work has, however, much easy versification, some correct criticism, and passes in pleasant order the poets of England through the memory.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Bertrams, a Novel. By Anthony Trollope. In 3 vols. Chapman and Hall.

The Atlantic and South Atlantic Telegraphs. Smith and Elder.

Ellen Raymond; or, Ups and Downs. By Mrs. Vidal. 3 vols. Smith and Elder.

The Parents' Cabinet, including a Handbook of Library Economy. By Edward Edwards. In 2 vols. Triibner and Co.

The Prince of the House of David; or Three Years in the Holy City. By the Rev. Professor J. H. Ingraham. A. Hall, Virtue and Co.

Dr. Prince's Journal. A. Hall, Virtue and Co.

A Handbook of the Microscope. By W. L. Notcutt. Edward Lumley.

White Hands. A Tragedy, in Five Acts. By Henry Spicer. Bosworth and Harrison.

Recollections of William Jay, of Bath. By his Son, Cyrus Jay. Hamilton, Adams and Co.

Vocal Quadrille. By J. F. Borschitzky.

The Cave in the Hills; or Cæcilus Viniathus. J. H. and J. Parker.

Ulad of Homer. Book I—VI. Greek Texts, with English Notes. J. H. and J. Parker.

May a Man Marry his Deceased Wife's Sister? By the Rev. F. A. Dawson, A.M. J. H. and J. Parker.

The Temperance Speculator. Nos. I and II. Partridge and Co.

Local Etymology. By Richard Stephens Charnock, F.S.A. Houlston and Wright.

MILTON'S GENEALOGY.

THE students of Milton's career are aware that, notwithstanding the researches of Mr. Joseph Hunter, Professor Masson, and others, many interesting points in his family history remain undetermined, or are left to the vague traditions of Aubrey and Phillips. Not even the name of the poet's grandfather, or the seat of his family, were settled. Mr. Hyde Clarke has been lately engaged in researches on these points among the City authorities, and last

week he obtained from the records of the Scriveners' Company, through the zealous co-operation of Mr. Park Nelson, the clerk of the company, a series of entries, which settle many important points, when taken in connexion with the other discoveries. First, it appears that the name of the grandfather was Richard, for it is recorded that on the 27th of February, 1599, John Milton, son of Richard Milton, of Steinton, [sic] county Oxon, and late apprentice to James Colbron, Citizen and Writer of the Court Letter of London (the term for Scrivener) was admitted to the freedom of the company. This shows, secondly, that according to Mr. Hunter's conjecture, the grandfather was Richard Milton, of Stanton St. John's, who was, in the 19th of Elizabeth (1577), assessed to the subsidy rolls of Oxfordshire, and, in the latter period of her reign, twice fined 60*l.* for recusancy, confirming, so far, Aubrey's tradition that he was a bigoted Roman Catholic. It provides, thirdly, for the application of Professor Masson's discovery that the father of Richard Milton was Henry Milton, of Stanton St. John's, whose will is preserved, containing many family entries, including the great grandmother's name, Agnes, and the names of their children, Rowland, Isabel, and Alice. Rowland is conjectured by Professor Masson to be Rowland Milton of Beckley, who was alive 1599. Fourthly, it corrects Aubrey's account that John Milton the elder "came to London, and became a scrivener (brought up by a friend of his: was not an apprentice), and got a plentiful estate by it;" for it is clear the father was an apprentice in the usual course, and did not become a scrivener by redemption or purchase of his freedom, which would in those days have cost a considerable sum. Fifthly, it suggests a very different date for the birth of Milton, the scrivener, to that assigned by Professor Masson, who thinks he may have been coeval with Shakespeare, and born about 1562 or 1563, whereas, according to Mr. Clarke, he would have been apprenticed, according to the custom of London, at fourteen or fifteen, admitted to the freedom at the age of twenty-one, have been born in the beginning of 1578 or end of 1577, and at the time of his death, in 1647, have been sixty-nine years of age, and not eighty-three. It is shown, further, that the period of Milton's beginning practice would be about 1599, and that soon after, say in 1600, he married. Mr. Clarke considers that the tradition of his having been at college at Oxford is unfounded, though he may have been at a grammar-school there before his apprenticeship, as Stanton is only four and a half miles from Oxford. He considers it very unlikely that a difference on account of religion took place between Henry and John Milton previous to the time of apprenticeship, but that, in all likelihood, John was apprenticed by the father; that he conformed while in London, and thought it expedient to conform on engaging in practice; and that hence the difference arose. According to Mr. Clarke, Colbron was not the original master of John Milton, and upon this head and several others there is an opening for investigation; but now that the right track has been found, there can be no doubt many most interesting discoveries will be found of his Oxfordshire connexions.

CITY REFORM DEMONSTRATION.—The Guildhall was crowded to excess yesterday (Friday). The Lord Mayor presided, and the following members of the House of Commons attended:—Mr. Briscoe, Mr. Tite, Sir James Duke, Bart., Baron Rothschild, Mr. Cox, Mr. Crawford, Mr. White, and Mr. W. S. Lindsay. Lord John Russell was not present. Mr. Morley moved the principal resolution, which was to the effect that the Government bill was unworthy of the acceptance of the citizens of London, inasmuch as it disfranchises borough freeholders, does not provide for the protection of the ballot, does not extend the franchise to places now inadequately or insufficiently represented, and does not enfranchise the working part of the population. During the meeting Mr. Ernest Jones, assisted by Mr. Mantell, of Sheffield, and a female, said to be a Miss Ball, succeeded in making his way on to the platform, and occasioned much uproar by persisting to speak.

ELECTION ITEMS.—Lord Alfred Hervey has been elected member for the borough of Bury St. Edmund's, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the elevation of Earl Jernyn to the peerage. There was no opposition.—The Hon. F. Lygon has been elected for Tewkesbury, Mr. Humphrey Brown having retired.—For North Northumberland, it is understood that Mr. Washington Wilks will oppose Lord Lovaine.—The *Leinster Express* intimates that Sir Charles Coote is about to resign the representation of the Queen's County. Colonel Dunne, late M.P. for Portarlington, is mentioned as being likely to succeed him.—The Earl of March and Mr. Sotherton Estcourt have been re-elected for Chichester and North Wilts without opposition.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Friday Evening, March 11th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A NEW writ was moved for Harwich, in the room of Mr. BAGSHAW.

THE REFORM BILL.

LORD A. V. TEMPEST gave notice that, in the event of the House going into committee on the Government Reform Bill, he should move clauses to confer the franchise on all persons who, for a period of four years, had invested 5*l.*, or not less than 20*l.* on the whole, in any savings' or other authorised banks; and on all persons who had served in her Majesty's army and navy, and on all persons who could pass an examination before any certificated schoolmaster or examiner, similar to that which now exists with regard to messengers in the Customs and other public departments.

MR. M. BERKELEY gave notice that, in the event of Lord John Russell's resolution being carried, he should move a resolution in favour of the ballot.

MR. WHITE remarked that the Chancellor of the Exchequer the other night said, Government did not intend to disfranchise any person, and gave notice of a new clause he intended to propose, to prevent disfranchisement. Now the bill as it stood, proposed to disfranchise dockyard labourers, and he wished to know whether any of the new clauses would preserve the rights of dockyard labourers?

THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was extremely inconvenient to be called upon to answer questions without previous notice. At the same time he would say he was not aware that Government intended to disfranchise the dockyard labourers. It was only proposed to disqualify them, just as persons employed in other departments of Government were disqualified under the present system.

CHURCH RATES.

MR. SCHNEIDER asked to know when the second reading of the Church Rates Bill would come on; the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER appointed Tuesday next.

COMPENSATION TO PROCTORS.

THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the amount of compensation to be granted to proctors and other officers of the late Ecclesiastical Courts, had been ascertained by the Commissioners, and would not exceed 130,000*l.* a-year, instead of being 250,000*l.*, as at first estimated.

LORD CLARENCE PAGET moved, that before money was granted for the navy, detailed particulars of the way the money was to be applied be laid before the House. He made this motion because the continued increase in the navy estimates had naturally created alarm. The noble lord entered into a long statement, and fortified it with figures, to show how the money hitherto voted had been expended, and to illustrate the necessity of having full details in future before money was granted.

SIR J. PAKINGTON had no objection to give all proper information before money was voted, but thought the form in which it was now asked was not desirable to sanction.

After some further discussion, the matter dropped. The House went into Committee of Supply, which lasted all the evening.

The House adjourned at twelve o'clock.

FRANCE.

The facts of the statement in the *Constitutionnel* as to the Austrian armaments in Italy, are said to have been forwarded to that journal direct from the Tuilleries, having been gleaned by the spies of M. Cavour in Lombardy, and by him sent to Louis Napoleon.

There was an impression in Paris last night, that Lord Cowley's mission had failed. The official news that the King of Sardinia has called out his reserves is looked upon as a confirmation of the rumour.

Prince Napoleon is believed to be higher in the Emperor's favour and confidence than ever. It is possible that the ministers opposed to him may shortly be overthrown, and that the prince may return to power with more *éclat* than ever. The Emperor had a very long conference with Count de Morny on Thursday, after which rumours of ministerial modifications were current.

SARDINIA.

Neither the *Moniteur* nor the resignation of Prince Napoleon have destroyed the hopes or altered the expectations of the Italians that war will soon take place. The news of Prince Napoleon's retirement produced a great sensation at Turin, but it is hoped that it may be explained by particular reasons in no respect affecting the Emperor's policy. The subscriptions for the Sardinian Loan amount to three times the sum asked for. There is a rumour (says the *Globe*) of the immediate departure of the Prince Napoleon and his bride for Turin, where his presence will seem to "give hostages to the fortune" of Sardinia.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* of Friday morning publishes the monthly return, of the Bank of France, which shows the following results, as compared with the previous return:—Increased:—Cash, 32*l.* millions; Advances 3*l.* millions; Treasury Balance 23*l.* millions;—Decreased:—Bills discounted not yet due 30*l.* millions; Bank notes, 18*l.* millions; Current account, 5*l.* millions.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

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

Last week of the English Opera Season.
Monday, March 14, for the Benefit of Mr. W. HARRISON, Flotow's *MARTHA*. Mr. F. Glover, Mr. H. Corri, Mr. G. Honey, and Mr. W. Harrison: Miss Susan Pyne, and Miss Louisa Pyne; and a new Ballet of Action, *ROBERT* and *BERTRAND*. Messrs. W. H. Payne, H. Payne, F. Payne, Clara Morgan, Mdle. Morlachi and Pasquale.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Balfe's *SATANELLA*. Messrs. Weiss, G. Honey, H. Corri, St. Albyn, and Mr. Harrison: Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Miss Susan Pyne, and Miss Louisa Pyne; and the New Ballet.
On Saturday (the last night), for the Benefit of Miss LOUISA PYNE, *CROWN DIAMONDS*. Messrs. G. Honey, St. Albyn, H. Corri, and W. Harrison: Miss Susan Pyne and Miss Louisa Pyne; and the New Ballet. Conductor, Alfred Mellon.
Doors open at Half-past Six. Commence at Seven.
Private Boxes, 12. 1s. to 31. 3s.; Stalls, 7s.; Dress Circle, 5s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 3s. and 2s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s.

LAST SIX NIGHTS OF THE PANTOMIME. ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

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

Last nights of the undermentioned Plays:

HAMLET will be performed on Monday, the 14th; and (last time) on Wednesday the 23rd.
A *MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, on Tuesday the 15th; on Friday the 18th; on Tuesday the 22nd; and on Thursday the 24th.
LOUIS THE ELEVENTH on Wednesday the 16th; on Monday the 21st, and (last time) on Friday the 25th.
MACBETH on Thursday (last time) the 17th.
The *CORSICAN BROTHERS*, on Saturday the 19th; and with (last time) A *MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, on Tuesday and Thursday the 22nd and 24th.
These plays will not be reproduced, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two representations only towards the termination of the Management in the latter part of the month of July.
The Public is respectfully informed that Mr. and Mrs. C. KEAN's annual Benefit will take place on Monday, March the 28th, when will be produced the historical play of *KING HENRY THE FIFTH*, the last Shakespearian revival under the existing management.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)

Monday, March 14th, and during the week, Mr. Charles Mathews and Mrs. Charles Mathews will appear in a New Comedy, entitled *MILLINER TO THE KING*; OR, A *ROYAL SALUTE*, being their second engagement in London since their arrival from America. Mr. Chippendale, Mr. Howe, Mr. Clarke, Mrs. B. White, Mrs. Poynter, &c., will also appear in this comedy. After which An Old Friend (by W. Brough) with a New Face (by Charles Mathews), called *NOTHING TO WEAR*, in which Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews will appear. The performance will commence every evening at 7 (Saturday excepted), with the New Drama of *THE YOUNG MOTHER*, in which Mr. Buckstone and Miss Emily Allen will appear. Concluding, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with *THE GALICIAN FETE*. By Charles Leclercq, Fanny Wright, and the Corps de Ballet. On Thursday and Friday, *JACK'S RETURN FROM CANTON*. Louise, Arthur, and Charles Leclercq. And, on Saturday, to conclude with the fairy story of *UNDINE*; OR, *THE SPIRIT OF THE WATERS*.
Box-office open daily from 10 till 5. Stage Manager, Mr. Chippendale.

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.

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

Reduced Prices as usual. Box-office open from ten till six. LAST NIGHTS OF THE GREAT PANTOMIME of the SEASON.

Monday, March 14, and during the week, will be represented an original English Ballad Opera, entitled *WILLIAM AND SUSAN*.

Founded on the favourite ballad of "Black-eyed Susan; or, All in the Downs," with the entirely new and elaborately beautiful scenery by the eminent artist, Beverley.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS.

William.....	Mr. Haigh
Captain Cameron.....	Mr. Rosenthal
Dickie Daisy.....	Mr. Mauvers
Susan.....	Miss Lucette
Bella Primrose.....	Miss Huddart
Admiral.....	Mr. Morrow

The Words by Mr. T. H. REYNOLDS. The Music by Mr. J. H. TULLY.

A Band of upwards of 40 selected performers, and 50 Chorus.

To conclude with the grand pictorial Pantomime, entitled

ROBIN HOOD.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL.

LAST WEEK BUT ONE at the ST. JAMES'S HALL, closing Saturday, March 20th, of their Drawing-room Entertainment, *PATCHWORK*. Every night (Saturday excepted) up to this date, Mrs. Howard Paul has varied her astonishing "reproduction" of Mr. Sims Reeves by introducing "My Pretty Jane;" and Mr. Howard Paul, as the "Poor Relation," will sing an entirely new song, entitled "Faithless Sarah." Morning representations on Tuesday and Saturday at Three. The entrance to the *salles* is in Piccadilly. Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Commencing at Eight.

BEETHOVEN.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD and M. WIENIAWSKI on Monday evening, March 21st, at the St. James's Hall. In compliance with a very general demand, the Beethoven Selection, which afforded so much satisfaction at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, will be repeated, when Miss Goddard and M. Wieniawski will play Beethoven's Grand Sonata in A, dedicated to Kroutzen, &c. For full particulars see Programme. Soft Stalls, 6s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 3s.; Unreserved, 1s.; at the Hall, 2s. Piccadilly; Keith, Brown, and Co.'s; Cramer and Co.'s; Hammond's; and Chappell and Co.'s, 60, New Bond-street.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Manager, Mr. Edmund Falconer.)

Last four nights of the engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the Drama, *BORN TO GOOD LUCK*. Pandeen O'Rafferty, Mr. Barney Williams. After which, first time, a New Interlude, entitled *LAW FOR LADIES*, in which Mrs. Barney Williams will sustain six characters. To conclude with *ROBERT*. Messrs. Emery, J. Rogers, &c.

On Thursday, March 17th, *IRELAND AS IT WAS*, *LAW FOR LADIES*, and *BORN TO GOOD LUCK*, being for the Benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams, and positively the last night of their engagement.

On Friday, March 18th, Mr. JAMES BENNETT, of the Edinburgh, Glasgow, Birmingham, and principal American theatres, and who is engaged for Five Nights, will make his first appearance in London, when will be produced *OTHELLO*. Iago, Mr. James Bennett.

Mrs. CHARLES YOUNG will make her first appearance this season on Monday, March 21st.

Mr. Edmund Falconer's New and Original Play, *FRANCESCA*, will be produced on Thursday, March 24th.

Prices—Private Boxes, 21. 2s., 11. 11s. 6d., 17. 1s.; Stalls, 5s.; Dress Circle, 4s.; Upper Circle, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Doors open at half-past 6; to commence at 7.

Box-office open from 11 till 5 daily.

The Theatre is to be let for Passion Week.

THEATRE ROYAL SADLER'S WELLS.

(Under the Management of Mr. Phelps.)

LAST TWO NIGHTS OF THE SEASON.

Monday, the Comedy of *THE MAN OF THE WORLD*; Sir Pertinax McSycophant, Mr. Phelps; Lord Lumbercourt, Mr. J. W. Ray; Egerton, Mr. F. Robinson; Sidney, Mr. T. C. Harris; Lady Rodolpha, Miss Atkinson; Betty, Miss E. Travers; and *THE COUNTRY SQUIRE*.

Tuesday, for the Benefit of Mr. F. Robinson, *ROMEO AND JULIET*; Romeo, Mr. F. Robinson; Mercutio, Mr. Phelps; Juliet, Mrs. C. Young; Nurse, Mrs. H. Marston; and *A BACHELOR OF ARTS*.

On Wednesday, an Extra Night, the performances will be for the benefit of Messrs. Belford and Williams.

On Saturday the performances will be for the benefit of Mrs. C. Young, on which occasion Mr. Buckstone, Mr. W. Farren, Miss Rosina Wright, and several other distinguished artists will appear.

Box Office open from Eleven till Three, under the direction of Mr. Austin.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

(Lessee—Messrs. F. Robson and W. S. Emden.)

Monday, and during the week will be performed *THE PORTER'S KNOT*. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, G. Vining, W. Gordon, H. Wigan, H. Cooper, J. and H. White; and Mesdames Hughes and Leigh Murray.

To conclude with the New Extravaganza, founded on Lord Byron's poem of *MAZEPPA*. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, H. Wigan, F. Charles, H. Cooper, and L. Ball; Mesdames Wyndham, Hughes, Marston, Cottrell, Bromley, and W. S. Emden.

Commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Arrangements for Week ending Saturday, March 19th.

Monday, open at 9; Tuesday to Friday, open at 10. Admission, 1s.; Children under 12, 6d.

Saturday, open at 10. FIFTEENTH WINTER CONCERT at 2.30. Admission, 2s. 6d.; Children, 1s.

The PICTURE GALLERY is open for this month only, and contains a large number of Paintings, on view and sale.

Collection of Autograph Letters of Eminent Men, in the Centre Transept for a short time.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, ORCHESTRAL BAND, and GREAT ORGAN daily.

The Crystal Palace Art-Union Works on view in the Sheffield Court. Subscription, One Guinea.

Sunday, open at 1.30, to Shareholders, gratuitously by tickets.

NEAPOLITAN LAWYERS IN THE SARDINIAN ARMY. —*Apròpos* of the supposed destination of the exiles now in Ireland, a dozen of whom are lawyers, the Paris correspondent of the *Globe* writes:—"In the days of Horace, one lawyer, named Iccius, called forth a special ode to himself for suddenly selling his law library to buy regimentals."

"Quis neget arduis
Pronos relabi posse rivos
Montibus, et Tiberim reverti,
Quum tu coemptos undique nobiles
Libros Panosti, Socraticam et domum
Mutare lorici LIBERTIS,
Pollentius meliora, tendis?"

Who doubts that the Tiber, in choler,
May, bursting all barriers and bars,
Flow back to its source when a scholar
Deserts to the standard of Mars?

When you, the reserved and the prudent,
Whom Socrates hoped to engage,
Can merge in the soldier the student,
And mar thus an embryo sage?

Bid the visions of science to vanish,
And barter yon erudite hoard
Of volumes from Greece for a Spanish
Cubress, and the pen for the sword!"

NOTICE.

The VICE CHANCELLOR KINDERSLEY having recently determined that an unlimited liability attaches to all the POLICY HOLDERS in MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETIES, it becomes necessary for the members of such associations to take immediate steps to relieve themselves from so hazardous a position. In aid of such measures, THE LEADER is preparing a complete series of articles, reviewing the question in all its bearings, and pointing out the best mode of obtaining relief from the dangerous situation in which the Assurers in Mutual Offices are so unexpectedly placed. No. 1 will appear in THE LEADER of SATURDAY the 19th inst., and be continued weekly.

A FEW COPIES OF THE NUMBER OF THE "LEADER," CONTAINING AN

ANALYSIS

OF THE POSITION OF THE

JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF LONDON,

ON 30TH JUNE AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1858,

Together with a Comparison of their progress and respective Amounts of Profits, Increase of Capital, &c., compiled and arranged expressly for this Paper from the best authorities.

WITH ORIGINAL REMARKS,

Can still be had, extra copies having been struck off to meet the continued demand. Forwarded on receipt of Six Postage Stamps.

N.B. Preparations are making to pursue the subject of BANKING in all its branches, grounded on the same indisputable reports and statements as those adopted, with so much success, in the ANALYSIS already issued.

ONE GUINEA PER YEAR,
UNSTAMPED, PREPAID.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A title page and contents to Vol. 2, will shortly be presented to Subscribers.

The
Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 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.

POSTPONEMENT OF WAR.

FURTHER proceedings in the direction of war in Italy have been, by the Emperor of the French, adjourned *sine die*. That his eventual aim of aggrandisement and glory beyond the Alps has not been abandoned, we still believe. Napoleon III. lives in the shadows and superstitions of the First Empire. He is essentially a man of ideas—often very bad and mischievous ideas—but such as are,

nevertheless, sufficient to absorb the entire of his intellectual energy, and to colour the whole course of his personal career. The political egotism of his uncle may be said to have been at all times inseparably associated with schemes of domination in Italy. Bonapartist fame and influence there first became known. The prestige of irresistibility was originally acquired by Napoleon in his memorable struggles with the Austrians in Lombardy; and among his latest and most significant commentaries on the history of Europe are those in which, at St. Helena, he professed to describe his purpose and policy in his manner of dealing with the peninsula. The present ruler of France not only holds such traditions sacred, but openly avows his desire of realising that Italian nationality which his illustrious predecessor affected at least to have in view. Questions of detail in the sum of Italy's grievances may change their aspect, in the fluctuation of events throughout the rest of Europe, and tangible pretexts for an open rupture between France and Austria may, for a time, be removed; but the anomalous and dangerous condition of the peninsula generally will not and cannot be altered by diplomacy; and sooner or later, if Louis Napoleon lives, he will send the élite of the French army to encounter the troops of Austria in the same plains and river-sides where their forefathers in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries fought and bled before.

But, for the present, war has been postponed. Naval and military preparations for what is ironically termed "defence" are somewhat slackened, though not altogether laid aside. Lord Cowley has, at the direct instance of the French Government, been sent with a flag of truce to Vienna, and friendly assurances have been offered to the cabinet of Berlin. The hysterical request exacted from the Pope that both French and Austrian troops should be withdrawn from his dominions has been promptly complied with; so far at least as the preliminaries of evacuation are concerned, and the *Moniteur* has published a distinct announcement that the treaty of alliance recently contracted with the King of Sardinia only binds his Imperial Majesty to send military succour in case his ally should be attacked. War pamphlets have been suppressed in Paris during a whole fortnight, and a perfect *mitraille* of pacific articles has been directed against those who conjure up groundless alarms. The ambitious bridegroom of the daughter of Piedmont has been compelled to retire from the administration of the colonies in consequence of the incompatibility of the views he is known to entertain respecting foreign policy with those of MM. Morny, Walewski, and Pould. Finally, the correspondence of the ruler of France with the rattle-brained Knight of Croydon is officially published, for the sole object, apparently, of telling the French people how solicitous their Sovereign has always been of the good opinion of England, and how deep is his chagrin at having lost it. The coquetry of moderation can no further go.

What has caused this sudden falling back from the position of menace assumed two months ago? Three causes mainly contribute, we believe, to the result. The first and, perhaps, the most unexpected check was that produced by the refusal of Russia, when called upon to bind herself to any measures of active co-operation with Sardinia and France. Every art of Muscovite diplomacy had been used during the autumn to stimulate the policy of aggression in the councils of Paris and Turin; and the seal of the alliance set by the marriage of the Emperor's cousin with Princess Clotilde is believed to have been ascribable, mainly, to the personal instances of the Grand Duke Constantine. No sooner, however, had the sacrifice been decreed, and the garlanded victim led away, than the Court of St. Petersburg became icebound, and signified the impossibility of any open movement on its part which might lead to war. The manifest aim of Russia now appears to have been to commit its Continental rivals of the West to an internecine struggle, in the midst of which its own resources might, without hindrance, be employed in accomplishing those projects of aggrandisement on the Danube and the Bosphorus, which it took all the Powers of the united West to frustrate five years ago. Next came the discovery that the Austrian army was in a state of much higher efficiency, both as regarded numbers and spirit, than had been supposed. The strong national feeling, which the threats of French aggression roused

throughout Germany, acted, no doubt, in an important manner upon the temper of the Austrian troops: for though it is true that a considerable portion of them consists of men of other races, it is also certain that the Teutonic element is the predominant one in the garrisons and camps of the Kaiser. Their total numbers have, for some reason or other, been generally and greatly underrated. We have heard one of the most eminent diplomatists now living—and one whose means of information on the subject from personal knowledge are perhaps unrivalled—declare very recently his belief that Austria's muster-roll was much nearer three-quarters than half-a-million of men. The army is described as admirable in its appointments and discipline, and as being marvellously homogeneous in its temper and disposition. This was the second cause of hesitancy on the part of the ruler of France. But there was another and a far more influential one. In spite of all the adulation paid him by the court and aristocracy of England of late years, the strongest disinclination was manifested by both to taking any part with him in his Italian project. On the contrary, many symptoms betrayed themselves of a decided tendency in the opposite direction. The national will was never more strongly pronounced, or with more unanimity, on any hypothetical question. If the Italians should prove themselves able to drive out their foreign tormentors, England would rejoice at their success, and recognise promptly and cordially their new-born liberties; but nothing should induce us to allow a ship or a regiment to be sent in concert with the forces of France to make war in the peninsula. Louis Napoleon hardly counted, perhaps, upon Lords Derby and Malmesbury as favourers of his views; but he certainly did reckon—and some say not without reason—upon the countenance and aim of their parliamentary rivals. The recent debates in Parliament on foreign affairs have dispelled these illusions; and the saturnine despot of the Tuilleries, without giving way to ill-humour, or admitting that he has been out in his calculations, finds that he must hold his hand and bide his time.

THE REFORM BILL—OPINIONS REGARDING IT.

TEN days have elapsed since the country was made acquainted with the terms of Lord Derby's bidding for national favour on the subject of Reform. Many of the greatest interests and weightiest judgments remain yet to be pronounced; but enough has been said and written to enable us to tell what are the more obvious driftings of opinion, and though there may be powerful under currents setting in, in a contrary direction, those on the surface are too important to be overlooked.

Wherever public meetings have been held, dissatisfaction in towns more or less strong has been expressed at the non-reduction of the franchise in towns, and the transfer of the freehold votes from counties to boroughs. A comparatively small assemblage (chiefly of non-electors), in Westminster, passed resolutions in favour of manhood suffrage; and many thousands pronounced in Lambeth the like opinion. But the general tone of the meetings that have hitherto taken has been equally firm and moderate. There was strong language used, indeed, at Norwich, and one or two minor places, about the ministry, which sounds to us extremely like the echo of an eager and awkward suggestion from head quarters in town. Elsewhere there has been more of business-like tone and judgment in the language held; and we hope, for the credit of the middle classes throughout the country, that so great and weighty a subject as the future construction of our representative system, will not be made the pretext for miserable party recriminations or personal feuds. It is quite possible that the Whigs may waken at last to a sense of what is really due to the claims of industry and intelligence, and that they may not only outbid their Tory competitors in their professions about Reform, but that they may actually give the proof, so long wanting, of sincerity as to their fulfilment. But in common decency they ought to refrain from party tauntings, until, as a party, they shall have regained something like a right to popular confidence in the matter. They had the opportunity any day these last seven years to secure the people much of what

they wanted in the way of improvements in their electoral system, but they wilfully threw the opportunity, year after year, away. It may be that the Tories shall be adjudged by the country to have likewise fallen short of what it required; but at least they have not shirked the question. They have brought in a bill which contains confessedly many good and right things, though it omits the larger and more important features of substantial progress. They have staked their existence, as an Administration, upon their ability to carry some measure of the sort through both Houses, and if defeated on the second reading on any of its main provisions, it is now thoroughly understood that they have the power and the determination to dissolve Parliament. It would indeed be alike unconstitutional and impolitic in the Court arbitrarily to throw any obstacle in the way of an appeal to the nation. There may be, and we fear there are, certain false friends of the Liberal party who would counsel the Sovereign to trip up the heels of her present advisers, for the sake of installing the old clique of retrogrades and exclusives in power; but no sincere reformer will lend any sanction to such plottings. If the present House of Commons be, as is said, the best fitted for carrying the least possible measure of Reform, that is precisely the reason why the Queen should not identify herself needlessly, by a stretch of the prerogative, with its unhonoured existence. There is no subversive or revolutionary feeling in the country that the Court have any pretence to fear. There is no danger that a dissolution by a Conservative Ministry will produce a runaway Parliament. But, considering how undesirable it is that the question should be perpetually kept open, it is of real moment that a decisive, though moderate, tone should be infused into the House of Commons, and that, whatever Minister be in power after Easter, he may be able to carry an adequate and sufficient bill.

The worst that has been said, or can be said, against the plan now before us is, that it leaves the nomination boroughs and the town franchise untouched. No doubt there is much force in the argument that personal enfranchisement and the redistribution of seats are distinct questions, and that we shall be better able to deal with the latter efficiently next session if we get a good suffrage bill now. If, for argument's sake, we admit to be the sound view of the case in point of Parliamentary tactics, it is all the more necessary that the present, looking at it as a purely franchise measure, should be made satisfactory and comprehensive. This it will not be, unless the suffrage in towns is lowered to 5*l.* or 6*l.*, and unless lodgers are admitted to vote who pay less than 8*s.* a week. The clause regarding the transfer of freehold votes from counties to towns will, we presume, be abandoned. Mr. D'Israeli has already intimated that the rights of existing freeholders will be saved, an option being given them, we presume, as to whether they will register in town or in country. The mischievous crotchet about voting papers is also likely to be withdrawn, and with these and other amendments the measure may, no doubt, be rendered unobjectionable as far as it goes. But the battle will come upon the attempt to establish a principle of 10*l.* finality in cities and boroughs. It was on this point that the people of Birmingham and Newcastle expressed themselves the other day so vehemently; and it is upon this point, we may be sure, that all the other great towns of the kingdom will most decidedly pronounce. On this point, therefore, Lord John Russell may unhesitatingly take his stand. He can, with perfect honour and consistency, recur to the measures he himself brought in, in 1852 and 1854, and argue with irrefragable force that what he then offered is demanded by the country now. He will be supported by nineteen-twentieths of the Liberal members of the House of Commons; and if there be renegades or deserters, he can well afford to do without them. Only this is clear, that for any effective purpose he must lay down broadly as a principle and a pledge, that the adjudication of Parliament on the question ought to be no longer postponed. To do him justice, he would have settled it—if it had been left to him to settle—long ago; but he suffered himself to be bullied and enojed by ill-advisers and misleading colleagues into foregoing his own better judgment. "Time vindicates the wisdom of the wise," and Lord John has now the plainest course open to him which a patriotic statesman can desire. After years of

political vicissitude and personal exclusion from power all eyes are turned on him as the natural leader of the Reform party. He has but to reproduce to-morrow, amid general acceptance, the proposals that were treated with indifference when they were last made by him. Whether they be accepted by ministers in the present House of Commons, or carried into effect by Lord John Russell himself in a new Parliament, he will have equally won the prize on honour and of patriotism.

THE JUSTICES AND THE HIGHWAYS.

ONE of the distinctions between civil life and military life is, that in the latter the superior prescribes duties, and decides whether or not they be properly performed, while in the former the duties are prescribed by one authority, or are settled by contract, and another judges whether they have been properly performed or not. The latter principle is much the most favourable to justice and freedom; and in almost all cases, such as the public offices, in which the master and the judge are often the same person, the interference of some third party, and wanting legal authority, the interference of the public is sought. To ensure as complete justice as man can arrive at, the administrator, then, must be one person, and the judge another. In much of our modern legislation, however—all that concerns the police, for example—this principle is departed from; and the administrator and the judge are—except so far as the public, by its unauthorised and yet most necessary organs, interfere—one and the same person. Justice's justice has passed into a proverb, and when the administrative power, as well as the judicial functions, of justices is surreptitiously increased, the people require to be put on their guard. Accordingly, we have to warn them that a Highways' Bill is now before the House of Commons which places in the hands of justices assembled in quarter-sessions the power of forming the whole county into districts, for the management of the highways, and of determining the number of way-wardens to be elected in each district. They are to fix the time for the first meeting of the way-wardens, and are to be delegated creators of the whole organisation.

When the justices have formed the districts, the persons in the parishes entitled to vote for guardians of the poor are to elect the wardens under all the regulations made by the Poor Law Board, which may prescribe the qualification of wardens, and is to have the same control over them as it has over the guardians of the poor. The system for the relief of pauperism is now applied to the business of the people; and the severe administrative rules supposed to be proper for it are to be made the rules of our general lives. The wardens, under the control of the Poor Law Board, are to constitute themselves into highway boards, each having a corporate seal, and all the property and powers now vested in existing surveyors of roads, and *exercisable* by them—a most indefinite expression—are to pass to the new highway boards. All the property and power, too, which the parishes may have in the roads, are in like manner to pass to the way-wardens, the parishes receiving credit in the books of the boards for the property appropriated. The wardens being duly constituted, the justices at two consecutive meetings of quarter-sessions may make any alterations they think proper in highway districts, or may make new ones at their pleasure. The highway boards are to appoint chairmen and sub-chairmen, clerks, treasurers, and surveyors, and will form in every district nests of new officials, with good salaries, adding to the power and patronage of the Poor Law Board and the justices. All the highways now under the parish authorities will be under these boards, which are to make all the arrangements for keeping them in order. They may contract with any local bodies for taking on themselves, and keeping in order, any roads formed under any local acts, including turnpike roads. All the expenses of the new boards and of the roads are to be paid by rates, and the way-wardens are to have the power of demanding from the parishes whatever sums they may think proper, and the overseers of the poor will be compelled to pay these sums, under the penalty of distraint. And to make quite sure of the money—one principal point—the highway boards, the members of which are irremovable, are authorised to appoint persons to levy the sums they require on any parish in default of the overseers. Thus England is now to be divided into highway dis-

tricts, in addition to the numerous other divisions, lay and secular, ancient and modern, into which it is already most inconveniently and discordantly cut up. The legislature has a terrible repugnance to electoral districts, as something new and strange, but new districts of its own devising, complicating all our affairs, and adding to our expenses, seem readily to meet its approbation. They are accompanied, too, by a confiscation of the property of parishes—great as is the horror professed by our Legislature whenever confiscation is mentioned.

When all the new machinery is organised and got into gear, the highway board shall, on the application of any trustees or commissioners of turnpike roads, undertake the repair and maintenance of the said roads, the said commissioners to pay the board such sums out of their revenue as may be agreed on. This we believe to be the main object for which all this new machinery is to be provided. In many places the turnpike roads have fallen into decay since railways came into use, and these merely private speculations, very often undertaken as much for private as public purposes, are now to be maintained by the public. When the funds from tolls are insufficient, the public will have to pay the expense, and if any difference of opinion arise between the highway boards and the turnpike trusts, the justices at quarter-sessions are to decide between them. Now, these justices are very often commissioners of turnpike roads, have very generally an interest in them, and will thus often be enabled by this bill, should it become law, to relieve themselves, by their magisterial authority, of obligations they have contracted as private individuals. Two justices—also, not the boards—will have the power of directing any highway to be discontinued, so that it shall no longer be kept up at the public expense. Thus this bill, as we read it, will enable the justices to determine in the end what roads shall be kept up, what roads shall be abandoned, while the boards which they are authorised to form have the power of making the people pay all the expenses. In the last resort, too, the justices who have exercised all these powers as administrators, will have to decide all doubts and disputes as judges.

This proposed law, then, violates, in a remarkable manner, the great principle of our social life, and introduces into a very large portion of it the principle of military discipline, applying it to pecuniary matters, and making one and the same persons administrators and judges of their administration. It transfers power from the people to the justices, and leaves them without responsibility. By insidious laws of this petty and wheedling description, the public liberties have been more frequently subverted than by open and bold attempts to establish despotism. The latter create alarm and are at once resisted; the former do not even excite suspicion; and men are bound and habituated to their fetters before they become aware that they are enslaved. The bill is a Tory concoction, and bears on its back the names of Mr. Walpole, late Secretary for the Home Department; Mr. Hardy, the Under Secretary for that Department, and Sir William Jolliffe, Secretary to the Treasury and the whipper-in to the Conservatives.

[We are happy to present to our readers the impressions of the present state of Italy, gathered by an esteemed contributor from personal observation.]

A STREET VIEW OF ITALY.—No. I.

NICE—VILLA-FRANCA—GENOA.

WHEN you stand for the first time on the summit of Mount Vesuvius—when you have gazed your fill on that wondrous panorama of sea and sky, of shore and island—as you crumple beneath your feet the volcanic lava, under which the hidden fire smoulders eternally—your first thought is to watch and discover for yourself some trace or symptom of the coming eruption. So you pick up a pebble here, and poke into a crevice there, and note some cloud of smoke floating skywards from a cleft in the surrounding rocks, and try to trace some sulphureous odour in the air you breathe. It may be, indeed the chances are, that your dilettante observations are of little value. The hole may have been dug by human hands, and the pebble dropped by some preceding traveller; the smoke may arise from the dinners that your guides are cooking, and the neighbourhood of Neapolitans may account for unsavory smells without the aid

of volcanic agency; still, after all, it is very certain, that sooner or later an eruption will take place, and your hap-hazard observations may turn out to be of more value than you are disposed to fancy.

It has been so with us, as, doubtless, with others, in our wanderings of late through this pleasant Italian land. As the marvellous beauties of the surrounding scenes lost their first charm of novelty, our thoughts have wandered in search of what symptoms we could trace of the changes that are like to come. Straws show which way the wind is blowing, and as straws we would offer such stray bits and odds and ends of observations as we have made—giving them only for what they are worth, as the roadside remarks of one passing amidst scenes which, ere long, may turn out to be memorable in the world's history.

In crossing the Sardinian states, we looked out eagerly for the great changes which we had expected to have seen there. It was close on sixteen years since we had last seen the hills of "Nizza la Maritima." Those were the good old days, when Charles Albert reigned supreme. Even amongst Italian states, Sardinia was not then pre-eminent for either freedom or enlightenment. Indeed, at that period, the future patriotic hero of Italy and freedom used to be stigmatised as a priest-ridden, persecuting, and despotic prince. Since then, a free press, representative parliaments, civil and religious freedom, have become Sardinian institutions. Yet we own with reluctance that we failed to discover such symptoms of material progress as we should have hoped for from this moral development. Nice itself has become a kind of Italian Brighton. The gold of Russians and English has covered the surrounding hills with villa residences, more or less dissightly. But in the native and commercial part of the town we could discover but little trace of progress. There were few new buildings, no new factories, and but little increase in the shipping. About the streets there were still crowds of priests; the peasants were as dirty and unsavoury as of yore; the cottage habitations as squalid, and the country roads as villainous. The great signs of outward change were an increased number of disreputable refugees, or exiles, or patriots—call them what you like—wandering about the *cafés*, and a small swarm of local newspapers of most diminutive size and most extensive pretensions. They were all in French, and rejoiced in such titles as the *Promised Land*, the *Future of Italy*, and the *Hope of the People*. Such bombastic eloquence, such reckless assertion, and such vehemence of party feeling seem almost unintelligible to us cold, stolid Englishmen. Fancy a grave calculation of the exact date (we think it was about the middle of this month) when the present English Ministry are to retire from office, and an enthusiastic populace are to bear into power a Liberal cabinet, ready to unfurl the colours of Italian independence. To our minds the bitterness of personal feeling is, perhaps, more accountable. Happening to talk with an Italian gentleman of singularly amiable disposition about the then current rumour of the death by poison of the King of Naples, we were surprised at first to hear him express regret at the occurrence. "No," he proceeded, "I grudge him the ease of a sudden death. I cannot bear the thought that he should die without having first himself been obliged to feel the pangs and horrors of coming death," or, as he worded it, "assopirane la morte." We have no wish in these or other remarks to decry the immense advantages that Sardinia has gained by constitutional government. In the neighbourhood of Genoa and Turin you can see signs of that material progress which sentimentalists despise, but which is, nevertheless, an essential symptom of national health and vigour. There is no good, however, in disguising the plain fact, that the growth of constitutionalism in Sardinia has been somewhat of a mushroom one, and as yet the seeds of independence and self-government have had but little time to take root. The Sardinians have been made wholesale converts to constitutional government in much the same manner as the Jesuits converted the Chinese by promiscuous baptism; and if anything was to overthrow the present ruling powers of the gallant little kingdom, we suspect that the great bulk of the rural and mountain population would relapse under the old *régime* without much regret or vivid appreciation of the change.

Some days ago we engaged a boatman to

row us round the headland of Monteboson into the much talked of bay of Villa-Franca, and there we arrived at one conclusion, which we offer with more confidence than we feel in the justice of most of our observations, and that is, that if our patriotic pamphleteers, and public-spirited correspondents had expended a like moderate amount of money on the same short expedition, a great deal of idle declamation would have been spared, and a good deal of very absurd invective against Russian aggression, kept for a more appropriate season. In former years this bay—the most perfect gem of a small bay on the coast of the Mediterranean—used to be a favourite haunt of ours, not only for its beauty, but its wondrous calm and silence. We were thankful to find that our fears of beholding this lovely spot desecrated with forts, and warehouses, and docks, were imaginary. One small Russian frigate, very dirty, as all Russian vessels look, lay there blistering in the noontide sun; on the other side of the bay there rode at anchor an American brig, the black flag flying from whose mast warned us to beware of the yellow fever, and the quarantine; a few fishing and coasting smacks completed the arrangement. The docks, and warehouses, and forts of our imagination were reduced to one low, long shed, about the size of the bazaar at Ramsgate. The old battery in the little town of Villa-Franca that lays above the bay, had been brightened and burnished up; and beneath the national tricolour you could see the figure of one Sardinian sentry, who represented in his single person the military element in the scene. For the consolation of any Russo-phobia-haunted victim, we would add the three following remarks:—The outlet to the bay can be blockaded by a single vessel; every ship in the harbour, and every shed and outwork could be demolished in five minutes by the guns of Fort Monteboson overhead; and if the surrounding heights were manned, an army landed on the shore would have as much chance of crossing into the open country as if they were placed at the bottom of a well. There is a little French fort and harbour some six miles or so on the other side of Nice, by name Antibes, on which, if we were king of Sardinia, we should look with feelings of far greater apprehension.

As for popular excitement, we must own that, till we reached Genoa, and what you may term Italy proper, we saw but little sign of it. We doubt, however, whether anyone could have passed through Genoa, at the time we did, without having his attention called to an unusual state of things. Prince Napoleon and his young bride had just made their parting visit; the remnants of the decorations and illuminations still hung about the walls. The sale of cheap newspapers about the streets was enormous; indeed, our *Star* and *Telegraph* boys are completely distanced in pertinacity and vehemence by these Genoese newsvendors. The papers are thrust into your hands with a sort of stand-and-deliver air, which even the late Joseph Hume could never have resisted. We happened to be at Genoa the evening that the speech of the French Emperor, at the opening of the Chambers, was received by telegraph. There were mobs of people collected, reading it at every corner; and in the cries of perambulating newsmen, the ear of a stranger was struck by the constant repetition of the words "guerra, guerra." Anything about the war was sure to sell. Upon the walls patriotic scribblers were continually writing such sentences as, "Viva il re d'Italia," "Morte ai Tedeschi," and the symbolic "Viva Verdi." Lampoons and pasquinades, imaginary speeches of the Austrian Emperor and the Archduke, in broken German, dog-Italian—visions of Radetsky's ghost—were hawked about everywhere, or distributed gratis. Curious enough, of complimentary allusions to the Emperor Napoleon or his Imperial cousin—or, indeed, to the French alliance—there were but few. Indeed, it was universally reported to us that all attempts to get up a display of popular enthusiasm on the occasion of the Prince's visit to Genoa had been a signal failure. The garrisoning regiments had all left the town for the frontier, and the sentry boxes and watches were filled by citizens. It was a curious and, indeed, a pleasing sight to see these worthy, amateur soldiers, with their plain clothes, distinguished only by a red badge on the arm, performing their military duties with quite un-military ardour. Groups of admiring and sympathising friends, often of the female sex, stood at a respect-

ful distance from them, and enlivened the tedium of duty by the charms of their conversation. What their soldierlike merits may have been we had no means of judging; but still the contrast between a city guarded by its own citizens, and the towns of Italy, where the Government, supported on foreign bayonets, are afraid even to trust their own subjects with arms of self defence, was too striking not to make one overlook much that is theatrical and bombastic about the cause of Italian independence.

Original Correspondence.

FRANCE.

Paris, Thursday, 6½ p.m.

THE RESIGNATION OF PRINCE NAPOLEON.

THE withdrawal of the Prince-minister from the direction of Algeria and the Colonies, has been hailed as a concession to the policy of honourable peace, and as a rebuke to those who have sought to convulse Europe with war, that they might gratify their personal whims and fancies. But it is no more than just to add, that it is not so much the resignation of the Prince that has given satisfaction and restored confidence, as it is that his retirement will necessitate the dismissal of M. Emile de Girardin and other political charlatans from power. There is little doubt but that the ex-editor of the *Presse*, and a certain other personage who, for the present, shall be nameless, have succeeded in doing with Prince Napoleon what Rosencrantz and Gilderstern sought to accomplish with another prince—he of Denmark—I mean, in "playing upon him."

And as the two gentlemen referred to—not the Danish courtiers—are held to stand below zero when gauged by the political and financial barometer, the exigencies of public opinion are satisfied by their disappearance into Dock directors. I may also add that it is believed the Prince admitted these individuals to his councils, not from any sympathy with their principles, nor admiration of their characters, but chiefly in obedience to the policy announced at Limoges, "to ask no man whence he came, but simply for his assistance to develop the future prosperity of France." To carry out this conciliatory policy, to induce men of character and capacity, who, from previous political tendencies, now stand aloof, to come over to the Imperial camp, to obliterate the traces of party conflicts, and to enlist all men in the service of their common country, has been the ambition of the Prince, and I believe you will concede it to be a very noble one. That the object was praiseworthy and honourable—especially when it avowedly had another ulterior purpose; namely, the introduction of never so small a modicum of liberty into France—few will deny, although the means to the end have turned out to be violent and impolitic.

The Prince not only resembles his uncle in physical appearance, but also in many moral qualities. He is passionate, hasty, and obstinate; suspicious of persons around him, abrupt in manner, and not over courteous in speech. Being constantly haunted by suspicions of the sincerity of his advisers and courtiers, he has fallen into doubts, delays and hesitations. Lord Eldon, even, is said to have been more prompt in deciding questions than his Imperial Highness, and more easily induced to make up his mind. But what people complain of is, that if Prince Napoleon takes one view of a question to-day, to-morrow it is altogether unsettled, if not changed; and this vacillation is imputed to the influence of certain parties which is paraded about Paris as having a monetary value. That the Prince has no notion of this I feel convinced,—that he would soon put a stop to any attempt to make a profit out of him, is positive. Nevertheless, it is notorious that persons have been stating that one individual in particular had complete influence over the Prince, to obtain this or that concession, if it were made worth his while to do so. Although the purity of official administration may not be immaculate here, you may readily imagine what dismay and disgust have been created by the avowal of jobbery and corruption in high places.

The elaborate defence of Prince Napoleon's policy which has been circulated here after its publication in the *Times* has had its source easily recognised, and has created some surprise. The allusion to the existence of personal enmity of M. Walewski to the Prince has caused much merriment, and people speculate on "what great things from little things arise," since the rivalry of these two illustrious personages in love should break out afresh in the shape of political antagonism.

The difference between M. Fould and the Prince arose from discussion relative to the Algerian railways. The Algerian commissions, appointed by the Prince, desired the Government to give a guarantee of 5 per cent. on the capital offered to be embarked in

constructing the line from Algiers to Oran, but the Minister of Finance, inspired by M. Fould, the Minister of State, is opposed to the guarantee,—wishing to reduce it to 4½. Consequently the question is reduced to a state of dead lock, and the Prince is unable to proceed with a project in which he has taken great interest, and with which he was desirous to associate his name. Moreover, the Prince especially patronised a scheme in connexion with the railway which had for object to enlarge the town of Algiers by levelling a mountain over which the railway was to be brought into the city,—casting the rubbish into the sea so as to obtain deep water frontage, and at the same time to bring a supply of water to Algiers. The cost of the plan was set down at 800,000*l.*, but, as soon as a fourth had been spent, it was estimated that the sale of land for building and wharfage would repay the contractors and leave large profits. The Prince, I believe, had determined to give the railway concession to the company that would execute this work, but the economical views of the Minister of State defeated his intentions—indeed, I may add that there is no dissension between the Emperor and the Prince, for they both were present at the last Council of Ministers; and, it is believed, his Imperial Highness will return to the Ministry of Algeria and the Colonies when the dread of war has passed, and a thorough purge has been administered to his ministry.

NICARAGUA CANAL.

Wars and rumours of wars appear to exercise no disastrous influence upon the scheme patronised by French speculators for uniting the two oceans. The French papers which eke out a precarious existence by puffing all projects, are filled with the most mysterious allusions to the sayings and doings of the projectors. Great reliance appears to be placed upon the capital and credulity of Englishmen; and the warm imaginations of certain *cadets de Gascoigne* are fired by the prospects of how these two possessions may be worked; certainly with more profit and less risk than the inexhaustible gold and silver mines of South America. Not many days since, the *Moniteur* announced, with all the honours of large type, and at the head of its non-official portion, that an agreement had been entered into between the projectors of the canal and "Sir Rodney Croskey, the colossus of British maritime enterprise"—although I fancy the gentleman to be an American, and therefore hardly likely to wear a handle to his name. The agreement is said to be for the establishment of four lines of twelve steamers of 3,000 tons each in both oceans. The *Independence Belge* also announces that so beset has been M. Thomé de Gamond, the author of the scheme for carrying a railway tunnel under the Straits of Dover, with offers of money from your capitalists during his visit to London, as to have been sorely perplexed at being obliged to refuse them. One firm of English contractors, the veracious journal gravely relates, offered to take shares for the full cost of the entire works, to the amount of five millions sterling, but although their solvability was undoubted, the receipt of 5,000,000*l.* was refused, lest it should give the contractors an absolute preponderance in the management of the company. Nevertheless, vanquished by the prayers and solicitations of the contractors, he allowed them to subscribe for two millions sterling of shares. Can it be wondered at that the invasion and pillage of England should excite the cupidity of the adventurous spirits and empty purses of the Continent when they hear of sovereigns being tossed about like Birmingham tokens, and of English men of business supplicating French speculators to accept their millions—relieve them from the *embarras de leur richesses*! Moreover, we are informed that the Foreign Office, under the direction of Lord Malmesbury, perplexed by the fact that the Panama railway belonged to the Americans, and driven thereby to contemplate the necessity of constructing a Honduras line, hailed the Nicaragua canal scheme as a godsend—a means of escape from the difficulties of the situation. Consequently, and as a small return, Lord Malmesbury is going to give the carriage of the Pacific mails to "Sir Croskey," for which the Foreign Secretary intends breaking all previous contracts, means to send the West India Mail Company to the right about, and to entreat the canal projectors and their associates to accept I hardly like to say how many millions. To provide the ways and means, the Foreign Office will insist on the Chancellor of the Exchequer doubling the income-tax; and should that prove insufficient, the amount is to be raised by new duties on the circulation of *Mr. Punch*. Your readers will have learned that last month the first departure of engineers and workmen took place in the *Panama*, under the conduct of M. Felix Bolly, whose ambition is to carry out an enterprise on which depends the commercial prosperity of the whole world. On the 2nd of this month a convoy was to leave Southampton, in the *Plata*, under the conduct of M. Vital-Roux, formerly director of works at the

porcelain works of Sevre. This gentleman proceeds thither to "study the ceramic arts of Nicaragua and Costa Rica!" but more particularly to superintend the manufacture of bricks. Whether the gentleman hopes to promote the manufacture of hard or soft wares in those countries is not stated. The first bricks he makes are to build the new town of Félicia, to be so christened after the Christian name of M. Felix Belly. What portion of the enterprise is to bear the gentleman's surname is at present undecided; but there is stated to have been great hesitation before the name of Bellyville or Bellytown was finally rejected in favour of the more elegant Félicia. But the drollest part of the whole thing is that an Englishman and an Irishman have been enlisted into the concern, and are shortly to leave for Nicaragua, if they have not done so already. The first is Colonel Morse Cooper, a retired lieutenant-colonel of the Indian Army; and the other is that famous Milesian legislator, the O'Gorman Mahon. These gentlemen are to present themselves to the Nicaraguans and Costa Ricans as the representatives of the military power and parliamentary government of Great Britain. As the innocent natives of Central America have great confidence in the British uniform, the lieutenant-colonel is to go out in full regimentals. I am not sure that it is not made an express condition with him to sleep in them, spurs, epaulettes, cocked hat, feathers, and all. Great disappointment is felt that members of Parliament wear no uniform, and how that difficulty is to be got over—unless the second gentleman should happen to be a deputy lieutenant or a captain of Ballyraggan Dragoons—I don't know. Meanwhile, you must expect a new edition of "British outrages," in consequence of the landing of two English generals in central America.

Postscriptum.—I open my letter to say that I have just received information, from what I conceive to be indisputable authority, that M. Emile de Girardin has resigned his seat at the Commission of Algiers. The retirement of this gentleman—who has for many years advocated a Franco-Russian alliance as a means of diminishing the prestige and political standing of England, and who on a more recent occasion preached the necessity of avenging the defeat of Waterloo—cannot fail to be regarded as further evidence of the sincere desire, on the part of the French Government, to recede from its late aggressive attitude, and to maintain intact the alliance with England—its strongest defence and surest foundation. As a sign—more promising than any that have yet transpired—that the peace of Europe will not be disturbed, I may mention that a company—headed by M. Paulin Talabot, Mirès, and including Baron Gustave de Rothschild and the leading financiers of France—has just made its appearance for constructing docks at Marseilles, with a capital of 800,000*l.* to be subsequently increased to a million sterling. It is not probable that, were there the slightest chance of war, capitalists so cautious as the Rothschilds would sink their money in an undertaking which must for years make no return.

Fine Arts.

On Friday, the 4th instant, the old renowned and artist-born Lord Lyndhurst revived, not pacified, from his place in Parliament, the public indignation against the continued monopoly of State protection enjoyed by the Academy. That body, in virtue of their long and beneficial tenancy of one-half the National Gallery, now claim, we understand, a space just five times as large—to wit, one-half the superficial area of Burlington House. Her Majesty's present advisers profess to consider this demand unreasonable and excessive, and the rest of her Majesty's lieges will be apt to coincide with them; but our old friend, asking, with innocent pertinacity, for more and yet more, seem hardly conscious that they do not compose or comprise the National School of Art; that the public is well nigh sick of them and their misdoings; and that there are other worthy candidates for the honour of being public instructors and the pleasure of being public pensioners.

The memorial of one competing body—the Society of Painters in Water Colours—to the Lords of the Treasury, is now before us. Its prayer is, that the value and usefulness of the art of painting in water colours may be nationally recognised by the assignment to the society, either gratuitously or on lease, of a limited space on the Burlington House estate, whereon they may build an exhibition room at their own cost. Now, a request so humbly conveyed, must surely demand consideration, before the allotment of space to prior applicants, and especially of the enormous por-

tion demanded by the Academy obstructives as the price of 'moving on.' The popularity of water colour has a deeper foundation than the beauty of its hues or the skill of the limner. Our first, and often our only, instructors in art, are drawn, with few exceptions, from its ranks. With specimens of our own and our friends' performances, we are wont to decorate our rooms before we aspire to understand, or to pretend to be purchasers of oil paintings. With water colors the child begins to educate his hand and eye, and to their worship the sated veteran returns at last. The particular society in question is one of many that have come to maturity and prosperity independently, and in spite of the Academy, its money, and its backstairs influences.

We would, had we our way, incorporate, fuse, and confound it with all its rivals and fellow competitors—Academy, associates, and all—into one national fine-art school or institution, in which petty differences should be smoothed or ground away, all unfair distinctions abolished, patient merit honoured, truth and sincerity prevail. That this should, to some, appear an absurd crotchet we are not surprised. That it may be a visionary hope we are not prepared to deny. But it follows not therefrom, that every ray of royal, parliamentary and national sunshine, fairly due to our proposed conception, should be concentrated upon only one of the unamalgamable atoms. Both the Premier and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have, on several occasions, listened to reason on art matters during their present tenure of office, and we shall not, we believe, look in vain to them for justice in this matter. The suggested misappropriation of the Burlington House estate to the purposes of a single corporation, should be nipped ere it bud; and, whether by separate grants to the various artistic bodies, or by the construction of one exhibition gallery for the common use of all, the very proper desire of the memorialists, and other societies of their order, to assert their position abreast of the Academy, ought to be gratified. But however this be done, we hope the day of one-sided reciprocities is over; and that the distributors of favours will impose certain duties towards the public upon the recipients, and will take proper security, before parting with the control of the national property, for the payment of the implied as well as of the nominated consideration. The educational value, and so forth, of these institutions, are excellent war-cries to rally the assault upon the Academy and the desirable quarters of Burlington House; but when the victory is won, we hope they will not be forgotten.

At last week's meeting of the Society of Arts an interesting and learned lecture was delivered by Professor Westmacott, R.A., F.R.S., on "Polychromy in Sculpture, or Colouring Statues." It is needless to premise that a lively controversy has for some time been carried on as to whether statues should or should not be coloured. The Professor—leaving it, of course, an open question between buyer and seller whether any particular work of art should combine sculpture and painting—laid down for discussion the proposition whether "the practice was conformable with the principles upon which pure sculpture should be exercised." He himself held that it was not so. The affirmative, he held, could only be maintained on the ground that painting could improve sculpture. His adversaries could not maintain this position. The legitimate province of pure sculpture was form; and painted sculpture involved the adoption of another art, which touched upon the domain of imitation or illusion. This would be to degrade the sculptor's art to the level of the wax-worker's. Polychromy might be admitted to have been practised by the ancients, but might be traceable to the Greek application of barbaric practice, observed by the travelling artists of the time in Egypt and Assyria. The Belvedere Apollo and the Milesian Venus could not have been improved by colour, and showed no trace of it. To have coloured these works would have been as false as to have carried imitation to the length of giving them eyes of paste or metal. Examples of this latter vagary could be cited; but, upon investigation, it appeared that, like Polychromy, it was but exceptional, and characteristic of the lower periods of the arts. The lecturer finally contended that the decay of art was marked by the rise of a passion for elaborate ornament; and he urged that the objections already opposed to the representation of the nude figure would be materially strengthened were it to be shown with tinted flesh, and eyes, and hair. He was supported by Mr. J. Bell, who discredited the often cited customary use of colour by the Greeks;

and by Dean Milman, who suggested that the fragments now discovered had generally formed portions of buildings, and that their colour might have been applied for decorative purposes. The Romans had rifled Asia Minor and Greece of their beautiful single figures, upon which no trace of paint was perceivable.

Professor Donaldson, R.A., and Mr. Crace dissented from the lecturer's views, and considered that colouring was intended to intensify the expression of sculpture, and to give it softness and flexibility. Alluding to the statues of British worthies in St. Stephen's Hall, the former characterised them as hard, ghostly, and inanimate, and would sanction the application of even a little dust by way of softening them.

Messrs. Bradbury and Evans have published an excellent and very well-printed translation of M. Theophile Silvestre's paper on English Art, read in French before the Society of Arts, on the 19th of January last, and noticed in our paper of the 22nd of that month.* We were no strangers to the fact that the works of English artists were much admired at the French Universal Exhibition, but we confess we were unprepared for the flood of eloquent eulogium passed upon our school by the chosen emissary of our neighbours. We have thought, more than once, of condensing the criticism on Hogarth, whom the author terms the constant and subtle observer of the least perceptible of our emotions—the terrible logician of human misery—in whose physiognomy he sees the "iron-nerved surgeon, whose heart never blanched, whose hand never trembled, before the suffering of a patient." But this masterly passage shall escape mutilation at our hands, and we will content ourselves with recommending it to those who have either regarded the father of English art as a mere caricaturist, or, if they admire him otherwise, may not always be able to trace their admiration to its legitimate source. Richard Wilson, again,—the English Hobbema; and Gainsborough—"rich and gentle nature, soft and refined soul—choice spirit, born to enjoy and to suffer everything with a profound and exquisite sensibility," are fervidly handled by M. Silvestre. Turner—"proud and adventurous soul, wrapt dreamer"—he leaves to Mr. Ruskin. Constable—"the simple of heart, the reasonable man, the fanatical adherent to the natural"—he dares not more than hint at, lest he should be carried too far. He winds up his remarks on the landscape-painters of England as follows:—

"Yes, English painters have drawn from nature all her forms, all her characters, and all her harmonies. By their endeavours to reproduce with strict fidelity the aspect of creation, they have made us feel, in a manner sometimes simple or pathetic, sometimes startling or sublime, the tie which links the thoughts of man, the instinct of the brute, the sensation of plants, and the life of the elements, with the mysterious and solemn power of the Almighty."

The sympathetic Frenchman has dealt another shrewd blow to the Old Master mania, which was mightily shaken, among the masses at least, by the publication of "Modern Painters," and the subsequent sense that native art might be safely admired. It was a great day for English painters when the chosen expert of imaginative France rose to argue the beauty of English art in an English assembly. We shall joyfully welcome M. Silvestre's coming work, "The History of English Artists, Living and Dead," with a view to which he is, he tells us, now pursuing his studies in England—let us hope under loyal guidance.

In consequence of an invitation sent to us, we have inspected (at 52, Regent-street) a picture of "Christ at Golgotha," considered to be an early work of Raphael d'Urbino, and valued at 1,500*l.* It is a small panel painting, not more than fifteen inches high by eleven wide, with a single figure representing the Saviour seated, his head leaning on his right hand. The figure is nude except a white cloth, and is principally distinguished by softness and absence of muscular development; there is no nimbus on the head, and the expression is that of dejection; the end of a coil of rope falls over the left knee, the cross lies beneath him. Behind, on either side, are uprights representing the crosses of the two malefactors, the transverse bars being apparently omitted for the sake of the composition; a tree and some bushes make up the distance, with a dark blue sky overhead. The conventional skull is wanting, but there are some bones on the ground, and three nails. The picture is fairly attributable to the period when Raphael, after leaving his master Perugino, was assisting Pinturicchio in the frescoes of the Cathedral at Siena; but it has none of the peculiar characteristics of Raphael's style. It

* Art, Artists, and Industry in England. A Lecture delivered at the Society of Arts, by Theophile Silvestre, appointed by his Excellence the Minister of State, and of the Household of his Majesty the Emperor of the French, to inspect the Fine Arts in Europe. Bradbury and Evans.

neither gives one the idea of having been executed from a cartoon carefully prepared, as was that master's custom, nor does it resemble the works of Perugino in colouring or finish. The evidence as to its history consists of an old German inscription, written on a piece of paper on the back of the panel, to the effect that the picture used to hang on a pillar in the dining-room of the Castle of Seifersdorf, belonging to the parish of Glaesendorf, in the principality of Neisse, and was held in great estimation by the inmates and visitors there. The castle was afterwards destroyed by fire, but the pillar with this picture remained uninjured. The estate of Seifersdorf belonged at that time to the family of Eckwricht. Then there are some papers certifying that by the tombstone of Bernhard von Eckwricht and his wife Barbara, it appears that the latter died in 1623. It is stated that the wife of the present possessor is a descendant of the family, and that tradition ascribes the picture to Raphael; but the inscription, which has no date, contains nothing as to the name of the painter. The above are all the documents now produced, and they do not accord with the statement in the circular that the picture was recently discovered in an old castle in Silesia; this, however, may be a verbal error, but it is obvious that the pedigree might be more fully traced, at least from 1623, and we are left very much to the internal evidence of the picture, which has no very marked character. There are some indistinct letters in the corner, over and upon the edge of the paper on the cross which is without inscription; those may be read as R followed by V, and on the upright of the R is a mark which may be a small D reversed, or the top of an S. The latter would agree with an inscription recorded by Morcelli; R. S. V. A. A. XVII. (P. Raphael Sanctus Urbinensis, Anno Etatis XVII. Pinxit.) But in this case the letters are so dubious that no reliance can be placed on them. There is a trace of gold margin at the bottom of the picture. The same thing may be seen in Raphael's little "Vision of a Knight" in the National Gallery; but a gold border is too slight a circumstance to carry any weight; and the drawing and colouring of the present picture are very inferior to those of the "Vision." The number of nails (three instead of four) corresponds with a picture of the entombment by Perugino in the Palazzo Pitti; but this is a very trifling coincidence, and, but for the signature and the family tradition that the picture is by Raphael, it might with equal propriety be ascribed to another painter. It shows signs of restoration, which, it is said, was recently effected by Herr Von Bülow, of the Royal Academy, Berlin; and it was stated in the room that Dr. Waagen had expressed his opinion that it was undoubtedly by Raphael, but had declined to give a certificate to that effect; and that Xeler Cornelius, and others, were of the same opinion. None of our own recognised authorities had as yet seen it. Whatever question there may be as to the painter, there appears no reason to doubt that the picture is an old one. It very probably belongs to the period assigned to it; but its authorship is doomed, we imagine, to remain for ever a matter of speculation for the dilettanti.

The Memorial in Waterloo-place to the braves of the Guards brigade, who perished in the Crimea, is making progress. We are indebted to our contemporary, the *Builder*, which must be the best of authority on such a matter, for the following particulars:—It will be some 37 or 38 feet high. The front of the pedestal, at some 11 feet from the ground, will be occupied by three soldiers—a Grenadier, a Fusilier, and a Coldstream of her Majesty's brigade of Guards, in their full marching costume as they fought at Inkermann. These figures will be about 8 feet 6 inches in height. Their respective flags will be behind them: thus altogether forming a pyramidal group. These flags rest against a second granite pedestal, on which, and above the flags, will stand a figure of Honour, with her arms extended wide, and in her hands and on her arms will be wreaths of honour. This figure will be 10 feet high. The inscription beneath her will be "Honour to the Brave;" and beneath the guards "Tria juncta in uno," the motto of the brigade. The four figures will be cast out of brass cannon taken at Sebastopol, and given by Government. Behind, on the rear face, will be a pile of actual broken Russian guns, burst and mutilated, as they were found in Sebastopol, which is a new feature in a monument. These are the general characteristics of the memorial, but on the sides will be introduced a slight degree of decoration in the sorts of sunk relieve used by the Egyptians, who were so accustomed to deal with large surfaces of granite, and which, with due attention, might be introduced with good effect occasionally into our own granite treatment. The foundation is in, up to the ground line, and is a mass of concrete some 17 feet by 15, by 10 feet deep. No portion of the granite pedestal has yet been placed, nor will any portion of the work be hurried. The memorial is favoured with a most conspicuous place

in the metropolis, and of course every possible care must be taken to render it in some degree worthy of the site.

Theatres and Entertainments.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

A statement has obtained very extensive currency to the effect that the opera house in the Haymarket was on the eve of certain and immediate conversion into an hotel. The site would undoubtedly be an admirable one; but, beyond this, and the wish, possibly, of the original circulators of the tale, we believe the tale to be baseless as a vision. The hotel in the colonnade (late Feuillades) is, it is true, making as rapid progress as the slow collection of even "limited" joint-stock capital now-a-days permits: but the noble lord who is just now the fortunate holder of the opera house, has, we are given to understand upon very good authority, no ambition to outvie the joint-stock project by becoming the landlord of an hostelry, were it grandiose even as that of the Louvre. He happens, about this time, to be in Italy; Mr. Lumley is there too; and the product of simple addition is a guess that the old house, whose prestige will always command a subscription list, will open for the performance of Italian operas after Easter.

LYCEUM.

"The Fairy Circle; or, Con O'Caralan's Dream"—an Adelphi piece in bygone days—was revived here on Monday, by Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams, with great success. Mr. Williams is, to use a common but expressive phrase, "very well worth seeing" in his Irish characters; and his better-half, without the same extent of *vis comica*, fairly supports him.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

THE "Popular" concert of Monday last added a leaf to the laurel wreath of the *entrepreneurs*. The standard of "Popular" music has so much advanced—we are not ashamed to speak our honest conviction—since Jullien and Hullah began to wield the conductor's wand before the masses, that the programmes now presented under that denomination bear but faint points of resemblance to those with which, in the *status ante* those celebrities used to call a few amateurs together, not without difficulty. A Frenchman of some smartness has observed that we English are determined, "the nature be hanged," (so he expresses himself) to be a musical people; but were that writer to find it compatible with his own versatility to attend a series of the gatherings at St. James's Hall he would observe that his notions of English musical nature are decidedly pre-Jullienite. The announcement of a night with Beethoven filled the room on Monday, and though Mr. Sims Reeves' absence could not but be felt, the riches of the programme, and the excellence of the performance generally were such as to send a very large assembly home fully content. The favourite vocal morceaux of the evening were of course the "Adelaida," sung by Mr. Wilbye Cooper, and the "Kennst du das Land," which was charmingly sung by Madame Enderssohn. In the sonata in C Major, Mr. Charles Hallé, one of our most renowned classical pianistes, and M. Wieniawski, were heard to advantage. The quartett of the Rasoumoffski set, in C Minor, for two violins, viola, and violoncello was played to perfection by Messrs. Wieniawski, Ries, Schreurs, and Piatti; and a quartett of grand beauty from that glorious, but too little popularised opera, *Fidelio*, was classically sung at the end of the first part, by Madame Enderssohn, Mdlle. Behrens, Mr. Wilbye Cooper, and Mr. J. G. Patey, a promising vocalist, who was recently a member of Mr. Harrison's operatic Company, at Drury Lane.

On Wednesday the Mozart selection was repeated to a full audience, composed partly, no doubt, of baffled country folk and cockney pleasure-seekers, who, being denied access to the playhouses by that great and glorious institution the Lord Chamberlain, came to break their compulsory fast, *à la Barmecide*, on the delicious strains of "Ah perdonà," the nervous bacchanalian "Su breviam del bon ficore," and the sentimental "Dalla sua pace," which poor Mr. Sims Reeves, who continues a sad invalid, did not sing, as announced. The greatest "popular" attraction of the *soirée* was Miss Arabella Goddard, who is deservedly dear to artists and amateurs, scientific and unscientific alike. The *virtuosi* were consulted by the selection of the G minor stringed quintett (of the Haydn set), which Salnton, Ries, Doyle, Schreurs, and Piatti executed in their best, which is unquestionably the best, manner.

HOWARD PAUL'S ENTERTAINMENT, ST. JAMES'S HALL.

The flitting—we hope for a season only—of this lively pair of "entertainers" is announced for the 26th inst. We have not observed of late any feature in their bill of fare of sufficient novelty to demand a notice; but we can only take this—as the pair are

capable of even better things than they have yet done—as evidence that *Molly Doolan*, *Selina Singleheart*, *The Modern Ladies' Man*, and the now celebrated imitation of Sims Reeves, have not lost their attractions.

THE POLYTECHNIC.

We were much diverted, if not much enlightened, on a second visit to this excellent institution, by the humorous running commentary, wherewith Mr. Lennox Horne accompanies a long set of dissolving views, founded upon the adventures of Don Quixote. The position thus assumed by this clever gentleman is nominally not a high one—now pattering in obscurity, now for a while bathed in the light of a magic lantern—he yet contrives by his pleasing delivery of the mad knight's adventures, to elevate the showman's office. We relished intensely the high coloured copies and compositions after Smirke and Stothard, which illustrate the lecture, or which the lecture illustrated; no half hour with Cervantes can be wasted. We are telling here what is possibly stale news in every nursery in town; but we may as well go so far as to say, we were both amused and instructed by the practical lecture on submarine blasting, and diving apparatus.

The Professor of Chemistry, too, exposes in such a painfully clear convincing manner the fine arts whereby our tradesmen force us to eat our proper peck of dirt, in the shortest possible lifetime, that, should those worthies find our reprisals taking the form of obdurate insolency, they may know whom they have partly to thank for it.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION.

We noticed the waxwork at Madame Tussaud's so very recently that we must almost apologise to our readers for again alluding to it. Having been summoned, however, in a very complimentary manner, along with other jurymen, to try the chronological arrangement of the collection, which used to be, to say truth, in a very higgledy-piggledy state (though we did not say so), we have every pleasure in certifying, with all the solemnity of professional experts, that order is established among the waxy potentates. The chronology of the wardrobe is pleasingly illustrated on a lifelike set of dummy kings, British and foreign; and the group representing her present Majesty and the Royal Family, complete, with all the additions and corrections to the latest period, is, of course not the least attractive feature of the show.

DEATH OF LORD MURRAY.

LORD MURRAY died at his house, in Great Stuart-street, on Monday afternoon. Not in Edinburgh only, of whose society he was the brilliant and acknowledged head, but throughout the wide circle of the illustrious in intellect in every part of Europe to which his friendships extended, will the loss be deplored. Lord Murray's withdrawal makes a blank which cannot be supplied. Venerable age, extending to the fourscore years that mark the human term, had not impaired either the activity of his intellect or the warmth of his affectionate nature; and as his health had been in the early part of the winter unusually vigorous, it was natural to look to his having not a few active and beneficent years yet to spend among us. It is only a fortnight since he last occupied his accustomed seat in court, having throughout the session discharged his judicial duties without interruption. Though premonitory symptoms had previously exhibited themselves, his illness became serious only ten days since, and he had not been a week confined to bed. For two or three days, however, scarcely any hope of recovery had been entertained; the venerable sufferer waited with patience and fortitude the inevitable stroke, and met it with Christian resolution and resignation. Among all classes in Edinburgh the utmost sympathy and anxiety have been manifested since it became generally known that Lord Murray was seriously ill, and the announcement of his death, though not unexpected, will spread a gloom over the city such as has seldom been experienced. His death will be felt not only as the departure of a man universally beloved and esteemed as a munificent public benefactor, as the honoured head of many schemes of usefulness, as the patron of every worthy charity, and the warm supporter of all improvement, but as the last of that highly distinguished band who throughout the first thirty or forty years of the century reflected more lustre on Edinburgh than did even the great intellectual lights of an older day—and which included such names as Jeffrey, Playfair, Sidney Smith, Francis Horner, Thomas Brown, Henry Cockburn, and the still surviving Brougham. Our generation can have no such loss again to deplore—no such man is left among us. Lord Murray was in his 81st year. He was raised to the bench in 1839, having previously received the honour of knighthood. He was called to the Scottish bar in 1799; succeeded the Right Hon. Francis (afterwards Lord) Jeffrey as Lord Advocate in 1834; but resigned in the November of the same year; was again appointed Lord Advocate in April, 1835; was

recorder of the Great Roll, or Clerk of the Pipe, in the Exchequer Court, Scotland, but resigned that office (a sinecure) some time before his appointment as Lord Advocate; represented the Leith district of burghs in Parliament from 1832 till 1838.—*Scotsman*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen had a dinner party at Buckingham Palace, on Monday, to celebrate the christening of her grandson at Berlin. On Monday was held a chapter of the Ancient Order of the Thistle, to confer that dignity upon the Marquis of Ailsa; in the evening the Queen and Prince Consort went to the Haymarket Theatre, and on Tuesday honoured the Adelphi by their presence. Her Majesty gave another grand dinner on Thursday; among the guests were several of her ministers, with Lord Palmerston and some of the parliamentary opposition. The Prince and Princess of Saxe Coburg, with their family and suite, left Brussels on Tuesday for England.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.—A court was held on Thursday, when a letter was read from Lord Clyde, conveying his thanks to the Lord Mayor and Common Council for the honor of the freedom of the City and the gift of a valuable sword which had been conferred upon him. Mr. Alderman Rose moved a resolution to the effect that a spot of ground should be purchased for the recreation of the pupils of the City of London School, but it fell to the ground for want of a seconder. A report was then brought up from the police committee, recommending the levy of 5d. in the pound as a police rate. A motion being made to adopt this recommendation, an amendment was made to refer the report back to the committee, on which a discussion arose, after which the amendment was agreed to by 82 to 34.

THE DRAMATIC, MUSICAL, AND EQUESTRIAN SICK FUND ASSOCIATION.—The third anniversary dinner of this highly meritorious association was held last night at Willis Rooms, Mr. Robert Keeley in the chair. The chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, observed that the benefits conferred by the institution during the past year had far exceeded the former efforts of the association. The society had in that time relieved no less than 634 cases of distress, and had extended its benefits not only to members, but to those who, although non-members, were still connected with the above profession. He alluded to the recent attacks of the Rev. F. Close, and, after stating that the profession was more sinned against than sinning, exhorted the assembly to show that if they were sinners, still they were not without that virtue which covers a multitude of sins. The toast of "Prosperity to Dramatic Literature" was most eloquently acknowledged by Mr. Tom Taylor; and Mr. Levy returned thanks for "The Press." The services of the Misses Isaacs, Poole, Maskell, &c., and of Messrs. St. Albyn, S. Cowell, and P. Corri, were rendered gratuitously, under the leadership of Mr. Hicks. The collection amounted to upwards of 160*l*.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The anniversary meeting was held last Tuesday. Several distinguished men of the profession were present, among whom were Dr. Mayo, President of the College of Physicians; Professor Owen and Dr. Bigsby, of the Geological Society. The new list of officers having been read, Dr. Routh delivered the oration. After alluding to the origin of and growth of the medical societies in London, Dr. Routh spoke of the devotion and zeal of the medical profession in their attendance upon all classes, especially the poor; and concluded an address, which had been listened to throughout with the greatest attention, and received at its conclusion warm demonstrations of applause, by an appeal to all to follow in the steps of Lettsom and Fothergill—not only eminent physicians but eminent Christian men. The Fothergillian gold medal for the best essay on anatomy and physiology was afterwards presented to Mr. A. T. Houghton Waters, of Liverpool.

THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES.—These unfortunate men, the victims of the unhappy King of Naples, whom he shipped off to New York, deeming England more convenient as an asylum, compelled the captain of the vessel they were embarked in to change his destination, and on Sunday they landed at Queenstown, in the south of Ireland. The list comprises Poerio and sixty-eight others. The *Cork Examiner* has the following account:—They had been brought from Naples to Cadiz, and were put on board the American ship David Stewart. The David Stewart was towed out to sea by a Neapolitan war steamer. Scarcely was the ship well away from the protection of the steamer's guns than the exiles in a body came to the captain, delivered to him a protest against being carried to New York, and called upon him to make for the first port he could reach in England. The captain refused. A young Italian, named Raffaele Settembrini, had

shipped with the captain in Cadiz, and signed articles as a seaman. Up to that morning he had done his work with the rest of the crew. But when the assemblage waited upon the captain he made his appearance in the uniform of a mate of one of the Galway line of steamers. It turned out that he was the son of one of the exiles, Luigi Settembrini, and hearing of his father's destination, left for Spain, and resorted to the ruse to join him. The captain of the ship believes that he was despatched by the Italian Society in London to aid the prisoners. His presence made the exiles more confident. They stated that they had a navigator in their party, and that, even if they had to take the ship out of the hands of the captain and crew, they would be able to sail her without their assistance. They contended also that being under the American flag they were free, and that he had no right to take them anywhere but where they chose. These arguments, backed up by the preponderance of physical force, compelled the captain to yield, and turn the vessel's head northward. They set a regular guard, to keep watch over the compass, and see that the ship's head was kept in the direction of the haven they looked for. After a voyage of fourteen days, the ship anchored yesterday evening in the man-of-war roads. As fast as possible the whole band got themselves conveyed ashore to Queens-town. The enthusiasm of some rose to such a pitch that they actually kissed the soil upon which they first planted foot as free men. We have not learnt the ultimate intentions of the exiles, but it is very probable the great majority of them will go back to Italy, seeking refuge in Sardinia. Under any circumstances, Poerio will, we believe, go to Sardinia.

LONDON DIOCESAN HOME MISSION.—On Monday evening a very numerous meeting was held at Exeter-hall to hear the report of this society, the Bishop of London in the chair. The Bishop stated that the society was as yet in its infancy; the work before it was appalling, and the means to meet that work very slight. Short, however, as the time, and few as the instruments had been, he had reason to thank God for the good that had been done. He then entered into the objects and aims of the society, and successfully refuted charges which had been made against it, especially that it was antagonistical to the parochial system, and refused the aid of the laity. He contended that this society was sure to develop to a greater degree than ever the benefits of the parochial system, and said that without the aid of the laity the clergy would be powerless. He hoped that next year a greater number of missionaries would be appointed. He deprecated haste, however, in the selection; for a good missionary was not a man of every day. Lord Ebury, the Bishop of Ripon, Lord Shaftesbury, Dr. McNeil, and Sir W. Page Wood, the Rev. D. Nelson, and Archdeacon Sinclair subsequently addressed the meeting.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.—At the meeting of the Geologists' Association on Tuesday evening, forty-four members were elected, and Professor Tennent, F.G.S., read a paper on the application of mineralogy to geology. He pointed out the importance of a knowledge of mineralogy to emigrants and travellers abroad. At this time many valuable substances were lost in Australia from ignorance of, he had reason to believe, diamonds. He referred to the neglect of the black dust in the gold fields, which is now an important article of export, being oxide of tin, shovelled up from the soil. He gave two remarkable cases of ignorance in the jewellery trade—one, of a lapidary in Clerkenwell, who lost a stone, supposed to be a diamond, charged with legacies to the extent of about £300, and which the Professor, to the disappointment of the legatees, valued at five and twenty shillings; the other was of a jeweller at the west end, who bequeathed to his family a precious stone, to pay legacies amounting to between £2,000 and £3,000, and which proved worthless.

THE SUNDAY QUESTION IN GLASGOW.—The Sabatarians suffered a signal defeat in their renewed attempt against Christian liberty at the half-yearly meeting of the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway. The perpetual agitation on the subject of Sunday trains having been felt as an excessive annoyance at these meetings, it was resolved to issue proxies to the entire body of shareholders, so that the sense of the company might be fully taken on this subject. Mr. James Balfour, in a speech of the usual character, moved the discontinuance of the Sunday morning and evening passenger trains; his motion was simply met by the chairman moving the previous question, without repeating refutations of what has been refuted again and again any time these ten years. The vote being taken, there appeared a majority for the continuance of the trains of 4,678. Thoroughly beaten, Mr. Balfour was so far humbled as to confess that he would not trouble the company again for a year at least.—*Scotsman*.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The Registrar-General, in his weekly return, states that the population appears to enjoy a fair amount of health, if measured by the experience of London itself in former seasons. The deaths were 1,215, being a slight decrease on the last return, and about 100 less than the average. There was an increase in the mortality from small-pox, and also from scarlatina and diphtheria. Dr. Letheby reports that the mortality for the City was greatly below the average.

THE CARNIVAL IN PARIS.—The Carnival this year has been a pitiful exhibition. Shrove Tuesday has of course been the grand fête. The procession of the Bœuf Gras traversed such of the quarters of the city as it had not previously visited, and paid its usual visit to the Tuileries, where a large crowd was assembled to see the sight. On the Boulevards there was a stream of people all the afternoon, in much the same numbers as on a fine Sunday; for Shrove Tuesday is a fête, and many shops are shut. The masqueraders seem to muster in even smaller force than on previous occasions. Now and then you caught sight of a fancy costume; but, in the majority of cases, a child was the wearer. Little boys and girls are now, in fact, almost the only representatives of the carnival out of doors. Add to them a few score of coarse fellows, hovering between manhood and boyhood, and an occasional fast young man, and you have the whole force of the street masqueraders. People who like the tomfoolery of travesty go to the Opera, where they have it in abundance, and something more also. The day has been singularly beautiful, though rather cold; unlike yesterday, which was not only bright, but really hot, like summer.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—Lord Hardinge, the Under-Secretary for War, has seceded from the Government ranks.

THE TWO NAPOLEONS AT PLOMBIERES.—Two sentries are on the upper road above the garden, keeping keen watch upon certain windows; shaded with red and white awnings. They open upon a balcony. Lower down a fierce sapper "bearded like the pard," stands to ward all men off a railed pavement whence they may behold the majesty of France taking the air in the valley. His Majesty is not on horseback, nor in uniform. Is it treasonable to tell how the Emperor looks at Plombières, divested of external pomp? He is grizzled, cadaverous, and lame in the left hip, and labours to conceal that last defect. His walk is awkward. He turns out his toes, and leans heavily on the strong stick he carries in his well-gloved hand. He is carefully dressed; but though his coat fits him very accurately, he has nothing of the air of a perfectly dressed man. His figure is not improved by the cuirass which his coat will not conceal. Every step he takes is studied, while his eye scans every passer-by with a look which has something uncanny in its expression. In that small saloon looking over the breezy garden, one hot summer's day last year, the Princess Clotilde of Sardinia was marked for marriage. She is married now. The world hears that her husband is the image of the First Napoleon. He is certainly wonderfully like the portraits of his uncle, but (I am a woman and an critical upon outsiders of men) cast in a coarser mould. He is a large, loose, and yellow edition of that "little corporal." He is short-sighted, and screws his glass in his eye in a way that does not improve the expression of his heavy, passionless face. He speaks in an abrupt tone. They say he imitates the great Napoleon. He is clever; and though wary enough to avoid the schemes that occasionally beset him, he has, I believe, less of the intriguer about him than most Bonapartes; except his father, who keeps to his path and is much respected.—*Household Words*.

CORRUPTION IN THE STATES.—A New York correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"Rumours loud and deep are once more rife on the subject of corruption in Congress. The last story is that a member of the committee on accounts refused to pass a just and unimpeachable bill for upholstery furnished to the new chambers unless the creditor consented to share it with him; and that the latter, to avoid further vexation and delay, yielded, but now, upon reflection, is 'cutting up rough,' and telling everybody. An investigation is called for, but what purpose it will serve, beyond embodying in a blue-book what everybody knows already, and nobody doubts, it is hard to say. That consummate scoundrels find their way into Congress every year is a notorious fact; and what is wanted is not additional proofs of the existence of the evil, but a remedy of some kind, and this, I fear, no committee will supply. One grand defence, however, against the onslaughts for which occurrences of this sort supply you with weapons, is that the country gets on famously, nevertheless. The mass of the population is happy and prosperous, and we laugh at Congress, and would not take the trouble to purify it."

INDIA AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

WHAT HAS THE COLONISATION COMMITTEE DONE?

Now that the Colonisation Committee is again sitting, and since it cannot be kept sitting perpetually, it is worth while to consider what it has done and what still remains to be done; for it will not be carried beyond this session. It will be remembered that in consequence of the publication of a work on Railways, Colonisation, and Defence in our Indian empire, Mr. William Ewart, the member for Dumfries, last year, brought before the House of Commons, and the Earl of Albemarle before the Lords, the subject of English settlement in India. It was a period of crisis in Indian affairs, the army was in revolt, the old system brought to a trial and found wanting, and the double Government doomed; the home ministry was likewise in a critical state, having only just assumed office. The question of English settlement was not in the usual course ripe for action; the many persons connected with India, who had at various periods advocated plans for occupying particular districts, had no organisation, and had not followed up the matter systematically, and the whole agitation depended upon the exertions of one individual. The moment was, however, boldly and skilfully chosen, and boldly and skilfully taken advantage of, for, in the usual course, all that Mr. Ewart could have required would have been the production of papers on the subject, but his motion was afterwards so shaped as to demand a committee of inquiry. The proposition was most unwelcome to the East India Company and the old Government of India, because they knew the treatment of "interlopers" was one of the tenderest points in their conduct, and at any other time they could have claimed the sympathy of the Board of Control, and resisted the demand with the whole strength of the Government. The Board of Control had, however, enough to do in those times to take care of itself, and the Ministry did not wish to risk a division, in which they might have been harassed by their opponents, who would have voted regardless of Company and colonisation, to inflict a blow on the Government. Mr. Ewart, therefore, insisted on having a Committee, and the Government having given way the Company could only show their spite.

At the time of obtaining the Committee, Mr. Ewart and his supporters were told that the Committee was needless and useless, that the proposition of English settlement in India was futile, and that the Company had done everything necessary, and was provided with reports to show there was not a field a hundred feet square to be got for English occupation. Immediately on the opening of the Committee to receive evidence, witnesses flocked in, and till the end of the session report after report was published of the evidence. Vainly did the representatives of the Company struggle with the evidence, and strive to trip them up; vainly did they bring witnesses of their own; a mass of testimony was accumulated, the effect of which was to show that, in respect of English settlement, India had been more neglected than any country, not excepting the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company; for that corporation can show the Red River, Vancouver's Island, and British Columbia as settlements; these, however, were wrenched from the monopolists by force, Englishmen having been treated by the Hudson's Bay Company as "interlopers," in the same way that they were by the East India Company.

Instead of the evidence being restricted (as the East India Directors had fondly hoped) to setting up a theory, and obtaining a corresponding report that there were no places for Englishmen in India but hill peaks and a few fields of a hundred feet square, the evidence went beyond questions of climate, area, and soil, and threw light upon every question of administration affecting the English citizen in India. Upon the land tenures and titles very copious evidence was given, and as it emanated from practical men—not only indigo planters, but civil servants—there was no getting out of it by the usual mystification of bandying about

Mahomedan law terms, but the subject received a thorough sifting, and it became quite plain that the whole of these tenures are in a very unsatisfactory state, and that there is no valid objection to the introduction of the freehold title as established in Europe and America. Until 1859 the idea was carefully nursed that India was something different from the rest of the civilised and uncivilised world, and that a system of tenure introduced by the Mahomedan conquerors was entitled to be exempt from the application of a title which prevails everywhere else throughout our immense empire, as it does throughout Europe and the whole continent of America. The notion of this Indian exceptionalism has, however, thanks to the Committee, received a death-blow, for after the evidence published by them, it became impossible to maintain such an argument in England; the result has been that Lord Stanley has announced the intention of Government to grant a like title to the waste lands of India as to those of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and to enfranchise the tenures of the settled lands as those of Ireland and Canada have been enfranchised, and as the Crown or copyhold and clergy lands of England have been enfranchised. At present the waste lands of India supposed to be available, are by Lord Stanley treated as of comparatively limited extent; but there is a growing land fund, for the hill countries available for occupation will be extended by lapse and annexation; waste lands will accrue by the lapse of native principalities in Hindostan, and lands held on various tenures, which include waste, will be enfranchised by the application of legislative measures founded on the Encumbered Estates and Copyhold Enfranchisement Acts. Already—dread words for the heaven-born to hear—an Encumbered Estates Act for India is talked of, as there has been a similar Act for Ireland and the West Indies.

If Mr. Ewart's Committee had done nothing more than settle this question of land tenures in India they would have deserved the gratitude of the English and Indian public, for they have prepared for India one of the greatest means of progress, which in its depressed and tortuously administered condition it could receive. The Committee, however, did much more: it showed that India was under the domination of an administrative system of the same character as that of France, Prussia, Russia, and Austria, equally benevolent and equally oppressive. Under this system neither the Englishman nor the native Zemindar is ever certain that he shall keep his property or his liberty, and he is restricted in his individual and associative action. Mr. Forbes was not afraid to use the strong words before the Colonization Committee yesterday, that in the Mofussil there is no law. The paternal government is to provide everything for the people, and at the present time India is without roads, bridges, canals or watercourses, its rivers and channels left without towing-paths, and full of snags and sawyers, except where a paternal government—busy with war, and at no time able to overtake the claims upon it—has occasionally condescended to keep up some solitary bund or tank, or to clear out a watercourse, or make a show road, or a show canal to be able to tell admiring England that such things were in India. To talk of roads, canals, and public works in India on the strength of the Great Trunk Road, and the Ganges and Jumna canals, was like boasting of that as a plum-pudding which had only one plum in it. The question has been—not whether a trunk road exists in Bengal, but why any part of India is without its due complement of roads and canals.

The character of the Indian Government was displayed before the committee in its true light—not intentionally oppressive, but effectually so, by its weakness and inability to discharge its duties, which are left in the hands of agents untrustworthy, profligate, tyrannical, and cruel. When the reports of the Committee arrived in India so excited were the settlers at finding for once

the true nature of the Government displayed, and the hope of redress held out to them, that they read the reports as eagerly as a new novel. The proposition to place under the power of such a Government, men, who hold the rights of citizenship at home, appears by the evidence to be so monstrous that the greatest Hindoo-maniac will hardly dare henceforth propose a Black Act. The feasibility also of extending the English jurisdiction of the supreme courts was amply shown by the Committee. Hence, Lord Stanley has thought it necessary to declare that the preparation of the code is suspended, and that measures are in progress to place the Sudder courts under the supreme courts of the presidencies.

This is another great measure, which will have the tendency to elevate the condition of the native population, by training them in the duties of citizens, and enabling them to attain the rights of citizens. Surely the native merchant at Bombay—Hindoo, Parsee, or Mahomedan—who acts as a justice of the peace, serves as a grand juror or petty juror, and has a municipal vote, with the protection of the habeas corpus and the right of trial by jury, under the sanction of the supreme court, is in a better condition than the baboo at Benares, who is at the mercy of one or two civil servants, and of a hierarchy of corrupt amlah and tyrannical burkindaues. The amlah, the official nobility of India, of course, prefer the Russian system of government; and the civil servants, under whom the amlah flourish, of course prefer the exaltation of their subordinates. Under such a system the people can never receive political or moral education, as bribery, extortion, and torture must prevail; and the great example to corrupt society is the inducement held out to the young men of the educated classes to join the ranks of the amlah, and to become employers, as the sons of the *épiciers* do in France, realising that state of dependence which was the curse of Ireland, the constant looking-out for a place under Government, instead of cultivating and encouraging the independent action of each good citizen, as in England and the United States.

NOTES ON INDIAN PROGRESS.

THE news from the hill districts is very sparing. There is, however, one announcement of some significance. On the dispersion of the army of Oude the 93rd Highlanders and the 1st Bengal Fusiliers were ordered to the hills at Dugshaie and Soobathoo. These gallant regiments well deserve the benefit of the refreshing climate of the hills, after the share they have had in the campaign, but it is deeply to be regretted that out of this large army, only two English battalions can obtain this privilege. Two regiments are, however, ordered to the Punjab, it is to be hoped to be sent to the sanatoria there. Which regiment will be sent to Darjeeling to occupy the new cantonments is not known. To Kumaon the native battalion is sent. The want of barrack accommodation in the hill stations is now bitterly manifest, but during the last six months, what has been done at Darjeeling and Nynce Tal, might have been done at every hill station, for they were free from trouble, and accommodation provided for many thousand men. As it is, our unfortunate countrymen are sent down to the cities of the plains, for the old game of guarding the black troops, which are still kept up in enormous numbers.

Mr. Sidney Herbert has taken up in Parliament the deplorable case of the death of five hundred English soldiers, wives, and children, in the Dum Dum barracks, near Calcutta, last autumn, who, if sent to the hills, might have been saved.

Very few officers have lately received leave for the hills,—less than the usual number.

Kashmere affairs are still unsettled. What the Jummoor Rajah has done about his cousin, Jowallir Sing, is uncertain, as there are contradictory reports at Lahore. It is observed that the whole subject of Kashmere politics must shortly undergo revision. Major H. Taylor, having been promoted, leaves the government of Koto Kangra, Mr. R. Jennings, of Kurnaul, being appointed Deputy-Commissioner. Kangra, hitherto neglected, is now assuming importance, as one of the most promising of the highland districts for English settlement.

The people of Mussoorie, and other hill towns, are looking out for the arrival of troops.

The Darjeeling settlers have signed a strong memorial to the Indian Council on behalf of the Northern Bengal Railway. Other petitions are coming forward from Calcutta, Dinajpore, Rungpore, and Malda.

Now that the war is over, many of the hill towns will be gay than ever, as there will be a great influx of residents and visitors. Still many officers who can get leave are going home to Europe.

We are glad to learn that the property called Stonehouse, in the Neilgherries, having fifty acres of ground attached, has been purchased for the Ootakamund Lawrence Asylum, so that the soldiers' children can soon be sent up; but it is desirable that the permanent school should be nearer the town of Ootakamund.

Considerable attention has been paid to the tea farm established by Col. Elwall at Hurbunswala, in the Dhoon, which has proved most successful. It is urged that sales of from 1,000 to 2,000 acres should be made to a European proprietor. Excellent roads cross the Dhoon, irrigating canals are numerous, having been laid down by Sir Proby Cautley; the Ganges canal, whose head at Hurdwar is only twenty-five miles from Debra, conveys goods to Cawnpore at about 50s. per ton, and there is a good local demand for tea and coffee at Landour, Mussoorie, and Dehra.

The culture of coffee is attracting attention now in the Dhoon and Darjeeling, as tea is in the Dekkan.

On the 25th of January, the Bishop of Calcutta, assisted by the Armenian Bishop, ordained three natives: Tulsi Paul, we are sorry to hear, is to take charge of the interesting Christian colony, in the Deyrah Dhoon; for Paul does not understand English; and while efforts are being made to raise the condition of the Christian settlement, and to invite English capital in the Dhoon, such an appointment is very unsatisfactory, the more particularly as the settlement wants a good schoolmaster.

The Sirmoor battalion, having been released from the army of Oude, is on its return to the Dhoon, but in the hills above they are looking anxiously for an European battalion.

Mr. Forbes, of Dalla, gave evidence before Mr. Ewart's Committee, on Monday and Thursday, of a most important character. Col. Sykes cross examined the witness, and signally failed.

The leaven of the old Government system will break out accordingly. Lately the Government of Bombay has been dictating to the sham municipal commissioners of that city the salary of their surveyor, which matter the city is not treated as competent to determine. Mr. Wilcox is to be the surveyor, at £720 a year.

The Calcutta citizens have memorialised the Governor-General that the Calcutta volunteers may be kept up; and it is to be hoped that, not only in Calcutta, but in every station of India, European volunteers will be organised as a permanent measure. With the growth of English population, this branch of our force is becoming important as a reserve. In Bengal alone several thousand volunteers could be kept up.

LATEST INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Bombay mail arrived this week with intelligence to the 9th February. The rebellion in Oude is announced to be at an end, and peace and order prevail. The rebels, who have been driven into Nepal, are dispirited, disorganised, and without supplies. The combined armies of the Begum, the Nana, and Beni Mahdoo, amount to about 12,000 men. Jung Bahadoor no sooner heard that they had crossed the Raptree and entered his territories than he issued a proclamation to the effect that all murderers and rebels in arms who crossed the Nepal border were to be given up to the British Government, and that all large armed bodies would be utterly destroyed. The Ghoorka army was at once moved downward, in the direction of the rebel position, and an application forwarded to Lord Clyde for troops to co-operate with the army of Nepal. Brigadier Horsford was ordered upon this duty, with his brigade.

In Oude the most effective measures are being adopted for the disarming of the people. The whole of the Sikh regiments have been ordered back to the Punjab. The Oude army has been diminished by more than one-third. The principal portion of the diminished army will be stationed at Lucknow. Seetapoor, Ghoruckpoor, Fyzabad, Roy Bareilly, Ghazeepoor, and Tooleepoor, are all to be garrisoned by strong bodies of British troops. A number of regiments have been ordered home. Lord Clyde was going to Simlah to recruit his health.

The only point where preparations for active

service are in progress is in Berar, where Sir Hugh Rose is organising a division for the suppression of the Rohillas. Sir Hugh is still spoken of as the probable successor to Lord Clyde.

Tantia Topee and Feroze Shah are still at large in Rajpootana, but their combined force is now dispersed and divided, and its fragments have almost ceased to be dangerous. Brigadiers Honner, Holmes, Park, Michel, and Becher, are following them closely from different points.

Lord Canning has returned to Calcutta and resumed his executive functions under the new title of "the Viceroy and Governor-General of India." Mr. Montgomery has been appointed to the lieutenant-governorship of the North-West Provinces, vice Sir John Lawrence, who returns to England by the first mail in March. It is expected that Mr. George Campbell will succeed Mr. Montgomery as Chief Commissioner in Oude.

Travancore has been the scene of serious caste disturbances. The population is composed mainly of two classes—the Soodras (Nairs) and the Shanars. The former are the chief landowners, and with a few honourable exceptions, are proud, oppressive, corrupt, and ignorant. The Shanars have been for years increasing in intelligence, wealth, and general respectability. Many have put themselves under regular Christian instruction. In Southern India it is the custom for low caste females to go naked from the waist upwards, and the Soodras have thought themselves justified, under the terms of the recent proclamation, in attempting to force Christian women of the Shanar caste to conform to the general practice. The attempt was resisted under the advice of the missionaries, and the consequence is that many of the mission chapels have been burnt down, and an attempt made to strip Shanar women in public. The resident's bungalow at Nagercoil, and some houses of Shanars at Tittovilly have also been burnt, as also eighty houses, inhabited by Roman Catholics, at Kotar. A woman and her child are said to have perished in the flames.

The *Bombay Times* says that the announcement of the new loan has caused a depreciation of 10 per cent. in all Government securities.

It is reported in Calcutta that Government has offered a reward of 10,000 Company's rupees for the arrest of Tantia Topee, and the same sum for that of the Rao Sahib.

THE AMERICANS AND THE REPUBLIC OF HAYTI.

The *New York Times* has the following significant remarks:—The island of St. Domingo is now in a condition which should excite friendly interest and attention on the part of the United States, if our Government could be brought to attempt anything of a practical character in respect to its neighbours. Soulouque's overthrow is a fortunate event. The entire island of St. Domingo is now under the rule of two men—Geffard and Santana. Of the former we know little. He is, however, understood to be a man of experience, of moderate views, and of a disposition favourable to intercourse with commercial nations. The fact that he has had the will and courage to put down a tyrant like Soulouque commends him to our regard, and it is to be hoped that this administration may not disappoint the general expectation. Santana, the President of the Dominican Republic is known both in this city, where he once resided, and in Europe. His partialities for the United States are known to be strong; but they have not been met in anything like a friendly or mutual spirit, and this for the very poor reason that he has negro blood in his veins, as have his countrymen, almost without exception. The repulses which he encountered from Washington, commencing under the Pierce administration, have driven him to look for European support; for it is easy to see that weak Governments like those of Dominica and Hayti must find foreign protection somewhere. The present juncture is a favourable one for the acquisition of American influence over St. Domingo. We would not recommend annexation, or any subversion of the existing Governments; but such recognition and friendly relations as would put our commercial intercourse on a good footing, and encourage our people to settle in the island for business purposes, thus developing its resources, increasing its products, and elevating its population, are eminently desirable. St. Domingo, though not so large as Cuba, is naturally a finer island. It contains an area of 27,000 square miles and is perhaps the most fertile, salubrious, and delightful portion of tropical America. Every part of it is watered by a profusion of streams flowing from its mountains, and the whole island, besides its vegetable productions, which are of the greatest abundance and value, is filled with mines of all precious and useful metals, including gold, silver, platinum, quicksilver, copper and iron; and this country, with its unsurpassed capabilities for profitable commerce, lies only 1,000 miles from New York.

THE PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

At the weekly meeting of the Society of Arts, Mr. William Hawes read a very able and instructive paper "On the Cape Colony—its products and resources."

Mr. Hawes commenced his sketch at the period of the cession of the colony to England by the Dutch, in 1806. From that date to 1813 the colony appeared to be prosperous. The first Kaffir war had just terminated, and a line of stockaded forts along the eastern frontier protected the inhabitants. The military force of England in the colony consisted of 4,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry, the expenditure connected with which stimulated agriculture and commerce. The cost of the government of the colony was, however, out of all proportion to its revenues. The colonial government was afterwards involved in pecuniary difficulties, and great discontent prevailed from the unsatisfactory way in which justice was dispensed. Slavery was abolished in 1833, the first practical effect of which was to deprive the farmers altogether of black labour. Under this state of things the Dutch population hailed with delight the prospect of colonisation in South Africa; but the third Kaffir war, suddenly breaking out, retarded the project. The colonial policy of Lord Glenelg greatly aggravated the evils of the war; in his dispatch, received early in 1836, he not only condemned the conduct of the colonists, but described the invasion of the Eastern province by the Kaffirs as a justifiable act. A better state of things dawned upon the colony when Lord Stanley became Colonial Minister in 1842, and from this time was to be dated the commencement of the rapid progress of the colony. In 1852, the colony obtained representative institutions. The first test of the progress of the colony was to be found in its revenue. From 1834 to 1844 it rose from £119,583 to £221,721; from 1845 to 1857, from £247,369 to £406,702. The resources of the colony were, however, capable of much greater development, as all who had visited it could testify. Twenty years ago there was but one newspaper in the colony; now there were eight newspapers published in Cape Town. There were also sixteen country papers. Justice appeared to be well administered at present. Education was also in a satisfactory state. The climate upon the whole was peculiarly favourable for emigrants, as during ten months of the year no fire was necessary except for cooking. The exports from this country to the Cape increased from £985,266 in 1854, to £1,602,607 in 1858; this, compared with population, gave an average consumption of £6 per head of British manufactures for the last year. The greatest drawback upon the progress and prosperity of the colony was the deficiency of the public roads. Travelling for pleasure was hardly known in the colony. Another matter affecting the prosperity of the colony was emigration. Everything there was checked for want of labour, and the question was raised how it could best be obtained. The first attempt on a large scale had not proved successful. The men and women composing the German legion did not make useful emigrants. From the time the emigrant arrives, he should consider the colony as his home. The climate and soil would secure to him a most ample reward for his industry. In no other colony was the return for industry employed in agriculture more certain and remunerative. At present there was great demand for skilled labour; it was only really skilful workmen who could obtain high wages, for inferior hands had to compete with Malay labour. The certainty and regularity of communication with England was also of great importance to emigrants.

A discussion ensued, in which Messrs. P. L. Simmonds, E. W. Tront, J. G. Frith, R. A. Slaney, M.F., Mr. Irons, S. Sidney, and Hyde Clarke, took part.

THE AMERICAN REVENUE.—The Washington correspondent of the *New York Courier and Inquirer* gives a very unfavourable account of the revenue returns. He says:—"The revenue continues to decline very rapidly. Yesterday the receipts at New York were 40,000 dols.; on the 17th, 40,000 dols.; the day before, 58,000 dols.; and on Monday about 80,000 dols.—that is, they are but a trifle over 50,000 dols. per day, or 300,000 dols. a week; and at all the ports not over 500,000 dols. per week, and this, with an annual average expenditure of 75,000,000 dols. a year. The deficit of 25,000,000 dols. or 30,000,000 dols. a year is going on; it must go on. We commenced borrowing only one year ago, and have already taken up on promises to pay 40,000,000 dols. It is obviously beginning to fail. The last loan is even now a fraction lower on the New York Stock Exchange than the average rate at which it was taken a month ago. The majority party in Congress, however, refuse to allow more loans to be made, though capitalists be never so anxious to lend. They are equally obstinate in obstructing the raising of additional revenue in any shape whatever."

COMMERCIAL.

OUR RAILWAYS IN 1858.

It is a favourite modern theory that profit in the progress of society, as men multiply and are obliged to employ more labour in procuring subsistence, has a continual tendency to fall, and this tendency, according to the theory, is only stayed at intervals by great discoveries of new land to cultivate, or new inventions which obtain from old land more produce by less labour. Amongst such inventions no one is more remarkable than the railway. The celerity and cheapness with which it conveys men and commodities from where they are not wanted to where they are wanted, is tantamount to the discovery of new lands. It is remarkable as the parent of numerous subsidiary inventions for saving labour. The telegraph is one of its adjuncts. Turntables, by which a single hand moves the ponderous waggon or the heavier locomotive from line to line; springs, and guides, and catches, by which the enormous train is quietly conducted into a new path, shunted till another has passed, or sent forward in a new direction; breaks which stop, and buffers which gradually bring the long multitude of coupled carriages to a stand-still without the least shock, and signals which direct the hundreds of trains when they must stop, or when move on, are only specimens of the many extraordinary parts of the rail, which never fail to excite admiration. Yet this great invention, so wonderfully successful as a mechanical contrivance, and so remarkable as a means of saving labour, lessening cost, and augmenting the general rate of profit, is itself a comparatively unprofitable concern. While the capital engaged in banking has yielded its owners from 15 to 25 per cent. per annum, the railway—the great means of enhancing the general rate of profit, of which banking profit is only a part, and out of which it is paid—has not yielded, on the whole, more than an average of 3½ per cent., and many railways have paid no dividends at all. So great a mechanical success, combined with so great a pecuniary disappointment, is not to be found in the annals of history. A short general explanation of the two circumstances thus placed in contrast is, that the men who did the mechanical part knew, or learned as they went on, what they were about, and did it earnestly, honestly, and zealously; while the men who hastily undertook the commercial part—from the Legislature, which began to interfere with what it was totally ignorant of, to the directors, who thought chiefly of filling their own pockets by hook or by crook, and to the shareholders, who embarked their money in the concern with the expectation of getting large returns without trouble, and which they could not or would not take means to secure—did their work hastily, unthinkingly, very greedily, and very often very fraudulently. These different results add another to the many great lessons which facts are continually impressing on mankind—though they are as continually disregarded—that success, continuous success, is only to be obtained by earnest, honest, and zealous exertions, and that failure, in the end, is always the result of meddling ignorance, haste, and fraud. These and similar circumstances we ought always to remember, that we may place our trust in knowledge, earnestness, and integrity, and distrust and despise ignorant meddlers, pretenders to knowledge, who are only greedy of power and wealth. They are now forced on our attention by the official account just published, the latest that can be prepared of the traffic of all the railways in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, in the half-year ended June 30th, 1858, compared with a summary of the traffic in the half-year ended June, 1857, which brings under notice one immediate cause of the pecuniary failure of our railways.

The total receipts from all sorts of traffic on all the lines in the home empire, in the six months ended June, 1858, was 11,130,924*l.*, and ended June, 1857, 11,461,910*l.*; a diminution in the first half of 1858, as compared to 1857, of 330,986*l.*; a noble income, nevertheless—a great revenue worthily gained. On the Scotch rails the decrease was only 727*l.*, which was entirely for goods, the receipts for passengers having increased. On

the Irish rails there was an increase of 8,046*l.*; and on the English and Welsh rails the decrease was 337,604*l.*. As there was no similar comparative decline in the last half of 1858, and as the weekly returns, with the prospects of trade, as far as they have gone hitherto, intimate an increase in the present half-year, the decline in the first half of 1858, we may conclude, was due to the trade convulsion. As might be expected, it affected Scotch railways but little, and Irish not at all. It is to be remarked, too, that the decline was greater on the carriage of goods, on all the railways, from 6,147,172*l.* to 5,925,510*l.*, or 221,662*l.*, than on the passengers, from 5,314,737*l.* to 5,205,414*l.*, or 109,323*l.*. Further, the decline in the receipts from passengers was wholly of the first and second class, together 117,331*l.*, while the receipts from the third class were 11,417*l.* greater in the half-year of 1858 than of 1857;—another proof of the assertion often made, that the continuous success of the rail is to be expected, like the success of all other useful contrivances, from serving the great multitude well, rather than the aristocratic few. It may be still further noticed, that the receipts from the carriage of minerals was greater in 1858 than in 1857, and that the entire falling-off in the receipts for goods, was in general merchandise and live stock. It appears, however, that this alteration in the receipts, which does not accord with the quantities carried—for less minerals and more live stock were carried in 1858 than in 1857—must have originated from an alteration in the rates of carriage.

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS AND QUANTITIES OF MERCHANDISE CARRIED BY TRAINS RUN IN THE HALF-YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 1857 AND 1858.									
ENGLAND AND WALES.									
1st half 1857	1st half 1858	PASSENGERS.		No. of Trains.	Goods.		No. of Live Stock.	1st half 1857	1st half 1858
		No. of Trains.	No. of Passengers.		Quantity of Merchandise.	Quantity of Minerals.			
766,474	813,881	32,908,646	82,477,170	447,660	10,663,465	18,277,701	3,564,640	4,149,175	
103,679	110,281	6,573,693	6,477,207	105,354	1,408,489	4,183,962	571,253	571,253	
64,125	67,027	3,654,885	3,657,495	9,666	489,027	58,302	516,635	529,220	
63,177	69,189	6,137,225	6,241,933	562,900	12,387,311	22,320,225	4,997,501	5,209,693	
TOTAL OF THE EMPIRE.									
103,679	110,281	6,573,693	6,477,207	105,354	1,408,489	4,183,962	571,253	571,253	
64,125	67,027	3,654,885	3,657,495	9,666	489,027	58,302	516,635	529,220	
63,177	69,189	6,137,225	6,241,933	562,900	12,387,311	22,320,225	4,997,501	5,209,693	
SCOTLAND.									
103,679	110,281	6,573,693	6,477,207	105,354	1,408,489	4,183,962	571,253	571,253	
64,125	67,027	3,654,885	3,657,495	9,666	489,027	58,302	516,635	529,220	
63,177	69,189	6,137,225	6,241,933	562,900	12,387,311	22,320,225	4,997,501	5,209,693	
IRELAND.									
103,679	110,281	6,573,693	6,477,207	105,354	1,408,489	4,183,962	571,253	571,253	
64,125	67,027	3,654,885	3,657,495	9,666	489,027	58,302	516,635	529,220	
63,177	69,189	6,137,225	6,241,933	562,900	12,387,311	22,320,225	4,997,501	5,209,693	

That the traffic of the half-year of 1858 was even less profitable than the mere diminution of receipts

would show, appears probable from the fact that more work was actually done. Though fewer passengers of the first and second class, and a smaller quantity of merchandise were carried 72,580 more trains were run, and they travelled 1,601,961 miles more than in the half-year of 1857. We give above a tabular illustration of the number of trains and passengers, and amount of goods carried in the three parts of the empire, or of the actual business of the rails.

The continued backwardness of Ireland may be inferred from this table, which is the only additional remark we shall make on it. With a population more than twice as large as Scotland, the number of railway trains, and of passengers, and the amount of goods carried, but especially the number of goods-trains and the amount of merchandise, are very considerably, almost amazingly less. Ireland either needs a great deal more to be done for it by the Government, or to be very much more left to its own energies.

Not intending, however, at present to give a complete analysis of these minute and elaborate tables, which, containing no account of the finances of the railways further than the receipts, require to be examined in conjunction with the financial returns to make up the whole subject, we shall for the present only notice one other feature of these returns. From it having been repeatedly stated that the competition of some of the lines has worked to their mutual injury, and that the original and great trunk lines always pay, while the auxiliary and feeding lines, about which the competition has generally taken place, are a loss, we looked at the evidence for this assertion. The returns inform us of the receipts on the trunk lines separately from the receipts on the lines the companies work in addition. Thus the length of the Great Northern, including East Lincolnshire, is 283 miles 56½ chains, and the receipts in the first half of 1858 were 559,825*l.*, and the length of the Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston, Hereford, Midland Counties, &c., lines, which the Company also works, was 74 miles 84 chains, and the receipts were only 37,647*l.*. So with the three other lines which have had the most competition, as will be seen from the following table:—

LENGTH OF LINES AND RECEIPTS OF FOUR PRINCIPAL RAILWAYS IN THE HALF YEAR ENDED JUNE 1858.

Name of Railway.	Length of its own line.	Receipts in the half year.	Length of auxiliary line worked.	Receipts from this source.	Proportion of receipts to original line.	Proportion of receipts to auxiliary line.
Eastn. Co.	410 17½	582,080	87 10½	27,533	1,400	306
Gt. Westn.	403 26	717,400	98 20½	114,233	1,540	1,166
Gt. North.	283 56½	559,825	74 84	37,647	1,904	501
N. Westn.	683 18½	1,510,040	123 40	132,230	2,278	1,066

This is the especial cause of failure these tables bring under notice. We presume it may be said that these facts do not distinctly show the actual state of the case—that many of the receipts on the main lines are due to the feeders—that the accounts are not made up to show the great differences for which we have used them; nevertheless, these differences are so great, and so marked in every one of these lines, that we believe they do tend to prove the gross improvidence which has animated all these four companies in seeking to engross neighbouring traffic, and entering into competition to obtain it. In all the cases the receipts on the auxiliary lines are extremely small compared to the receipts on the main lines. It is, we think, as strong evidence nearly as can be offered, subordinate to the general fact of the general disappointment, that the want of pecuniary success is entirely due to the reckless mismanagement of directors, and the miserable legislation which has authorised and guaranteed their proceedings.

GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

London, Friday Evening.

ALL our markets continue steady, and without activity. The markets in Mark Lane and in Mincing Lane are quiet and dull. We never remember a period when the commercial world was, for the public, more uninteresting than at present. The tea market, in consequence of the reports from China, continues firm.

A circumstance of some importance to tea-drinkers is mentioned by W. S. Shuttleworth and Co., in their tea circular of March 10th. They say that a considerable quantity of damaged tea, perfectly unfit for consumption, and no better than decayed vegetable matter, has been publicly sold, and, after being re-washed and dried, is to be mixed with other teas, adulterating them, and sold to the public. The transaction, as they describe it, is extremely reprehensible, and they raise a public question of great importance—to wit, the duty of the Board of Customs to allow such tea to be sold. Is this body, which levies the duties on tea, bound to see that all the articles which it permits to pass are genuine and fit for consumption? Messrs. Shuttleworth, by their complaints, imply that it is. We have no recollection of the question having been mooted before; nevertheless, there does seem to be an obligation on the Board which passes a commodity as tea to be sure that it is tea. If this be the duty of the Board of Customs as to tea, it must extend to wine and all other things which pay Customs duties, and it should guarantee the genuineness of every article on which it levies a tax.

We have not very much of importance to report from the manufacturing districts. If anything, trade has slightly improved. This is to be attributed to the partial dispersion of gloom caused by the apprehension of a Continental war. As far as the export trade to the Continent is concerned, orders from the German markets have come in rather more freely, but there can be no doubt that trade continues to be greatly restricted, in consequence of the uncertainty as to the future which continues to prevail. Our remarks, of course, have special application to the foreign trade. With reference to the home trade, we believe, from inquiries we have instituted in quarters likely to be well informed in matters connected with the actual condition and prospects of commerce, that the trade of the country is in a sound condition. The discount houses, which are tolerably good judges of what is going on in the commercial world, report that at no time within the last twenty years do they recollect so little of what is termed speculation business being carried on. Of course, in a country like England, with its vast commercial complications, it will always be impossible to do away with what is called speculation business, and then, again, it must be recollected the line between legitimate and speculative trading, in some instances, is so fine as to make it excusable in the case of traders who do not look very closely to where the one ends and the other begins.

LIVERPOOL.—A very good, but not a large business has been done in cotton. The prices are well kept up. The last advices from America being regarded as favourable, caused a brisk business to be done.

MANCHESTER.—The Indian orders, of course, keep spinners and the mills well employed. For yarns there has been a very good market. German orders have come in freely, and shippers begin to feel more confidence. The prices are about 4d. per lb. higher than last week, and we should not be surprised if we had to record a further advance, as even 4d. per lb. more has been given in some instances. The trade in yarns for India has also been good; but we are glad to have to state that the bulk of the trade this week has been for the home and continental markets. The cloth markets is also firm. For shirtings and other India fabrics the markets has been active. Manufacturers are not over supplied with stocks, and as they are well furnished with orders for delivery by a stated time, they are at ease, and, of course, are not disposed to accept lower prices.

LEEDS.—The halls have been fairly attended. Seasonable goods are in demand; but high priced qualities are not so much in demand.

BRADFORD.—The wool trade is quiet. Caution appears to be in the ascendant, and purchases are consequently limited. The Bristol wool fair was well attended by growers and staplers; but the business done was of a restricted character. Prices were generally higher at the fair on the first day. In worsted yarns there is a fair business for home consumption; but for export the demand is quiet. The piece goods, although prices are not so high as a few weeks ago, they still continue firm, and where parties are disposed to give way, large engagements are immediately entered into. The fancy departments for goods suited to the season continue brisk.

LIVERPOOL.—The hosiery trade continues active, and the knitting-frame districts also continue to be well employed.

NOTTINGHAM.—The hosiery trade is rather quieter. The lace trade still continues dull, but in plain goods a more active demand has been experienced. In silk and fancy goods no demand exists.

THE IRON TRADE.—South Staffordshire and South

Wales are busy with railway orders from abroad, and are likely to keep so for some time to come.

BIRMINGHAM.—Trade is generally good, but not so large as it might be.

We are sorry to have to state that the shoemakers' strike is on the increase. The masters have introduced the sewing machine, and have expressed their determination to use it permanently. The operatives who have joined the strike are being supported by funds raised from workmen in employ; but it is calculated that this state of things cannot last long, and that the men will have to give in. The coal miners have not all returned to work; but the strike is dying out in several districts.

MONEY MARKET & STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday Evening.

THE funds were flat to-day, after being buoyant yesterday and the day before. Consols opened at 96½, but on the arrival of a telegram from Paris, announcing a fall in the funds, declined considerably, and were at one time at 96, sellers. Towards the close of the market they rallied, and, after hours, were done at 96½. The war apprehensions, or apprehensions of dissensions and Cabinet changes at home, operate unfavourably.

In the week, hopes of peace were strengthened; and, in consequence, funds and shares were generally looking upwards, or had risen considerably. To this cause is owing the speculative action which has begun at Liverpool in cotton. The holders and merchants there expect, from the continuance of peace, a greatly increased consumption of cotton in England and on the Continent. They believe, therefore, that it must be dearer, and they are, by their purchases, beginning to make it so, which will have the effect of checking, in good time, the consumption and the production of more cloth than will be required. It will save spinners and manufacturers from now working too fast, to be brought hereafter suddenly to a total stop by the scarcity or excessive dearth of the raw material. Though such speculative purchases are occasionally derided, they tend most beneficially to preserve a constant equality between the supply and the demand. The same cause which has induced this speculative action has tended to enhance the rate of money, for which there is a somewhat increased demand. The terms, too, are higher, but the market generally becomes more stringent as money is collected in the Bank of England for taxes.

Now that the peaceful commercial public seem to have made themselves heard and attended to by the Continental war-seeking politicians, we hope they will continue to enforce their demands for peace. If society generally be peaceful, the Sovereigns cannot carry on war; and we must look, therefore, more to the general disposition of society than to the schemes of politicians, to form our auguries for the future.

The Bank of France returns for March show a large increase of bullion, and the stock in that bank now amounts to 22½ millions. Trade in France seems to have suffered much by the war agitation, and the bills discounted in March are 1½ millions less than in February.

Into our country, too, more bullion is coming in than is going out, though the exports to India are large in the present month, and the accumulation of the precious metals is another proof of the comparative stagnation of trade.

Attention has been directed to a movement on the part of the Great Western Railway—Midland Counties—to procure the insertion of clauses into a railway bill, to relieve this company from the obligation to regulate their fares by the clauses of their previous bills. Many of the manufacturers and others interested in the carriage by the main lines remonstrated against this proceeding, and on Tuesday a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce of Birmingham, headed by Mr. Spooner, M.P., Lord Calthorpe, M.P., and Mr. H. B. Sheridan, M.P., waited on Lord Donoughmore, to draw the attention of the Government to the bill. If there be any intention of smuggling the bill through Parliament, we hope it will be defeated.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 8.

BANKRUPTS.

CHARLES DUFF, Cheapside, and Freeman's-court, Cheapside, printer.
THOMAS NEWMAN, Hindolveston, Norfolk, general shopkeeper.

ROBERT MABBS, Upper-street, Islington, milkman.
ROBERT WEBB, East India-road, apothecary.
EDWIN FREDERICK UNWIN, Strand, hosier.
GEORGE MERRONY, Maidstone, licensed victualler.
WILLIAM JOHN FOWERAKER, Tiverton, innkeeper.
ALFRED METCALFE, Bridlington, Yorkshire, draper.
THOMAS GIBBONS, late of Stockport, linendraper.

Friday, March 11.

BANKRUPTS.

ROBERT WHEELER, 58, Crawford-street, Bryanston-square, oil and colourman.
JOHN ELLIOTT, Farnham, Surrey, blacksmith.
JOHN LAMBERT, Nottingham, tailor.
WILLIAM JOLLIFFE GREGORY, Kingweston, victualler.
JONAH JENKINS, Llanharan, Glamorganshire, shoe maker.
THOMAS SLATOR, Paddington, grocer.
JOHN WESTON BENDEL, Minorities, carman.
JAMES HUNT, Warwick, miller and baker.
EDWARD LACEY, Horwick, Derbyshire, builder.
FRANCIS WITTON HUGGINS and CHARLES WITTON HUGGINS, Derby, wine merchants.
THOMAS LEAKE, jun., Nottingham, furniture dealer.
EDWARD HAWKES, Birmingham, tobacconist.
JOSEPH BAXTER, Birmingham, builder.
WALTER BOUTCHER MASTERS, Hackney-rd., draper.
GEORGE MORRIS, King Edward-street, Newgate-street, licensed victualler.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, the 9th day of March, 1859:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued.....£33,721,015	Government Debt £11,015,100
	Other Securities .. 3,430,900
	Gold Coin & Bullion 19,245,015
	Silver Bullion
£33,721,015	£33,721,015

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital.....£14,553,000	Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....£10,696,147
Reserve.....3,649,821	Other Securities... 16,474,750
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....8,741,162	Notes.....13,285,005
Other Deposits... 13,440,220	Gold and Silver Coin.....705,007
Seven Day and other Bills.....770,706	
£41,160,909	£41,160,909

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated March 10, 1859.

STATE OF TRADE IN FRANCE.—The shopkeepers of Paris, particularly those who supply the English, complain that trade has not been so bad as at present since the year 1848. A letter from Lyons says—"Nothing is changed in the position of the great commercial houses. The manufacturers continue to receive orders particularly from Italy. Orders have been received from the duchies of Modena, Parma, and Reggio, which do not please our commission agents, as they afford but little profit. Orders were received from Messina and Palermo for a quantity of coloured handkerchiefs, at such a low price that the manufacturers refuse to execute them. Manufacturers of jewellery in imitation of precious stones set in gold have received orders from Belgium, Italy, and Spain; there is no demand for jewellery in pure gold." Accounts from Bordeaux, Havre, Lille, Marseilles, and Nantes state that trade is dull in all these towns. The Paris flour market was firm last week, notwithstanding the bakers showed little inclination to purchase. The millers complain in several places of a deficiency of water, and, as the season for snow is past, it is feared that the rivers will be too low next summer to enable the mills to work. Under these circumstances the millers refuse to make any further reduction in the price of flour.

HALF HOLIDAY.—A meeting of bankers' clerks and others interested in the early closing of these establishments, and in carrying out the Saturday half-holiday movement, has taken place; Mr. Reynolds, of the firm of Messrs. Glyn and Co., presiding. It was intimated that active endeavours are being made to canvass the spice and colonial brokers, whose transactions on the Saturday alone prevent the concession, and that several firms show a disposition to make the necessary arrangements. Some of the larger houses yet, however, hesitate to give their consent, but it is nevertheless still hoped that on further representations the partners will adjust their engagements so as to allow of the privilege to be enjoyed by the numerous employees of the London bankers. If this object can be attained little difficulty will then interpose to a general half-holiday among the whole of the mercantile community.

SHARES AND STOCKS.

No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.		No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.		No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.	
				T.	F.											T.	F.
8454 1/2	12	10	Ambergate, &c.	64 1/2	0 1/2	Stock	100	100	Chester and Holyhead, 5 per cent.	127	...	48810	20 1/2	13	Great Western Canada New	4 1/2	8 1/2
Stock	100	100	Birkenhead, Lancashire, and	64 1/2	0 1/2	Stock	100	100	Cork and Brandon, 5 1/2 per cent.	101	116	...	100	all	Ditto Bonds 1876	105	105
Stock	100	100	Cheshire Junction	64 1/2	0 1/2	Stock	100	100	East Anglian, Class A, 5 and 7 p.c.	116	100	...	Ditto 1873 without op.	105	105
Stock	100	100	Bristol and Exeter	93 1/2	8 1/2	Stock	100	100	Class B, 6 per cent.	112	112	25000	20	...	Ditto 5 1/2 p. et., 1877, ditto	98	98
Stock	100	100	Caledonian	84 1/2	8 1/2	Stock	100	100	Class C, 7 per cent.	112	112	25000	20	...	Madras guar. 1/2 per cent.	181	17 1/2
Stock	100	100	Chester and Holyhead	48 1/2	4 1/2	Stock	100	100	Eastern Counties Extension, 5 per cent.	117	117	50000	20	...	Ditto ditto 5 do	201	20 1/2
Stock	100	100	East Anglian	10	15 1/2	Stock	100	100	Eastern Union, 4 per cent.	116	116	50000	20	...	Ditto 4 1/2 per cent. Extension	104	10 1/2
Stock	100	100	Eastern Counties	60 1/2	6 1/2	Stock	100	100	Eastern Union, class A	134	134	25000	20	...	Ditto Thirds ditto	par	par
Stock	100	100	Eastern Union, class A	30 1/2	3 1/2	Stock	100	100	class B	120 1/2	120 1/2	25000	20	...	Ditto Fourths ditto	par	par
Stock	100	100	East Kent	93 1/2	9 1/2	Stock	100	100	Great Northern, 5 per cent.	112 1/2	112 1/2	25000	20	...	Scinde	15 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	East Lancashire	71	7 1/2	Stock	100	100	Great Northern, 5 per cent. Redeemable at 10 per cent. pm	112 1/2	112 1/2	25000	20	...	Ditto New	21	21
Stock	100	100	Edinburgh and Glasgow	27 1/2	2 1/2	Stock	100	100	Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 4 per cent.	100	101	50000	10	...	Ditto Punjab	10 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee	105 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	Great Western, red. 5 per cent.	87	80 1/2	8293 1/2	20	...	Trinidad (limited) Scrip	par	par
Stock	100	100	Great Northern	89	8 1/2	Stock	100	100	Great Western, red. 5 per cent.	87	80 1/2	8293 1/2	20	...			
Stock	100	100	Great Southern and Western (I.)	134 1/2	13 1/2	Stock	100	100	Great Western, red. 5 per cent.	87	80 1/2	8293 1/2	20	...			
Stock	100	100	Great Western	57 1/2	5 1/2	Stock	100	100	Great Western, red. 5 per cent.	87	80 1/2	8293 1/2	20	...			
Stock	100	100	Lancaster and Carlisle	113 1/2	11 1/2	Stock	100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire, 6 per cent.	142	142	100000	20	...	FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Stock	100	100	— Thirds	113 1/2	11 1/2	Stock	100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire, 6 per cent.	142	142	100000	20	...	Antwerp and Rotterdam	5 1/2	5 1/2
Stock	100	100	— New Thirds	95 1/2	9 1/2	Stock	100	100	London and Brighton, New, guar. 6 per cent.	165	165	11339 1/2	4	...	Belgian Eastern Junction	5	5
Stock	100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	10	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	London and S.W., late Third	71	71	26500	20	...	Dutch Rhineish	10 1/2	10 1/2
Stock	100	100	— F. 10 1/2	10	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincoln. 3 1/2 per cent.	71	71	26500	20	...	Eastern of France	27 1/2	27 1/2
Stock	100	100	— 10 1/2 shares	10	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	— 6 1/2	71	71	26500	20	...	Great Luxembourg Constituted	6 1/2	6 1/2
Stock	100	100	London and Blackwall	102 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	Midland Consolidated, 6 p. et. Stk.	141	141	8333 1/2	5	...	— Obligations
Stock	100	100	London, Brighton, and South C.	102 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	— Bristol and Birm., 6 p. et.	141	141	8333 1/2	5	...	Namur and Liege	5 1/2	5 1/2
Stock	100	100	London and North Western	102 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	— 4 1/2 per cent. pref.	141	141	8333 1/2	5	...	Northern of France	35	35 1/2
Stock	100	100	— Eighthths	102 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	Norfolk Extension, 5 per cent.	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Paris and Lyons	34	34 1/2
Stock	100	100	London and South Western	102 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	North British	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Paris and Orleans	35	35
Stock	100	100	Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln	102 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	North Eastern—Derwick, 4 per cent. pref.	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Royal Danish	27000	20
Stock	100	100	Metropolitan	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	— York, H. and S. purchase	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Royal Swedish	10	10
Stock	100	100	Midland	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	North Staffordshire	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Sambre and Meuse	10	10
Stock	100	100	Birmingham and Derby	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 6 per cent.	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	West Flanders	10	10
Stock	100	100	Midland Great Western (I.)	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	Scottish North-Eastern Aberdeen	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Western and N.-W. of France	24 1/2	24 1/2
Stock	100	100	Newport, Abr., and Hereford	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	— 7 per cent. 6 Pref. Stock	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...			
Stock	100	100	Norfolk	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	— 3 1/2 per cent. Pref. Stock	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	MISCELLANEOUS.		
Stock	100	100	Northern Counties Union	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	South Devon, Annuities 10s.	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Australian Agricultural	34	34
Stock	100	100	North British	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	South Eastern, 1 1/2 per cent. pref.	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Australian Royal Mail	1	1
Stock	100	100	North Eastern—Derwick	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100	South Yorkshire, 4 per cent. guar.	114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Atlantic Telegraph (Limited)	250	250
Stock	100	100	— G. N. E. Purchase	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	British and Irish Mag. Tel. A.	38 1/2	38 1/2
Stock	100	100	— Leeds	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Do. B. 7 per cent. till 1862	21	21
Stock	100	100	— York	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Do. C.	15	15
Stock	100	100	North London	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Canada Land	126	126
Stock	100	100	North Staffordshire	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Crystal Palace	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	Oxford, Worcester, and Wolv.	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Do. Preference	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	Scottish Central	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Eur. and Amer. Steam (Limited)	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	Scottish N. Eastern Aberdeen Stk.	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Eastern Steam	100	100
Stock	100	100	Scottish Midland Stock	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Electric Telegraph	102	102 1/2
Stock	100	100	Shropshire Union	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Electric Telegraph of Ireland	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	South Devon	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	English and Australian Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	South Eastern	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	European and Indian Jn. Tel.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	South Wales	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	General Steam Navigation	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	South Yorkshire and River Dun.	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	London Discount	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	Do. do.	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	London Gen. Omnibus Company	1 1/2	1 1/2
Stock	100	100	Vale of Neath	100 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100		114	114	267 1/2	8 1/2	...	Mediterranean Electric Telegraph	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Mediterranean Ex. Tel. (Limited)	1 1/2	1 1/2
															National Discount Company	1 1/2	1 1/2
															North British Australasian	1 1/2	1 1/2
															North of Europe Steam	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Oriental Gas	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Do. "New Shares"	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Peel River Land and Min.	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Peninsular and Oriental Steam	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Do. New	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Rhymney Iron	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Do. New	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Royal Mail Steam	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Scottish Australian Investment	1 1/2	1 1/2
															South Australian Land	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Submarine Telegraph Scrip.	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Do. Do. Registered	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Trust and Loan Company of Upper	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Canada	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Van Diemen's Land	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Victoria Docks	1 1/2	1 1/2
															Do. New	1 1/2	1 1/2

* Ex. Dividend, or ex. New.

* Ex. Dividend, or ex. New.

HOME, COLONIAL AND FOREIGN
PRODUCE MARKETS.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Friday Evening.

THE political news, which has caused so much buoyancy in public securities, has had very little effect in these markets, which have been more than usually dull throughout the week. A more hopeful view of Continental affairs has been very generally expressed, but the almost entire absence of speculation and the *bona fide* character of trade render the markets extremely unsuceptible to mere conjectures of any kind, and until the arrangement of existing complications takes a more tangible form, not much improvement is expected.

CORN.—The dullness in the corn trade is still unrelieved, and although supplies are not by any means pressed, quotations graduate in the buyer's favour. The best qualities of English wheat have met a steady sale at about late rates; but secondary and deteriorated samples have offered at 1s. to 2s. decline, without finding very ready buyers. Foreign wheat is held for late rates, at which it moves off in retail quantity only. The flour trade is tolerably steady, and prices are without the slightest change. Barley of all descriptions meets a fair demand, at prior quotations. Beans and peas were rather cheaper in the early part of the week, but closed without material change to-day. The supplies of oats in granary are diminishing, and prices are consequently firm.

Arrivals.

	English.	Foreign.
Wheat (quarters).....	5,007	4,474
Barley ".....	2,177	310
Malt ".....	10,500	—
Oats ".....	7,255	3,605
Beans ".....	723	—
Peas ".....	172	172
Flour (sacks).....	14,031	973

London Averages.

	s.	d.
Wheat (quarters).....	2,966	43 3
Barley ".....	395	34 3
Oats ".....	3,805	24 6
Beans ".....	264	38 2
Peas ".....	172	38 8

SEEDS.—The week's arrivals of linseed are 4,100 quarters, consisting of 1,900 East Indian and 2,000 Black Sea. Prices tend slightly in the buyer's favour. Sellers of Bombay at 55s., and Calcutta at 51s. to 53s. Several cargoes of Black Sea and Azoff, waiting orders at Falmouth, are offering at 52s. 6d., delivered U. K. Fine sound Calcutta rapeseed is scarce at 51s. to 51s. 3d. Fine Bombay is worth 62s. on the spot, and 61s. for arrival. Sesame, teal, and Gingelly are of slow sale. In clover seed a good business has been concluded; choice white at the extremely high prices of 100s. to 105s.; good, 80s. to 90s.; English red, 84s. to 86s. for choice samples, and 72s. to 80s. for good. Trefoil inactive.

OILCAKES remain in steady demand at recent quotations.

POTATOES.—Trade continues very steady, and supplies somewhat large. York Regents, 70s. to 100s.; flukes, 90s. to 110s.; Scotch Regents, 40s. to 80s.; cups, 40s. to 55s.; Dunbar Regents, 70s. to 85s.; cups, 55s. to 65s.; French, 40s. to 50s. per ton.

LIVE STOCK.—The supplies of all descriptions of stock continue light, notwithstanding the present high prices. The demand, although not brisk, has effect upon a scanty market, and quotations have still an upward tendency, sheep having made 2d. to 4d. advance. The following show the numbers at market and current quotations:—

Monday.			
Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
3,505	10,450	103	420
4s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.	4s. 8d. to 6s.	4s. 4d. to 6s.	3s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.
Thursday.			
800	5,050	180	200
4s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.	4s. 8d. to 6s.	4s. 4d. to 6s.	3s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.

PROVISIONS.—The dead meat markets have been moderately well supplied, and trade not over good; but prices are higher, in consequence of the dearth of live stock. Beef this morning sold at 3s. 2d. to 4s. 4d.; mutton, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.; veal, 4s. 4d. to 5s.; pork, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d. per stone by the carcass.

SUGAR.—The market is exceedingly dull, and, although supplies have been brought forward sparingly, prices have, in nearly every case, had a drooping tendency. Good strong Porto Rico and Cuba muscavadoes, from their scarcity, are exceptionally firm. Madras is decidedly cheaper by 6d. to 1s. per cwt., and other imports are the turn of the market to 6d. lower. The sales of 57,000 bags Java in Holland by the Netherlands Trading Company,

opened at a decline of 1 to 2 fl., but closed at a slight advance on the November currency. This result has had no appreciable effect here. Arrivals this week have been moderate; and, as large deliveries can hardly follow the present rate of selling, stocks are likely to show some increase in future returns. In floating cargoes the business is *nil*. Refined sugars are taken off slowly, but prices remain steady.

COFFEE is very firmly held, and in the few transactions occurring on the spot, extreme prices are paid. Mocha and Foreign East India kinds have realised very full prices. Floating cargoes of Rio and St. Domingo are in demand, and three have sold for the Continent, namely, one St. Domingo, for a near port, at 48s.; one common first Rio, for the Baltic, at 47s. 3d.; and another of Rio, for Trieste, at 48s. per cwt. The Rio news is favourable to holders, and on the continent the markets continue extremely firm.

TEA.—Beyond the sale of some 3,000 or 4,000 cwt. damaged teas (salvage), scarcely anything has been done. Common congous are quoted 1s. 1½d. and 1s. 1¾d., which is a shade easier. The present stock in the Kingdom is 67,399,000 lbs., against 74,528,000 lbs. last year. The quantity afloat is 18,800,000 lbs., against 17,900,000 lbs. last year.

COCOA engaged a very little attention. The Government contract for 100 has been supplied from Guayaquil imports.

RICE.—Transactions are inconsiderable. The present stock comprises 32,000 tons Bengal, principally low and good white; 14,000 tons Rangoon, about one-sixth good; 7,000 tons Necranzie about one-third good, 6,000 tons Moulmein, about one-fifth good; the remainder of these parcels, as well as 3,000 tons sundries, is of ordinary quality, and the total stock is about 76,000 tons. The quantity afloat is 4,500 tons.

SALTETRE.—Fine qualities have receded 6d. to 1s., but medium kinds are steady, and a limited business is doing.

COCHINEAL has been dull of sale until to-day, when the public sales went with some spirit, the greater portion selling, principally, it is thought, for export to the East. Prices are not materially altered.

SAFFLOWER sells steadily at full prices.

SHELLAC.—DC orange is in demand at 95s. per cwt.

CUTCH remains steady. Gambier in great request at 15s. 9d. to 16s. per cwt.

COTTON.—At Niverpool a fair amount of sales has been effected at full prices, the American news favoring the market. In London but little is passing, but holders are indifferent sellers at present quotations.

HEMP.—All descriptions quiet, but steady.

METALS.—Scotch pig iron has moved up a little, touching 52s. The shipments are better. Spelter has been sold at 21½ 5s. for small plates, which is cheaper. In other metals the changes have been unimportant.

OILS.—Linseed sold at 29s. 3d., at which there are now buyers, but few sellers, 29s. 6d. being demanded. For future delivery scarcely anything doing. Rape Oil is dull of sale on the spot, at 44s. to 44s. 6d. for foreign refined, 41s. to 41s. 6d. for foreign, and 40s. for English brown. Business has been done for delivery, extending into the autumn and winter months, at 40s. for foreign brown and 43s. for pale. Several hundred tons of Olive have changed hands at rather easier prices; a cargo of Tarento, in store, at 46½, and some Candia at the same price; Malaga is scarce, and brings 48½ readily; Gallipoli 48½ 10s. to 49½; Mogadore barely 43½; a cargo of Gallipoli sold at 46½ 10s., cost freight and insurance to the Baltic. Tarento floating offers at 45½ 10s., cost freight and insurance to the United Kingdom, with option of contract at 10s. extra freight. Cocoon nut in second hands passed at 40½ to 40½ 10s. for Ceylon; Cochin quoted 42½ to 43½. Palm arrives freely from Lagos, offers at 43½ 10s. Sperm scarce, and worth 100½ for American, and 102½ for fine Colonial; Cod 35½, but the stock nearly all in second hands.

TURPENTINE.—The sales are 3,750 barrels, at 10s. for inferior to 11s. for good. No arrivals at this port, but some off the coast, chiefly imported by distillers. The price of spirits is barely supported; American barrels offer at 44s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—On Wednesday, many settlements of contracts for the month were made at 52s.; but the consumptive demand has been very slack; still there has been no undue pressure upon the market. The price at St. Petersburg does not admit of sales at our rates; and the arrivals from both the Baltic and the Black Sea will be somewhat later than was expected. We may look for 2,000 or 3,000 casks from South America by the end of May; but we understand the

arrivals from Australia will be light. The market closes quiet at 52s. spot; 52s. all the month; 52s. April—June, and 52s. October—December. The public sales to-day were flat; no buyers. Town tallow, 53s. 6d.; rough fat, 2s. 9½d.; melted stuff, 40s.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

On Monday the half-yearly meeting of the Leominster and Kington Company was held. The report, which stated that the traffic had increased 20 per cent. during the last three months, was adopted, and a dividend declared of 4 per cent.

The half-yearly meeting of the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company is called for the 18th inst.; and that of the Pernambuco Railway Company for the 8th April.

A statement has been issued by the London directors of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada, viz, Messrs. Thos. Baring, George Carr Glyn, Kirkman D. Hodgson, H. Wollaston Blake, and Wm. Chapman. These gentlemen declare their conviction that, assuming that the total capital on which interest will have to be paid may be ten millions sterling, the profits on the completion of the undertaking will be "more than sufficient to pay 6 per cent. on the whole debenture and share capital of the Company." They consequently "feel that the board have adopted the best and most equitable mode of raising the necessary funds by the proposed new issue of 1,111,500l. Second Preference Debentures, which, with the 2,000,000l. of First Preference already issued, assume the position originally occupied by the Provincial Debentures of 3,111,500l."

At the meeting of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Company, on Tuesday, the allowance to the auditors was increased from 25½ to 50½ per annum. A dividend of 3½ per cent. was adopted.

At a monthly meeting of the Railway Companies' Association held on Thursday, at the Railway Clearing House, it was stated that the measures which they are, in connexion with the proposed re-appointment of the select committee on railways, desirous of bringing forward, for the purpose of placing on a fair and equitable basis legislation on railway property, cannot be brought under the consideration of Parliament until after the second reading of the Reform Bill. Several important motions, of which notice had been given, were postponed, in consequence of the absence of members who were obliged to attend the important parliamentary proceedings connected with their respective companies.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Glasgow and South Western Company, on Wednesday, a resolution was carried declaring a dividend, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, on the ordinary consolidated stock, and on the Ardrossan guaranteed stock.

The Kendal and Windermere Company, on Tuesday, declared a dividend of 4s. 6d. per share.

CONTINENTAL RAILWAYS.—The directors of the Western Railway of France are using great activity in the completion of the branch line from Honfleur to Pont l'Eveque; 2,000 additional labourers were on the 1st inst. placed on the most difficult part of the work, from Honfleur to Pont l'Eveque. Accounts from Rome state that the contractor for the line from Civita Vecchia to Rome has bound himself to open it to the public on the 1st of April. Locomotives may in a few days pass over the entire line. Surveys have been made of the proposed line from Rome to the Adriatic, and the works are to be immediately commenced.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILLS.—The copies of Admiralty reports under the Parliamentary Inquiries Act, include various metropolitan schemes. Assents are given to the bills for the West London Railway; the Victoria Station and Pimlico Railway; the North London, Paddington, Richmond, Hampton-court, and Kingston Railway; the South Metropolitan and Westminster Station; and the Victoria Station and North Western and Great Western Junction Railway. Of the West London and Pimlico Railway Bill their lordships consider it objectionable in principle, and withhold their assent to the portion of the line extending beyond the first one mile and three-quarters.

THE NORTH WESTERN AND GREAT NORTHERN COMPANIES.—On Thursday, a bill, promoted by the London and North Western, the Great Northern, and the Manchester and Sheffield Railway Companies, for power to enable them to enter into arrangements between themselves for a mutual interchange of goods and passengers, from one system to another, over the whole length of their respective systems, was finally sanctioned by a Committee of the House of Commons, of which Mr. Ridley was chairman.

RAILWAY BILLS, 1859.—The general report of the Board of Trade shows that 172 bills for railways in Great Britain have been deposited this session, of which 129 authorise new works; 70 bills by new companies authorise the construction of 768 miles of railway, and 59 by old companies 361 miles; the total length of line, therefore, is 1,129 miles, in addition to 95 miles of deviation lines and 12 projects for enlargements of stations, &c.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

The quarterly dividend court of proprietors of Bank stock will be held on the 17th inst. On the 5th April will be held a general court for the election of a governor and deputy-governor for the year ensuing; and on the following day another court for the election of twenty-four directors.

The Agra and United Service Bank have declared a dividend, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ending the 31st of December, with a bonus of 1l. per share, making a total distribution of 12 per cent. for the year 1858.

A meeting took place, on Thursday, of the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company, when an unfavourable report was presented, the receipts for 1858 showing a considerable falling-off, a result ascribed to the depression of trade in those colonies. The report was agreed to.

At a meeting of the Van Diemen's Land Company, on Thursday, the report of the directors was adopted. The position of affairs does not seem to be the most flourishing, and it is questioned whether in the course of the twelve months any distribution can be made to the proprietors. Neglected management of affairs in the colony is alleged to be the cause of this unfortunate state of things, but under new arrangements it is believed a more satisfactory development of the property can be effected.

GLYCERINE.—A circular has been addressed to the soap trade, stating that by a process termed "Reynold's patent," glycerine, of which the supply is at present very inadequate, can be obtained at trifling cost from the refuse, or "spent lees," of their manufacture. Hitherto the supply has chiefly been derived from the sweet water of the candle makers. The commercial importance of the article is becoming very considerable.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.—The amount of Customs' duties (net) actually paid into the Exchequer between 1816 and 1858 appears to have varied from 9,716,431l. (1817) to 22,504,822l. (1844-45). In the year ended 31st of March, 1858, the gross amount was 23,109,104l. During the earlier part of the period spoken of the duties on tea tobacco, wines, spirits, coffee, and several other articles were collected by the Excise wholly or in part. Tea continued an Excise collection till 1834, when it became a branch of the Customs' duties; the other articles had been transferred in 1825. The net available sum from excise (1816 to 1858) varied from 13,678,835l. (1842) to 29,385,747l. (1816). Stamps have fluctuated between 6,373,667l. and 7,710,683l., and taxes between 3,654,819l. (1839) and 21,618,123l. (1816). Taxes, from this large amount collected in 1816, dropped in 1813 to 10,002,748l., and fell afterwards to something above 4,000,000l. and 3,000,000l. a-year. Between 1843 and 1844 they jumped from 4844,648l. to 9,439,747l., and after this (till 1855 when only the gross receipts are given), they were never below 8,742,039l.

AMERICAN REPUDIATION.—The confiscation practised by the state of Pennsylvania has been described. To prevent any portion of the European public from being deluded by the constant flourishes of other defaulting governments of the American Union, the following short resume of their respective positions will be sufficient. The number of States to be included in the list is five,—Mississippi, Michigan, Florida, Arkansas, and Indiana,—but there is considerable difference in their degrees of turpitude. The original debt of Mississippi was 1,400,000l. Of this she repudiated 1,000,000l. in 1842, and has never paid any interest on the remainder. The 1,000,000l. was issued to establish the Union Bank of Mississippi, and the 400,000l. to establish the Planters' Bank. The holders of the latter seem to think there is some prospect of an arrangement being at length made to pay principal and interest. The bonds issued by Michigan amounted to 1,000,000l. They were sold in the London Market—none, it is believed, at less than 88 per cent.—by Mr. Samuel Jaudon, the agent of the Bank of the United States, and on the failure of that institution, before it had paid to the State more than 30 per cent. of the amount due for the bonds, the State resolved to repudiate the balance. This took place in 1841, and was again deliberately confirmed by the Senate and House of Representatives in 1845. The bondholders were therefore required to convert their

claims at the rate of 300l. for 1,000l., but of course submitted to the spoliation only under protest. Florida has repudiated about 400,000l., raised for the establishment of a Union Bank, which speedily became insolvent. Arkansas owes 600,000l., on which, like Florida, she has paid no interest for twenty years. She has contented herself, however, with this quiescence, and has avoided placing an indelible stamp on her legislative history by not adopting any formal resolution in favour of a fraudulent course. The debt of Indiana was about 2,500,000l., and was compromised in 1846; the State, for one-half the amount, conveying to the Creditors the Wabash and Erie Canal, 400 miles long. At the same time it was promised that the work should be protected, but instead of doing so the Legislature have chartered a variety of competing railways, which have rendered it valueless. A memorial has accordingly been presented, urging that the State should receive back the canal and make a compensation to the holders of the bonds. The reply has not yet been received, but there is said to be a hope that it will not be altogether unsatisfactory.—*Times*.

MEDITERRANEAN TELEGRAPH.—The stoppage of electric communication between Malta and Cagliari will cause a delay of about three days in the receipt of Indian, Chinese, and Australian intelligence in London. In the ordinary course news is telegraphed from Malta on the arrival of the mail steamers from Alexandria.

NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY.—It would appear that the management of the undertaking in Constantinople will be entrusted to the representatives of three Greek houses—viz., those of MM. Commodo, Tubini, and one of the MM. Baltazzi. It is owing to the preponderance of the Greek influence that the project has not embraced a more general fusion of the interests involved.—*Daily News*.

HARBOURS OF REFUGE.—The report of the royal commission appointed to investigate this important subject was published on Thursday. In the preliminary remarks, the commissioners lay it down as a general principle, that harbours of this kind are national undertakings, and should be constructed, in whole, or in part, at the national expense, and they also think that a passing toll should be levied for their erection and maintenance. Only one dissentient voice, that of Captain Sullivan, has been raised against the opinion, the rest of the commissioners being unanimous. The east coast of Scotland is the district first taken into consideration, and Wick is the first place at which the construction of a harbour or refuge, or as the commissioners phrase it, a "life harbour," is recommended, the estimate cost being 250,000l. The South Bay of Peterhead is the place next mentioned, the cost of converting the bay into a harbour being taken at 330,000l. A grant of 100,000l. is recommended in aid of this work. On the Irish coast Waterford harbour is pointed out as valuable for the purposes of a life harbour, and a grant of 50,000l. recommended for deepening the approaches. A grant of 40,000l. is recommended for cutting down Stepper point, between the Land's End and Hartland Point, and facilitating ingress to the harbour; it is not recommended, however, that the whole sum be granted at once. The commissioners consider that a harbour at St. Ives would be of the highest value, and recommend a grant, not exceeding 400,000l. for its construction. The following harbours are also thought by the commissioners to be wanting, and the sums annexed to their names are those which are recommended as grants:—Douglas, Isle of Man, 50,000l.; the entrance to the Tyne, 250,000l.; Filey, 800,000l.

PRINCE NAPOLEON AND THE FRENCH MINISTERS.—A letter from Paris says:—Prince Napoleon, for some time past, has been unable to agree with anybody, except his funkeys and hangers-on. The Prince and the Home Minister have had another sparring match. The Prince, ranking with a sore, now several weeks old, complained of M. Delangle's neglect of duty on a recent occasion. "When I entered Paris with the Princess, you made not the slightest preparation for my reception," he exclaimed. "Made no preparations!" replied the Minister, with real or assumed anger; "why, if I had not done so, you would not have found a single person at the station to meet you;" and the dexterous old lawyer indignantly turned on his heels, audibly muttering something about the ingratitude of princes. With M. Walewski, who does not take things quite so gently as M. Delangle, the Prince has been on even worse terms lately. Only the other day stinging personalities were, it seems, exchanged between them. Thus, the Prince charged the Foreign Minister with being as anxious for peace as though he feared war would rob him of his appointments. "Well, nobody can say the same of your highness," Walewski is declared to have wickedly replied; for your warlike predilections you fully manifested in the Crimea. It is not every one who is born to be a hero," and so the conversation ended.

A COOL HAND.—"Captain" Corrie, the owner and commander of the yacht *Wanderer*, who recently landed the cargo of slaves in Georgia, has been summarily expelled from the New York Yacht Club, of which he was a member, and the yacht erased from the list of the squadron. The resolution by which this act of justice was performed at the same time stigmatised the traffic in very strong terms, and Corrie's conduct in sharing in it in still stronger. This man is a wealthy South Carolinian, "moving in the first circles" in his native state. He came to New York, bought the *Wanderer*, the crack yacht of the squadron, was elected a member of the club, and gave himself out to be, and was universally received, as a gentleman of leisure, with aquatic tastes and a long purse, and any quantity of honour. Under cover of all this he coolly fitted out the yacht for the slave trade. She was seized, and overhauled by the United States marshal, and though her stores were admitted to be of a description perfectly astounding for a pleasure yacht, nevertheless they did not break the requirements of the statute in that case made and provided, and Corrie was fearfully indignant, so they let him go. He appears to have started for the coast of Africa direct, and actually played the fine gentleman amongst the British and American squadrons cruising on the slave coast with the most consummate audacity, entertained the officers splendidly, and finally shipped 300 negroes, and landed them safely in Georgia. He has recently been arrested, an indictment duly found against him by the grand jury, and he has been committed for trial for piracy. The preliminaries of these prosecutions are eminently successful, but the conclusion is apt to be most lame and impotent.

THE BALLOT SOCIETY.—At a meeting on Tuesday, the society determined to appeal to those Liberal members of Parliament who are pledged to the ballot, and who will meet Lord John Russell on Monday next, to take their stand upon making the ballot an indispensable condition of Reform leadership.

SIR JOHN BOWRING.—Letters received from Sir John afford satisfactory evidence of his restoration to health. Sir John was at Philippines on January 25, on his way back to his Hong Kong Government.

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