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The LEADER.

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, COMMERCIAL AND FAMILY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER,

AND

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

VOL. X. No. 470.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1859.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED... FIVEPENCE.
Stampd..... Sixpence.

THE GROSVENOR & WEST-END RAILWAY TERMINUS HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED

This Hotel will form part of the Victoria Station, and will have the support of the Directors of the "Victoria and Fimlico" and of the "Brighton Railway" Companies.

INCORPORATED UNDER THE 10 & 20 VIC. CAP. 47.

CAPITAL, £120,000.

In 9,000 SHARES of £10 each . . . £90,000
And on DEBENTURES 30,000

£120,000

DEPOSIT, £2 PER SHARE.

£1 to be paid on Application and £1 to be paid on Allotment.

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ADMIRAL BURNEY, Junior United Service Club, and Ebury House, Twickenham.

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Messrs. PRICE and BROWN, 4, Change-alley, Cornhill.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. TUCKER and NEW, 25, Clement's-lane, Lombard-st.

SECRETARY—JOHN THOMAS DARKE, Esq.
OFFICES—28, Parliament-street, Westminster.

The Directors are happy to announce that they have completed arrangements with the "Victoria and Fimlico" and with the "Brighton Railway" Companies, for erecting their Hotel at the Terminus of the "Victoria and Fimlico" Railway, and that all difficulties attending conflicting interests have been removed.

THE GREAT WESTERN HOTEL COMPANY, at the Paddington Terminus, commenced business in June, 1854, and as evidence of the appreciation by the Public of improved Hotel accommodation, the Dividend paid to the Shareholders of that Company the first year was 25 per cent., and the subsequent profits have averaged that amount.

The Company being incorporated under the "Limited Liability Act," the Shareholders are secured by Act of Parliament from any liability beyond the amount of their Shares.

The Directors of the "Victoria and Fimlico" Railway Company have stipulated that a certain number of Shares should be reserved for their Shareholders, and, apart from these, a limited number only remain for issue to the public, for which application must be made on or before the 31st day of March instant, either to the Brokers of the Company or to the Secretary, at the Company's offices, No. 28, Parliament-street, from whom Prospectuses and any other information may be obtained.

All applications for shares must be preceded by a payment to the credit of the Company, at their Bankers, of £1 per Share on every Share applied for in part payment of the deposit thereon. In the event of any person having allotted to him less than the whole number applied for, the amount paid in excess will be appropriated towards the balance of the deposit of £2 per Share, and the residue not so applied will be returned in full. The remainder of the deposit is to be paid on allotment.

28, Parliament-street, Westminster,
March, 1859.

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

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G. H. LAW, Manager.

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FOR MUTUAL ASSURANCE. METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

No. 3, PRINCES STREET, BANK, E.C.

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ADVANTAGES OF ASSURING WITH THIS SOCIETY.

Economical management, no paid agents being employed, and no commission allowed.

The application of the whole of the profits to the reduction of the premiums of members of five years' standing or upwards.

The guarantee of an accumulated fund exceeding £840,000.

A gross annual income of £140,000.

During its existence the Society has paid in claims, without a single instance of dispute, nearly £500,000.

And has returned to members in reduction of their annual premiums, £300,000.

The sums assured by existing policies exceed £3,000,000.

For the year ending the 4th of April, 1859, an abatement has been declared at the rate of 51 per cent.

Persons desirous of becoming members of this Society would find it advantageous to lodge their proposals on or before the 5th April next.

Prospectuses and full particulars may be obtained on application to

HENRY MARSHAL, Actuary.

ALLIANCE BRITISH AND FOREIGN LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

(Branch Offices—EDINBURGH, IPSWICH, and BURY ST. EDMUNDS.)

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THE RECEIPTS for the RENEWAL PREMIUMS due at LADY-DAY are ready for Delivery in Town, and at the several Agencies of the Company.

FRANCIS A. ENGELBACH,

Actuary and Secretary.

LOANS AND INVESTMENTS.

WELLINGTON LOAN AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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

Loans granted at moderate rates. Particulars of CHARLES W. ROE, Secretary.
N.B.—Agents required in town and country.

PELICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, ESTABLISHED IN 1797.

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John Davis, Esq. John Lubbock, Esq., F.R.S.
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Jas. A. Gordon, M.D., F.R.S. Matthew Whiting, Esq.
Kirkman D. Hodgson, Esq., M.P. M. Wyvill, Jun., Esq., M.P.

THIS Company offers Complete Security. MODERATE RATES of Premium, with Participation in Four-fifths or Eighty per cent. of the Profits. LOW RATES without Participation in Profits. LOANS in connexion with Life Assurance, on approved security, in sums of not less than £500. BONUS of 1861.—ALL POLICIES effected prior to the 1st July, 1861, on the Bonus Scale of Premium, will participate in the next Division of Profits. ROBERT TUCKER, Secretary and Actuary.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

Incorporated A.D. 1720, by Charter of George the First. Chief Office, Royal Exchange, London; Branch, 29, Pall-mall.

FIRE, LIFE, AND MARINE ASSURANCES

on liberal terms.

Life Assurances with, or without, participation in Profits. Divisions of Profit EVERY FIVE YEARS.

ANY SUM UP TO £15,000, INSURABLE ON THE SAME LIFE.

A liberal Participation in Profits, with exemption from the liabilities of partnership.

A rate of Bonus equal to the average returns of Mutual Societies, with the guarantee of a large invested Capital-Stock.

The advantages of modern practice, with the security of an Office whose resources have been tested by the experience of NEARLY A CENTURY AND A HALF.

JOHN A. HIGHAM, Actuary and Secretary.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—LADY-DAY RENEWALS.

Losses by Fire occurring during the Fifteen Days of Grace are made good to the assured.

The business of the Company exceeded £60,000,000.

The duty paid to Government for the year 1857 was £78,301, and the amount insured on burning stock £40,000,000.

A bonus of three-fifths of the profits periodically made to parties insuring, who have thus from time to time received sums amounting in the aggregate to £400,000.

The rates of premium are in no case higher than those charged by the other principal offices making no returns to their insurers.

For prospectuses apply at the Society's offices Surrey-street, Norwich, and 6, Crescent, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, E.C.

INSTITUTED IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE, A.D. 1714.

UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY, FIRE AND LIFE.

OFFICES—51, Cornhill, and 70, Baker-street, London; and in Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Dublin, Hamburg, Berlin, and Berno.

RECEIPTS for FIRE INSURANCES falling DUE at LADY-DAY are NOW READY at the Head Offices, and with the respective Agents in the Country.

Fire and Life Insurances effected at equitable rates.

WM. B. LEWIS, Secretary.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, CASH ACCOUNT and BALANCE SHEET to 31st December last, as laid before the Members of THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

at the General Meeting on Wednesday 20th February, 1859, is now printed, and may be had on a written application at the Society's Office, 30, King-street, Chancery-side, E.C. To the Report and Accounts is appended a list of Bonuses paid on the Claims of the year 1858.

CHARLES INGALLS, Actuary.

THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES, 30, King-street, Chancery-side, London, E.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

32, NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

ABSTRACT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

During the year 1858, 1,169 Proposals for Assurance were received, amounting to £274,150; from which 981 Policies were issued, assuring £220,220.
Annual Premiums upon the new business of the year, £7,020 19s. 5d.
Annual Income, £58,388.
Policies in force, 8108, assuring £1,650,555.
Accumulated Fund, £151,807 12s.
Deaths during the year, 75; claims arising therefrom, including bonus, £16,269 18s. 6d., being less than that of the preceding year by £646 17s.
Since the commencement of the Company the amount paid to the Widows and other Representatives of deceased Members is £79,142 3s. 9d. JAMES ENGLIS, Secretary.

RENT GUARANTEE SOCIETY.

Extract from the Report of the Directors of the Rent Guarantee Society for 1858:—

"The very troublesome character of House property is generally admitted, and it is notorious that large amounts of rent are annually lost by the employment of dishonest and inefficient collectors. Now your Directors have much pleasure in informing you that the clients of the Society readily acknowledge the assistance and relief they find in the management of this kind of property through the machinery of the Society, their rates and taxes being duly paid, requisitions for repairs promptly attended to, and, when necessary, the execution superintended, the observance of covenants duly watched and enforced, insurances kept up, &c. while the safety of the sums collected, the promptitude and punctuality with which they are paid over, with the regular and systematic accounts kept for, and rendered to, their clients, are advantages which all appreciate, and which, as they become more generally known, your Directors believe will assuredly win for the Society an increase of public favour and support."

OFFICES—3, CHARLOTTE ROW, MANSION HOUSE, LONDON.

MUTUAL ASSURANCE with MODERATE PREMIUMS.—The assured are by their Deed of Constitution, by their Act of Incorporation, and by the terms of the Policy, specially exempt from Personal Liability.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

INSTITUTED 1837.—INCORPORATED 1848.

TRANSFER OF ASSURANCES.—The terms of this Society mark it as peculiarly suited to the case of the many persons who had assured in Offices which have recently been discontinued or may be seeking amalgamation, and who may now wish to transfer their assurances to an office of undoubted stability.

Although the former Policy may have subsisted for several years, it may generally be surrendered or abandoned with advantage, even on the score of outlay, a new Assurance of the like amount being yet obtainable for the same or a lower yearly premium. Thus—Suppose the case of a Policy for 500l. opened five years since, at the age of thirty, at a yearly premium of 12l. or 12l. 10s., which is a very usual rate. The age being now thirty-five, at 500l. assurance can even yet be effected in the Scottish Provident for a yearly premium of 11l. 14s. 2d., the assurer having the additional benefit of any allowance he may get for surrender of the former Policy.

Examples of the Premiums charged in this and other offices, may be found in the *Post Magazine Almanack*, recently published, which will serve to illustrate this statement, or with any of the Agents.

The Scottish Provident Institution is the only Office which combines in one scale of contributions the advantage of participation in the whole Profits with moderate Premiums.

Examples of Annual Premium to Assure £100.

Age 25	30	35	40	45
£1 18 0	£2 1 6	£2 6 10	£2 14 9	£3 5 9

Thus at age 30 a provision of £1,000 can be secured for a yearly payment of £20 15s. only.

Reports containing full information may be had at the Head Office, or at the London Branch, 64, Gracechurch-street. JAMES WATSON, Manager.

J. MUIR LEITCH, London Agent and Secretary.

ACCIDENTS ARE OF DAILY OCCURRENCE.

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

An Annual Payment of £3 secures A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF 20 PER WEEK IN THE EVENT OF INJURY, OR £1,000 IN CASE OF DEATH FROM ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, By a Policy in the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

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

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

NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY. CAPITAL, ONE MILLION.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary. Railway Passengers' Assurance Company. Offices, 3, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

CAUTION.

BOND'S PERMANENT MARKING INK. To avoid disappointment from the substitution of counterfeits, be careful to ask for the Genuine Bond's Permanent Marking Ink; and further to distinguish it, observe that no Stamp is, or has at any time, been prepared by him, the Inventor and Proprietor. N.B.—The genuine and ORIGINAL BOND'S PERMANENT MARKING INK bears the address on the label, 28, LONG-LANE, WEST SMITHFIELD, CITY.

THE WHITTINGTON FREEHOLD ESTATE AND COLLIERY COMPANY (LIMITED).

Registered pursuant to the Joint-Stock Companies' Acts 1856-7 (by which the liability of Shareholders is limited to their subscriptions). Capital £60,000, in 12,000 shares of £5 each. Deposit on application £1 per share, and £1 on allotment, but no further call will be made until after 12 months, when the remainder will be called, at intervals of not less than six months, as and when required.

DIRECTORS.

John Brown, Esq., Rose-hill, Chesterfield, Director of the Union Bank, Sheffield.
Henry Rangeley, Esq., Unstone Iron Works, Sheffield.
William Tuxford, Esq., 106, Upper Thames-street, London.
F. R. Pierce, Esq., Whittington, Chesterfield.
Robert Simpson, Esq., 4, Charlotte-row, London; Blaina Iron Works, Monmouthshire.
John Stanton, Esq., M.D., Upper George-st., Bryanston-sq.
William Henry Brook, Esq., Lincoln, Director of Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln Railway.
Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smith, London; Messrs. Bankers—Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Co., Chesterfield.
Crompton, Newton, and Co., Chesterfield.
Solicitors.—Messrs. Tucker, Greville, and Tucker, 28, St. Swithin's-lane; William Clayton, Esq., solicitor, Chesterfield.
Auditors.—Messrs. Harding, Pulein, and Co., public accountants, Lothbury, London; Mr. Henry Osborne, Chesterfield Bank.
Brokers.—London, Messrs. Scrutton and Son, 81, Old Broad-street; Sheffield, Messrs. F. E. and S. Smith, George-street; Leeds, Mr. T. E. Plant, Park row; Liverpool, Messrs. Theakstone and Hargreaves, India-buildings; and J. W. S. May, Dale-street; Manchester, Messrs. Johnson and Son, Stock Exchange; Bristol, Mr. John Kempson Thomas.
Secretary.—Mr. H. R. Downman.
Offices.—27A, Bucklersbury.

This Company has been formed for the purchase of the Freehold Landed Estate of 152 acres, together with the machinery, plant, and the coal, ironstone, and minerals thereunder as also under 119 acres of land adjoining, embracing five seams of first-rate coal, together nearly 900 acres, adapted for house, gas, coke, and manufacturing purposes.

The property is situate in the parish of Whittington, near Chesterfield, on a branch of the Midland Railway, and near the Chesterfield Canal.

The colliery is raising above 750 tons per week, which is contracted for by highly respectable firms, whilst the machinery is capable of raising 1,000 tons per week; and as soon as the lower seams are reached, the outlay for which is provided for in the capital of £60,000, at least 2,000 tons per week, independently of the ironstone, will be raised.

The present returns from the land, colliery, and ironstone, after all deductions, will give a net profit of 16 per cent. to the shareholders, and when the workings are extended (within two years), nearly double that profit may be relied on.

By the arrangements for the purchase, 20,000l. remain on mortgage over a period of years, and not more than 2l. will be called up for the first twelve months, and 2l. during the second year, beyond which it is not expected further calls will be made.

Full particulars, together with the valuations and estimates of Messrs. Jeffcock and Walker, Haselhurst, and others, and the calculations of an experienced mineral agent, will appear in the prospectus, which, with forms of application, may be had at the offices of the Company, and the respective solicitors and brokers, to whom applications for shares are to be addressed.

THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

142, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

CAPITAL—HALF-A-MILLION.

DIRECTORS.

Edmond Sheppard Symes, Esq., Chairman.
Wm. Kenworthy Browne, Esq., John Moss, Esq.
John Elliotson, M.D., F.R.S., John Symes, Esq.
Henry John Hodgson, Esq., Joseph Thompson, Esq.
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Auditors—Professor Charles Wheatstone, F.R.S.; Professor J. Rudford Young.
Medical Referee General—John Elliotson, M.D. Cantab., F.R.S., 37, Conduit-street.
Actuary—W. S. B. Woolhouse, Esq., F.R.A.S., F.S.S., &c.
Assistant Actuary—Barker Woolhouse, Esq.
Bankers—Messrs. Glyn, Mills, and Co.
Solicitors—Messrs. Gregory, Gregory, Skirrow, and Rowcliffe.

The International Society has been established since 1837, for effecting every description of Life Assurance, Immediate and Deferred Annuities, Endowments, &c., at rates affording the most equitable adjustment of every contingency to the corresponding risk.

Profits divided Quinquennially. Stamps on Life Assurance Policies paid by the Society. Loans granted in connexion with Life Assurance. Half the Premiums may remain on Loan, on the Withdrawal scale.

Thirty days of grace allowed for Payment of Premiums. Prospectuses and every information may be obtained from the Chairman, at the Chief Office, 142, Strand.

THORNBURY'S "LAST HOURS OF THE PAINTERS."

THE ART-JOURNAL for April (price 2s. 6d.) contains Two Engravings from Pictures in the Royal Collections:—"The Home-Expected," by W. Muirhead, R.A., and "Vetri," by C. Stanfield, R.A. The Engraving from Sculpture is the Group of "The Prodigal Son," by J. Mozier.

Among the literary contents are:—"Leonardo da Vinci;" "Chromo-Lithography," by R. Hunt, F.R.S.; "Last Hours of the Painters; No. 1.—Bruner in Antwerp Hospital," by G. W. Thornbury; "British Artists; No. 4.—J. Linnell," illustrated; "Tombs of British Artists; No. 14;" "Exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy;" "Crystal Palace Art-Union;" "Excursions in South Wales; Monmouth—Part IV," by Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall, illustrated. VIZIUM and Co. 25, Paternoster-row.

THE BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW.

No. LVIII. (Price 6s.) will be published April 1. CONTENTS.

1. Cheap Literature.
2. Alison's History of Europe.
3. Physical Training.
4. Ellis's Madagascar.
5. Bunsen's Bible.
6. The Punjab and its Administration.
7. Bartholomew Fair.
8. Japan.
9. Lady Morgan's Diary.
10. The Reform Question.
11. Our Epilogue on Affairs and Books.

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THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD.

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FALSE AND TRUE.

By the Hon. LENA EDEN, Author of "Easton." 1 vol., post 8vo., 10s. 6d.

L. BOOTH, 307, Regent-street, W.

FRASER'S MAGAZINE FOR APRIL

will contain the FIRST PART OF A NEW TALE, by the Author of "Guy Livingstone," entitled

SWORD AND GOWN.

London: JOHN W. PARKER and SON, West Strand.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

A popular description of these Islands, their Classical Associations, Ancient and Modern History, and Present Condition, illustrated with a Map and several Engravings, will be found in the LEISURE HOUR, Nos. 376, 377, and 378, just published. Price ONE PENNY each number. London: WILLIAM TARN, 60, Paternoster-row, and 104, Piccadilly; and sold by all Booksellers.

PREACHING AT ST. PAUL'S.

In the SUNDAY AT HOME, No. 257, Price ONE PENNY, there will be found a paper on this subject, accompanied by TWO LARGE ENGRAVINGS; the first exhibiting Dr. King, Bishop of London, preaching before King James I. King, Bishop of London, preaching before King James I. King, Bishop of London, preaching before King James I. King, Bishop of London, preaching before King James I. Service, by the present Bishop of London, Nov. 28, 1858. London: RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, 60, Paternoster-row, and 104, Piccadilly; and of all Booksellers.

THE CRITIC:

WEEKLY JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, ART SCIENCE, and the DRAMA, is now published every Saturday, price 4d., stamped 5d. The Critic contains Reviews of all the current Literature of the Week, Home and Foreign, including French, German, Italian, Slavonic, and Oriental. Archaeological, Scientific, Artistic, Musical, and Dramatic Summaries. Reports of the Learned Societies. Leading Articles upon Literary and Artistic Topics, and all the Literary, Scientific, and Artistic News of the Week. The Critic may be obtained through the trade, or ordered direct from the Office, 20, Essex-street, Strand, W.C.

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THE LEADER.

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Review of the Week.

THE Legislature is engaged in the work of national stock-taking, with a view to a re-distribution of the gains of Progress. Whatever doubts there may be as to the sincerity with which the heads of the Government have set about the work, there is no sort of doubt that the work itself is rightly demanded by the country, and that it must be done in a way to meet, as nearly as possible, the justice of the demand. In the three nights' debate which has already taken place on the motion for the second reading of the Government bill, crossed by Lord John Russell's resolution, we have abundant proof that the demand for Reform is the healthy and legitimate consequence of the great social changes which have taken place in the quarter of a century which has elapsed since the last settlement of the Reform question, and that the representatives of the people are both competent and willing to enforce the popular claims in spite of party policy or party necessities. On the first and second nights of the debate it was plain, that while the best speaking was with Ministers, the weight, both of argument, fact, and feeling was against them. Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, on Tuesday evening, achieved an oratorical triumph such as has not been surpassed within the present generation, if we judge by the effect it produced in the House; but the argument of his speech, admirably illustrated and enforced as it was, only went to show that the country has no right to look to Conservatives for a large and liberal measure of reform. His answer to the demand of the working classes is this: by accepting Lord John Russell's amendment, which asks the House to resolve that no Reform Bill will be satisfactory to the country, if it does not provide for an extension of the franchise downwards—he says, "By accepting this amendment you commit yourself to a pledge to the working class—a pledge which you can never redeem to their satisfaction until you have placed capital and knowledge at the command of impatient poverty and uneducated numbers." There was "frantic cheering" at the enunciation of this Tory gospel, we are told by one commentator on the events of Tuesday night's debate; but the aggregate intelligence of the country does not, and will not, ratify this maxim of "little faith."

Upon the whole, however, it is remarkable how little has been made of the standard Tory objection to Reform, that it is simply a demand of "democracy;" the defence of the Conservatives is now, rather than the middle classes are committing a great mistake in lending their countenance to the enfranchisement of the "dangerous" classes. It is ingenious. But of all classes, the middle is best able to judge of the fitness of the working class to be entrusted with the franchise; and their voice is unhesitatingly given in favour of the intelligent working man, whose intelligence, indeed, is as undeniable as any other great established fact in history.

The powerfully urged advice of Mr. Walpole as well as Mr. Horsman is, that the Government bill should be allowed to make its way into committee; once there, it may, they both affirm, be made into a really popular measure, such a one as the thoughtful watchers of progress will accept with satisfaction. Let this be done, they say, and the whole responsibility will be thrown upon the shoulders of Ministers, if they reject the modified measure. Mr. Disraeli's answer to Mr. Mitchell, as to whether Ministers are determined to stand by the principle of uniformity of franchise, the present basis of their bill, seems to imply their inclination to adopt the course thus pointed out to them; he said, that there is nothing in the Government measure which is not open to the candid consideration of the House.

Of course, the other business of the House commands only secondary consideration; it has, however, not been without interest. The result of the division on the Edinburgh Annuity Bill once more made manifest the ministerial weakness. The second reading of Mr. Black's bill for abolishing that piece of ecclesiastical extortion brought out a show of Government defence; the Lord Advocate pleaded for forbearance, on the ground that he had a bill of his own in preparation; but under the advice of Mr. Bright, Mr. Black went to a division, and the result was that Ministers found themselves outvoted by 40 votes, or 216 against 179.

By the publication of a supplement to the *Gazette* of Thursday evening, we have official confirmation of the news brought by all the late Indian mails, that the war in India, so far as the forces immediately under the command of Lord Clyde are concerned, is ended. Lord Canning is to receive a Grand Cross of the Bath, and to be advanced a step in the peerage. The work, however, is not wholly finished, although the rewards are given. There are still rebels in the field. Tantaia Topee still evades pursuit, the last heard of him being that he had escaped with 300 chosen horsemen into Hindostan. A part of his forces were, however, fallen upon on the 10th of February, at Koosana, and between 200 and 300 of them killed upon the field. From Nepal very minute indications of the spot at which he and his companion, the Begum, are "known to be"; but, for unexplained reasons, the two remain uncaptured.

At the end of last week it became known that Russia had taken a decided and enlightened course of action on the question of the Italian difficulties. This course is to propose to France the formation of a Congress of the five great Powers. On Saturday last it was known that the Emperor of the French had given his adhesion to the proposal, and since then it has become known that England and Prussia have agreed. Up to yesterday there had been no official notification of the adhesion of Austria; but the *Moniteur*, of Friday, states that her adhesion has actually been given, subject, we believe, to some small conditions. The chief difficulty in the way of the course proposed lies in the fact that Austria refuses to admit Sardinia to be represented in the Congress; but it is believed that the Emperor Napoleon has undertaken to see that Sardinia is effectively represented. The Prince Napoleon is

named as the probable representative of France. One of the conditions to the proposed Congress is that it shall be held in some neutral state, and Aix-la-Chapelle is suggested as the most convenient, and, upon the whole, unobjectionable place for its assembly. Meantime, Count Cavour has left Turin, on his way to Paris, at the invitation of the Emperor.

Meantime, also, preparations on both sides of the Alps are dangerously ripe. The other day an Austrian patrol found itself "by accident" on the Piedmontese side of the Ticino, and the Government of Turin has pointed out to Austria the danger of the present crowded state of the frontier with Austrian soldiers. Vast stores of forage are collected on the French side of the Alps, and an army of at least 120,000 men is ready between Besancon, Lyons, and Grenoble. Whatever hopes of peace may be indulged, the attention of the French, Austrian, and Sardinian Governments is not for a moment diverted from the work of preparation for war.

A decree in the *Moniteur* of Tuesday is deeply interesting to the Protestants of this country. For some time past there has been painful excitement among the Protestant communities of several towns of France, in consequence of the interference of the municipal authorities with the right of public worship. The Imperial will has cut the knot of the difficulty short by ordering that, henceforth, in the opening of new places of worship, Catholic and Protestant shall be placed exactly on the same footing; both will have to get an order from the Government, the council of state being pledged to protect the religious rights of both communities.

The Neapolitan exiles have many of them reached London, and nothing can exceed the sympathy which has been manifested for them, both in public and in private, by all classes. The people of London were prepared to have made a great demonstration in behalf of the cause for which they have endured such enormous wrong and suffering; but a part of the exiles have published a letter, in which, while expressing their grateful sense of the sympathy and kindness with which they have been welcomed to England, they beg to decline the offered demonstration. A second letter, written by another party of the exiles, expresses dissent from the conclusion of their companions, conceiving that, at the present juncture, the expression of English opinion on the subject of Neapolitan tyranny would be of the greatest service to the cause of Italian emancipation.

Of domestic news there is little that calls for special notice. The result of the proceedings in the case of the Reverend Alfred Poole may be referred to with satisfaction. It is a lamentable thing when there is the least appearance of justice being denied to any applicant; that was what appeared to be the case with regard to Mr. Poole. He has now obtained the inquiry which he said had been denied him, and the result is, that the Archbishop has confirmed the sentence passed upon him by the late Bishop of London. We are not disposed to question the justice of the present decision; what we have all along contended for in Mr. Poole's case has been, impartial and unquestionable justice.

Home Intelligence.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, March 21.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

In the House of Lords several petitions against these marriages were presented by Lord DUNGANNON.—Lord OVERSTONE presented petitions in favour of the legalising such unions, from various bodies of Protestant dissenters, and from the Corporation of London.

Lord DONOUGHMORE, in answer to Lord BAXTON, stated that the Attorney-General for Ireland was about to introduce a bill to facilitate the granting of leases in certain cases in Ireland.

The Indictable Offences (Metropolitan Districts) Bill, the Mutiny Bill, the Marine Mutiny Bill, and the County Courts Bill, were all read a second time and passed through Committee.

In the House of Commons, the Consolidated Fund (1,222,383*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*) Bill, and the Consolidated Fund (11,000,000*l.*) Bill were read a third time and passed.

THE REFORM BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of the Representation of the People (Reform) Bill, a number of petitions for, against, and for divers modifications in the ministerial measure, were presented by different hon. members.

Mr. DISRAELI having moved that the bill should be read a second time, Lord J. RUSSELL moved, as an amendment, a resolution, "That it is neither just nor politic to interfere, in the manner proposed in this bill, with the freehold franchise as hitherto exercised in the counties in England and Wales; and that no readjustment of the franchise will satisfy this House or the country which does not provide for a greater extension of the suffrage in cities and boroughs than is contemplated in the present measure." Referring to the secession from the Government of two of its most distinguished members, he observed that it was an encouragement to him that they had felt objections to the bill similar to his own. He considered that the first eight lines of the bill contained its whole principle—namely that the suffrage in counties and boroughs should be uniform, or, as the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER expressed it, identical, and that all freeholders resident in boroughs who had hitherto voted for their county should vote for the boroughs alone. This was a complete change of the Constitution, a destruction of rights which had been enjoyed for a great number of years, and without any crime on the part of those in possession of it. This change was not only unjust, but it was a great public injury, as it would deprive the counties of the Liberal character they would otherwise possess, and a power would be obtained by which small boroughs might be flooded with votes, and nomination boroughs be revived, to the practical repeal of the Reform Act. His objections to the first clause, therefore, were that it would be injurious and unjust; that it would lead to great discontent on the part of the inhabitants of towns who were freeholders, and to a great power of nomination in boroughs, and that the only remedy for the evil it would create would be to resort to electoral districts. "I am not going to argue for electoral divisions," said the noble Lord, "for I own I love the old divisions of counties, cities, and boroughs. (Hear, hear.) For my part, I have no wish that places like Winchester, Salisbury, Guildford, and Chichester should only be made parts of counties, instead of towns returning representatives. (Hear, hear.) But I say, if that is your wish—if the present Conservative Government wish to have electoral divisions, which the hon. member for Birmingham denied that it was his object to have, being afraid of being thought too great an innovator if he proposed such a thing (laughter)—but if such is the object of the Government, then let us arrive at that end at once; and do not, in respect to these small boroughs, let us go through this process of nomination, corruption, and degradation, which must excite complaint and agitation in the country, some eight or ten years hence, only to end in some violent process, or by then making electoral districts. (Hear, hear.) Let us, I repeat, rather have them proposed at once, and give to London 50 or 60 members, to which the metropolis would be entitled under such a system. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Do not leave us to arrive at that end by a process which must create general agitation and discontent." (Cheers.) From the opinions set forth in speeches by Lord Derby in 1854, some passages of which he cited, the noble Lord drew the conclusion, that if a bill such as was now proposed by the existing Government had been brought forward by a liberal administration, it would have encountered the most strenuous opposition from the present Prime Minister. Adverting to the second point touched upon in his amendment, namely, the basis of the representation of cities and

boroughs, Lord John Russell contended that the bill before the House destroyed ancient privileges, without providing adequately for new claims. Presuming the present qualification as formed on occupation tenure, or as modified, and to some extent enlarged, by the various franchises proposed in the Government measure, he insisted upon the expediency both of reducing the minimum of the borough franchise, and of retaining some distinction between the borough and county qualification. The question, he contended, ought to be decided upon the responsibility of the administration. He said, "I confess I am not deterred from taking the course which I propose by the observations made the other evening by an hon. friend near me (Mr. Roebuck), that if we should venture to interfere with the course of the Government bill we may have a dissolution of Parliament. I hold that it would be quite unworthy of us to pause on a question which is to affect ourselves and our descendants through fear either of a dissolution or of some threatened danger to our foreign relations. (Hear, hear.) It is for the Ministers of the Crown, if we come to a vote adverse to their measure, to take the course which they may think most advisable. If they should think proper to recommend the Crown to dissolve Parliament, in order to submit this question to the people at large, I for one should not be afraid of that appeal. (Cheers.) Let them hold this bill up on every hustings in England, and await the response which will be made. (Hear, hear.) But if agitation should thereby be increased—if a general election should give rise to demands which now have not been thought of by popular bodies, upon the Government and not upon us will rest the responsibility." (Cheers.) In repelling the charge of personal ambition, he glanced at the gallery where Lord Grey was seated, and said the charge was made by one from whom he might have expected greater justice, if not greater kindness. And with respect to party or personal objects, it was his duty not to attend to such charges, but to pursue the course which, in his judgment, was best adapted to promote the welfare of the country. He concluded in these words: "Seeing what has been done, I cannot view without alarm the proposition which is now before the House. I have endeavoured to call the attention of the House to two of the main demerits of this bill. If it should continue on the table of the House, I think the measure ought to be discussed in every shape until at length, if not immediately, it is totally rejected. (Hear, hear.) I shall take this course, careless of any imputations which may be cast upon me. (Cheers.) With regard to this great question of reform, I may say that I defended it when I was young, and I will not desert it now that I am old." (Loud cheers.)—Lord STANLEY, after reminding the House of the resolution moved by Lord J. Russell in April, 1835, for the purpose of displacing the Government of the day, observed—"It succeeded in its object. It drove the Government from office. It placed the mover and his political friends in possession of power, and having served that purpose, the principle which had been so triumphantly asserted by a majority of the House of Commons was suffered at once to fall into abeyance. It never was affirmed, and although nearly a quarter of a century has since elapsed no practical action whatsoever has followed upon its adoption. (Cheers.) I do not allude to this historic incident of which the noble lord, the member for the City of London, was the hero (Hear, hear), with the view of throwing any discredit upon him. He acted, I have no doubt—as statesmen in this country generally act—in conformity with the political exigencies of the day, and I refer to the circumstance which I have just mentioned, because I am desirous of cautioning the members of this House—and, above all, the liberal members—that to reject a moderate measure of reform does not necessarily insure the passing of one of a more extended character. (Cheers.) It is well to remember that in politics a lost opportunity does not always recur (cheers); and although those whose sole object is the triumph of a party may be anxious to see this bill thrown out, without even considering what the result, so far as reform is concerned, may be, yet independent and moderate men, in whatever part of the House they may sit, will, I feel persuaded, think twice before they reject an opportunity of dealing with this great question, more favourable in many respects than any which hereafter is likely to be afforded. The noble lord said the amendment, if carried out, would lead to this practical result,—that no legislation upon this subject could take place during the present session. No political party was now against Reform. Since 1851 bills had been repeatedly promised; but it was only under the present Government, after eight years of promise, that a vote was asked to be taken upon the question. In the present temper of the country no large measure of electoral reform was possible, and if the Government measure were rejected there was little prospect of any more comprehensive scheme being carried, even if it were introduced.—[At this point in the noble lord's speech some inter-

ruption was caused and some laughter excited by the circumstance that the cry of a child (understood to be Lord John's son) was heard to proceed from the ladies' gallery. The interruption lasted, however, but for a few moments, and the noble lord continued]. Adverting to the terms of the amendment, he contended that it was ingeniously framed so as to raise a false issue, and attract a majority of votes, while carefully avoiding to challenge an unbiassed verdict upon the second reading of the bill. The real question was, not whether the measure should pass into a law, but whether political power should pass into other hands. On this basis he consented to accept the issue of the present discussion, and stake the fate of the bill upon the ultimate result. Lord Stanley then noticed successively the various objections urged against the measure. The framers had been charged with refusing to recognise the just rights of the working classes, but upon analysing the various franchises created by the bill, he maintained that a wide and liberal provision was made, by which every man who chose to exercise a moderate degree of industry and thrift could easily obtain his due share of franchise privileges. What the bill did not do was, that it did not admit the working classes indiscriminately and in a body, in which case their numbers would overbear and swamp the votes of every other class of the community. Two tests, he submitted, were available in the determination of fitness for electoral privileges. One was based upon education, which, being as yet new and untried in the constitutional system, had not been included in the bill. The other consisted of a moderate property qualification, and this was the presiding principle, interpreted in a most liberal spirit wherever electoral rights were conceded under the provisions of the measure. The noble lord then noticed and vindicated the Government proposition with regard to the treatment of small boroughs, the novel elements introduced into the county constituencies, and the identification of the county and borough franchises. The measure brought forward by the Government was, he contended, practicable, safe and equitable. Nor did it deserve to be stigmatised as trivial or inadequate. The new 10*l.* occupation franchise would add 200,000 to the electorate, and the savings-bank, lodgers, and professional clauses would furnish another 100,000. He denied that the British constitution was aristocratic; it was more essentially middle class. The noble lord concluded as follows:—"We hear it sometimes assumed that the Government of this country is exclusively or mainly in the hands of the aristocracy. I apprehend that is an entire mistake. I believe that practically, ever since the passing of the Act of 1832, what is called the "middle class" has had the preponderating power in our government. In all countries the importance which belongs to the middle class and the amount of power which it possesses have been taken as a fair test of social progress. In England it is that class which has always most strenuously vindicated the principle of personal freedom, both against royal prerogative and ecclesiastical power. It is that class which has given us Protestantism in religion and constitutional government in the State. It is that class which has laboured to protect the finances of England against the extravagance of armies and of Courts, and which has striven to preserve the peace of England against the popular passion for war. It is by that class that British trade has been extended over every quarter of the globe, that British shipping has been sent into every sea, that India has been conquered, America colonised, Liverpool and Manchester created. I see nothing in the manner in which the members of that class have used the preponderance of political power vested in them during the last 25 years to make me believe that they are unworthy to possess it still. It may be right that they should share that power. It is not right they should lose it; and lose it they will if by an indiscriminate extension of the franchise (for you will find it no easier to stop at 6*l.* than at 10*l.*, and what you give to the boroughs you will not be able to withhold from the counties) you should place every class in subordination to one, and that one by no fault of its own, but by the nature and the necessity of the case, the least independent and the least instructed." (Cheers.) Mr. H. G. SEWER characterised the bill as a specimen of piecemeal legislation. He could not understand why the county members in that House showed so much apprehension of the people. For his part, he fully trusted the people, and should vote against any proposition calculated to diminish their political rights. Being anxious, however, to secure the accomplishment of a satisfactory measure of reform during the present session, and feeling that if he voted for the resolution that object would be marred, he should vote against the resolution and for the second reading of the bill.—Lord BURY was sorry that the Government had introduced this bill, and objected to the bill itself, not only for the small measure of reform it gave, but because it was reform not in a right direction. It unsettled everything and settled nothing. He should vote for the resolution and against the bill.—Mr. KEN

SEYMER applied himself principally to a refutation of the arguments employed by Mr. Bright in his Reform speeches out of doors. Looking at the position of the House of Commons in the practical working of the Constitution, he said he thought it had encroached very much upon the two other branches of the Legislature, and, if we were to have a House of Commons working harmoniously with them, the landed and agricultural interest must be represented strongly. A moderate measure of reform was all that was required, and, with the exception of the disfranchisement (as it was called) of the borough freeholders, which he condemned, he thought this to be a measure which deserved the support of the House.—Alderman SALOMONS complained that the bill did not pay sufficient regard to the claims of the working classes. No Reform Bill could be considered satisfactory, or ever be passed without danger, which did not give a larger share of political privileges to the working classes than was contemplated in the Government measure.—Mr. LIDDELL maintained that the franchise ought to be conceded freely but not indiscriminately. The selection was made, he argued, with sufficient liberality, and yet with all necessary caution, in the bill before the House.—Sir C. WOOD considered the bill so objectionable and obnoxious in its principles that he would prefer no bill at all. He insisted that the identity of franchise in town and county was a dangerous one. Was it to be applied, he asked, to Scotland and to Ireland? Although he did not desire an indiscriminate admission of the working classes to the franchise, and was not prepared to make them the ruling class in the country, he thought that, considering how much they had improved of late years, it was high time that they should have some voice in choosing representatives, and he contended that the Government measure did not contain an adequate provision for their admission. He therefore concurred in the resolution. The resolution left it open to the Government to adopt the course it suggested, of lowering the franchise in the boroughs and of altering the provision regarding the borough freeholders, and if they refused, they would be responsible for the consequences.—Mr. HORSMAN delivered a speech that was received with repeated shouts of applause from the Ministerial benches. He condemned the amendment as a party manoeuvre, and predicted nothing but disappointment and dissatisfaction from its success. He had promised his constituents to give an impartial consideration to the new Reform Bill. If the bill was good, he undertook to accept it; and if bad, to try and amend it in committee, and not to reject it until the failure of their attempts at amendment had become apparent. The present time was peculiarly fit for the construction of a good measure; the Liberal party enjoyed a large majority in the House, and could mould the bill nearly into what shape they liked, and he warned all reformers to walk warily, and not throw away the advantages of their position. This he thought they would do by carrying Lord John Russell's amendment, which he regarded as tantamount to a rejection of the measure. The present bill would, he was convinced, be rendered as extensive in range and liberal in its provisions as any prudent reformer could require by a few short and simple amendments in committee. This was an unanswerable reason for preferring going into committee to rejecting the bill. If the party on that (the Opposition) side of the House were ready to assume the Government, and were desirous of turning out the present Ministers, it would, he thought, be a more direct and manly course, more magnanimous and more elevated, to put the question upon its true issue. Heavy disasters—which the hon. member described and lamented in emphatic terms—had overtaken the Liberal party through previous errors in obeying factious motives, instead of following a sound and magnanimous course of policy. He exhorted them to act, on the present occasion, in a nobler and more patriotic spirit.—Mr. A. MILLS felt disposed to agree with the propositions laid down in the amendment respecting the county franchise and the extension of the suffrage in towns. But these points could be determined in committee, and it was quite needless to throw over the bill and frustrate all legislation on this question perhaps for many years to come.—Mr. HUGHESSEY strongly supported the amendment.—Mr. NEWDEGATE said nothing should induce him to assent to the principle of the bill, and therefore he must oppose the second reading. He regretted to find himself at variance with the leaders of the party with which he had so long acted, but could not accept the principle of a bill founded upon an equality of the county and borough franchise. This principle was distasteful, as it appeared, to members on both sides of the House. As a Conservative, he was altogether opposed to a bill in which a great principle was sacrificed for a party gain.—Lord R. CREW defended the provision for depriving the freeholders in boroughs of their county vote. The whole reform question had, he observed, been too much argued in the shopkeeping interest.—Mr. WILSON moved the

adjournment of the debate.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER appealed to the private members who had notices on the paper to allow the discussion to proceed without interruption, and the resumption of the debate was then fixed for the following evening.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before one o'clock.

Tuesday, March 22.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS Lord WODEHOUSE moved the second reading of the Bill to Legalise Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister. Before noticing the objections to the bill, he pointed out that clergymen who objected to perform these marriages were not obliged to do so by the present bill. As to the religious question, he would only say that, after a careful examination, the verse in Leviticus was, he thought, in favour of those who supported the bill. He then passed to the opinions of the Archbishop of Dublin, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of St. David's, and the Bishop of Manchester, who had expressed themselves strongly in favour of the bill; and, as last year only seven of the bishops voted against it, he inferred that the opposition would not be very strong on the present occasion. He thought that the ordinary objections made against the bill on account of the disturbance it would create in family relations were groundless. In order to maintain the present system an imperative necessity for it ought to be proved, and he did not think this had been or could be done.—Lord DUNGANNON moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. He objected strongly to the bill, as tending to destroy all the most sacred relations of social life. He denied that these marriages were either desired by or prevalent among the poorer classes. Not one woman in fifty was in favour of this bill, as was manifest from the numberless petitions signed by women all over the country. He asked them, in the name of the women of England and for the sake of preserving the moral purity of English homes, not to legalise these marriages.—Lord ALBEMARLE voted for the measure because he thought it would prevent gross immorality on the part of the poor.—The Bishop of EXETER regretted that from his age he was incapable of taking a prominent part in this discussion. In answer to the list of Bishops cited by Lord Wodehouse, he asked how many Bishops had there been from the beginning of the Church against it? He should oppose the bill solely on religious grounds, and maintained that it was solely a religious, and not a social question.—Lord ST. LEONARDS asked why was Scotland omitted from the bill? Why, too, should Ireland be excluded? A worse bill was never submitted to the House. By this bill, if an Englishman married his sister-in-law, the marriage, although good in England, was not good in either Scotland or Ireland. And what, then, became of the rights of property, succession to peerages, &c.? What became of the status of the woman, who in one division of the United Kingdom was a wife and in the other two a mistress, and whose children were legitimate in England, but bastards in Ireland or Scotland? In a social light, it would lead to very great evils.—The Bishop of ST. ASAPH opposed the bill because he thought it contrary to the law of God.—Lord LIFFORD intended to vote in favour of the bill.—Lord CRANWORTH opposed the bill on purely social grounds.—The Bishop of CORK supported the bill.—The Bishop of OXFORD denied that the principle of the Bill was either to be found in the Old or New Testament. He explained the steps that had been taken by the bench of Bishops in 1835 in legalising marriages of this kind that had been contracted up to that time. He asserted that, from inquiries he had caused to be made, he was convinced that this bill was not desired by the poor, but by the middle classes, and he besought their lordships not to relax the laws of this country in accordance with the wishes of those who desired to exchange morality for license.—The Bishop of CARLISLE, from his own experience, knew that these marriages were desired by the poor, and not only among the poor, but among other classes. He had felt it lately his duty to call upon one of his clergy to vacate his living on account of having contracted one of these marriages.—Lord WODEHOUSE replied, and, on a division for the second reading, the numbers were—Contents, 39; non-contents, 49. So the Bill was lost.

Some bills were forwarded a stage, and their lordships adjourned at half-past ten.

THE REFORM BILL.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, the adjourned debate was resumed by Mr. WILSON, who opposed the measure on the ground that it was in reality a step in retrogression from the principles laid down in the Act of 1832. Public opinion had demanded, and public men of all parties had expressed their readiness to concede, a large extension of the franchise. But the present bill contained provisions calculated to restrict the franchise and diminish the number

of electors, especially by the withdrawal of their second votes from borough freeholders. He could not accept a measure whose fundamental principle was so objectionable. The alterations which the Government had proposed to introduce in committee in his opinion only made matters worse. The reduction to 10% of the occupation franchise in counties, was, to his mind, simply a method of extending territorial influence; while the various "fancy franchises" in boroughs, which the hon. member examined in detail, were, he contended, either altogether delusive, or replete with inexplicable and bewildering anomalies. What was wanted was the greatest diversity in the classes represented, and if the qualification for the borough franchise were lowered to 5% or 6%, it would, in some towns at least, let in the working classes. He was not prepared to consent to an extensive disfranchisement of small boroughs, which admitted to representation large classes not connected with land, commerce, or manufactures; but, with a uniform franchise, it would be impossible to maintain these small boroughs; its effect would be merely to increase the influence of land and property. He should vote for the resolution.—Sir E. B. LYTON followed in an address of great brilliancy. He inquired, if the bill were taken out of the hands of the present Government, into whose hands would it fall? The inheritance, he replied, must lapse to a party who had spent twenty-five years in decrying liberal votes and abjuring liberal opinions. In spite of their temporary union, the party were still agitated by the quarrels of years, and if they were seated in Downing-street to-morrow, the quarrels of years would go with them. The vote which affirmed Lord John Russell's amendment would practically decide that the Reform Bill should be read a second time that day five years. The resolution was framed as a party movement, but could not be regarded as an expression of public opinion. When the bill was framed public opinion was confessedly in abeyance, and ever since every attempt to excite agitation had totally failed. What the country seemed to ask if the issue of public meetings could be taken in evidence—was something which did not appear in the amendment, and was not recognised in the speech of Lord John, which no Whig Government would propose, and no Government of any complexion hope to carry. Reviewing the provisions of the measure, the right hon. baronet insisted that they offered a liberal and impartial extension of the franchise, and that if any imperfections existed they could be amended in committee. He did not believe that the lowering of the borough franchise from 10% to 5% would be a disadvantage to the Conservative cause in that house. On the contrary, he believed it would be indirectly advantageous to it. What constituted the power of a party? It was the cultivated intelligence, the moderation and good sense of its members. All these advantages would be gained more by a 10% constituency than by a 5% constituency. (Hear, hear.) The worst enemy of the moderate reformer was not the Conservative gentleman, but the demagogic adventurer. (Hear, hear.) It was by the demagogic adventurer that the upright reformer was outbid. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) To replace the upright reformers in this house by the demagogic adventurers would be your loss and our gain, because they would not be the same formidable competitors for power: they might make a violent opposition, but they could never unite to form the Queen's Government. What he had pointed out would be the result of placing numbers not under the control of property, but under the control of ignorance and passion. (Hear.) This, then, would be their gain; but he was far from wishing to see such a result. He did not wish for the sake of European freedom to see the great liberal party thus morally damaged. (Hear.) That branch of reform which related to the redistribution of seats had been, with some exceptions, deliberately postponed in the Government measure, and all reforms would be worthless that diminished the dignity and power of the House of Commons, which was not a popular, but a deliberative assembly. In that respect it differed from all their free colonial legislatures. Whatever other privileges they might possess, they could not even discuss the question of their own defences, much less interfere with foreign policy. Take even the American Assembly. The House of Representatives scarcely ever touched on foreign politics, unless in the case of a question of the tariff or public money. Ask any candid American, and he would say that even in domestic affairs they looked to the Senate for a guiding intelligence. The reason was that the House of Representatives had become what some hon. gentlemen opposite wanted to make the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) In the attempt to popularise it, it had been lowered so near the level of the masses that the masses ceased to respect it. As yet, it was not so in England. The wisest and best in England could still turn with interest to their debates; the proudest potentate of Europe might yet tremble

before their decision. Once Americanise the House of Commons, and they would lose more of weight and intelligence than they would gain of popular vigour by electoral districts and manhood suffrage. (Loud cheers.) He would go as far as Lord John Russell in the admission of the working man, and cared not how wide the suffrage was, provided intelligence accompanied the suffrage. In conclusion, he warned the House that this was not a case in which they could give to day and call back to-morrow; the popular voice was like the grave—it cried, "Give, give," but, like the grave, it never returned what it had once received. His noble friend, the Secretary for India, had stated what was the backbone, the mainspring of the bill. It was to maintain in the hands of the middle classes that power which they had exercised, so as to render liberty progressive and their institutions safe; not to lower the franchise to the level of the working classes; but, on the contrary, to raise up every citizen to the level of the class above. This was the bill of the middle classes; it went to retain the power in the hands of that class who had hitherto exercised it so as to maintain the resources of England unimpaired amidst the disasters of commerce and the calamities of war. (Hear, hear.) If they accepted the amendment of the noble lord the result would be to place capital and intelligence at the command of ignorant necessity and uninstructed numbers. Sir EDWARD resumed his seat amidst such cheers as we scarcely remember within the walls of a deliberative assembly. The shouts were renewed again and again by the whole body of Ministerialists for two or three minutes, and when dying away in the noise of members leaving the House were raised afresh by one or two voices at the highest pitch. Mr. BYNG said, an examination of the principles and details of the bill had convinced him of its dangerous character, as the resolution affirmed principles in which he concurred he should vote for the amendment.—Mr. PHILLIPS, in opposing the amendment, said, upon the general merits of the bill he was of opinion that a Reform Bill ought not to be brought in by a Conservative Government, and regretted that representation was not more connected with taxation.—Mr. C. FORSTER declared his intention to vote for the amendment, which was opposed by Mr. B. STANHOPE, who also expressed his intention to vote against the bill on account of the provisions it contained for assimilating the county and borough franchise.—Mr. DOBSON also opposed the bill, which he considered inadequate and incomplete.—Mr. VANSITTART highly approved of the ministerial measure, and recommended Lord John Russell to withdraw his amendment.—Mr. KNIGHTLEY consented to support the bill, though frankly owning that he objected to many of its details.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT and Mr. M. GIBSON rose together, and the latter gave way. Mr. HERBERT denied that the adoption of the amendment need be fatal to the bill. The Government had themselves liberally promised to afford large opportunities for amending the measure. He did not look upon the present motion as designed to eject the administration, and should be sorry if such were its results. Examining the details of the bill, he remarked that the Conservative party, and many of the present ministers, had opposed the principle of uniformity in the county and borough franchise. That principle he regarded as most pernicious. He proceeded to argue against the system founded upon the representation of numbers, contending that the small boroughs sent many of the ablest members to Parliament, and furnished the best materials for governments. Uniformity of the franchise would destroy the present useful variety and happy balance of representation, leaving the house divided between the members of extreme opinions, with the country gentlemen on one side and the demagogues on the other. As it was at the same time necessary to reduce the county franchise, some means must be found to preserve a sufficient distinction between the counties and boroughs. For this purpose he should have preferred a bill resembling that suggested by Mr. Henley; but in the absence of such a proposal, he intended to vote for Lord John's amendment, as calculated to bring about the desired object, though in a less direct manner. He wished, however, that the Government, withdrawing their present bill, would themselves introduce a measure framed on the principles he had indicated. A large majority in that house attached much higher importance to the construction of a good Reform Bill than to any reconstruction of the Government; and if the Ministry would propose a safe and moderate measure, he for one promised them his utmost assistance in passing it.—The SORROWFUL-GENERAL observed, if he said that the amendment tended to confuse and embarrass the House in the issue before it, he should only say that it accomplished the end for which it was designed. If it meant anything, it meant that the House should pass by the bill in order to affirm an abstract resolution on two isolated provisions in it. He

traced all the principal features of the bill to measures heretofore advocated by members who now opposed it, and referred to passages in their former speeches to prove the change which their opinions had undergone. The principle of uniformity was not so dangerous as the practice of perpetually disturbing the existing arrangements with proposals for further reduction of the franchise. Freely conceding that the working classes had improved of late years in fitness for the franchise, he remarked that they had also improved in material prosperity. Wages were better, work more regular, and taxes lighter; and if the industrial community better deserved votes, they were also better able to obtain the privilege through the ordinary means of qualification. But although he thought the working classes fully trustworthy, and was ready to give them a fair share in the representation, he declined to allow them to swamp the suffrages of all other classes, which must be the case if they were indiscriminately admitted to the franchise through the medium of a very low occupancy qualification. The present bill threw open the franchise in a way it was never opened before, and contained provisions, especially in the savings bank clause, offering a participation in electoral privileges upon conditions accessible to every man of industrious and provident habits. Reverting to Lord John Russell's resolution, he maintained that while it practically cancelled the Government bill, it supplied no indication of the measure which its author would himself propose by way of substitute. "Some years ago," said Sir Hugh Cairns, "Mr. Hume proposed an abstract resolution something like that which is now before the House. Mr. Hume did not specify the extent to which he would go; and what did the right hon. baronet the member for Morpeth say on that point? He said, 'Before you take away from us the constitution that we have, at all events tell us what you are going to put in its place.' (Ministerial cheers.) Well, now, in like manner, I say to the noble lord, since you will not allow this bill to be read a second time, tell us what you are going to put in the place of it. (Cheers.) We have all seen reports of public meetings on this subject, and there is not a meeting of which I have seen an account which, besides the expression of opinion on the Government Reform Bill, did not call for triennial parliaments, either manhood or household suffrage, and vote by ballot. Well, now, I want to know how much of all this tempting bill of fare the noble lord the member for London, on his agreement with the hon. member for Birmingham, has undertaken to accept. It is only fair that we should know. What did the noble lord say years ago of the hon. member for Birmingham, who at that time sat for Manchester? Why, he said this: 'What I have to find fault with in the hon. member for Manchester and those who agree with him is, that they are so exceedingly narrow-minded.' (Ministerial laughter and cheers.) Get them upon subjects with which they are particularly conversant, and I listen with great admiration of their extensive knowledge and acute ability; but when we come to discuss large questions, such as concern the future of our empire, then I see their intellect and understanding bound up in so narrow a round that it is impossible to get them to understand those great principles on which our ancestors founded the constitution of this country, and which we, their successors, humbly admire and endeavour to follow." We are told now, that the noble lord and the honourable member for Birmingham are quite agreed; not merely as to the step of a night which is to dispose of a bill of this kind upon an amendment; but as to what the consequence of that amendment must be—(loud cheers)—as to what must be the end of that of which this is only the beginning. I want to know the extent of the agreement between the noble lord and the honourable member for Birmingham; and I think we are also entitled to ask what probability there is of the noble lord obtaining the support of those by whom he is surrounded on those points. Sir, the noble lord may depend upon it that these questions will not be asked merely in this house, but will also be asked in the country. (Hear.) The noble lord appeals, in proof of his sincerity in proposing this amendment, to his well-known and long-tried attachment to the cause of reform. Sir, we all know and admire the noble lord's attachment to this question, but we also know that there is a form of the tender passion which sometimes develops itself in jealousy for any attentions to the object of affection from any other quarter. (Roars of laughter.) Sir, the people of this country have differed, and they will always differ about Reform Bills, about theories of representation, about social and domestic legislation of every kind. But there is one subject upon which the people of this country are entirely agreed, they don't like anything which bears the least appearance of approach to an artifice, or, if I must use a homely phrase, to a dodge. (Loud Ministerial cheers.) They don't like it in business, and

they don't like it in politics; but least of all will they admire it in a man who—at a time when the best interests of his country at home, and her most peaceful hopes abroad, demand all the patriotism, all the candour, all the forbearance of statesmen—(cheers)—approaches the consideration of a great national question like this, not fairly to criticise, not boldly to reject, but to contrive a crafty and catching device (immense cheering from the Ministerial benches) to confuse, and, if it may be, to dislocate parties, and amid that confusion and dislocation to secure his own political aggrandisement and private advantage." (Loud and long-continued cheers.) After some brief explanations from Mr. J. WILSON, Mr. M. GIBSON moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve.

Wednesday, March 23.

At the sitting of the House of Commons, the High Sheriff's Expenses Bill was read a second time, on the motion of Mr. D. GRIFFITH.

EDINBURGH, ETC., ANNUITY TAX BILL.

Mr. BLACK having moved the second reading of this bill, Mr. C. BRUCE moved to defer the second reading for six months. He opposed the bill, as a measure of spoliation and robbery, tending to the direct annihilation of the principle of an established Church, so far as the city of Edinburgh was concerned, which could not be done without inflicting a heavy blow upon the established Church of Scotland. The bill, he contended, offered no substitute, justly available for the purpose, that could be relied upon. He was quite ready to lend his assistance in putting this tax upon a better footing.—Mr. BAXTER supported the bill. There was a great and growing feeling in the country that all such questions ought to be got rid of, and he appealed to the Government to make a candid and an explicit statement of what they intended to do to settle this question.—Mr. BLACKBURN opposed the bill, characterising it as a most outrageous measure, which, as far as Edinburgh was concerned, would take the property of the Church, and provide no substitute for what it took away.—Mr. HORSMAN observed that the same principle which had been applied to Dissenters in England would apply, and should be applied, to Dissenters in Scotland. The objections to the bill went to the details, to which there might be valid objections; but what faults it had belonged to matters of detail, which could be amended in committee.—Mr. STEWART opposed the bill.—The LORD ADVOCATE strongly objected to the proposal for sweeping away the annuity tax without providing any substitute. The Government, he intimated, were engaged in preparing a bill on the subject, which would shortly be laid before Parliament. He agreed that the tax was levied in a most unfortunate way; but the principle was mixed up with the question as to a substitute, and the bill proposed the total abolition of the tax without making an adequate provision for the ministers. He could not, therefore, assent to the second reading of the bill.—Mr. MONCREIFF said, although he could not bind himself to the details of the bill or go to its full extent, he approved its principles, and recommended that it should be read a second time.—Mr. COWAN supported the bill, which was opposed by Mr. BAILLIE.—Sir W. DUNBAR advocated the principle of abolition. He maintained that this tax was identical in its principle with Ministers' Money in Ireland, which had been abolished.—Mr. SCOTT opposed the second reading.—Lord ELCHO was anxious to see this vexatious question settled; but he did not regard this bill as a just and reasonable settlement, and, as the Government had promised a bill, he should oppose its second reading.—Mr. LABOUCHERE thought this tax stood upon the same footing as Ministers' Money in Ireland. The question now was, whether the tax, as it stood, should be abolished. He was not satisfied with the substitute proposed by the bill; but that was a question which might be considered in the committee.—Mr. MACKIE opposed the bill.—Mr. BIRNIE said, if the descriptions of this tax given on both sides were correct, the House should look favourably upon any proposal for its abolition. Edinburgh possessed sufficient resources to provide stipends for its ministers; why then, he asked, should the House continue the discussion of this question when they must come ultimately to the same conclusion as regarding Ministers' Money and Church-rates?—Mr. S. ESTCOURT acknowledged that every one must come to the same conclusion, that this tax ought to be put an end to; the only question was in what manner it should be done. After the announcement made by the Lord Advocate, why, he asked, should they read a second time a bill the provisions of which those who supported it did not approve?—Mr. ELLIOT and Lord DUNCAN spoke in favour of the bill, and Mr. BLACK having replied, upon a division the second reading was carried by 216 to 176.

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. GREGORY moved the second reading of this

bill. Under the existing law all pauper children abandoned to the care of the poor-law authorities were registered and educated as Protestants. This regulation, in districts where the majority, or even the whole, of the population were Roman Catholics, was considered unjust. The question had excited much irritation, which the present bill, whose details were briefly explained by the hon. member, was designed to remove. After two or three speeches from independent members, a cry was raised for Mr. Whiteside and then for Lord Naas, to state the view of the Government. They did not respond, and Mr. B. OSBORNE made an attack upon them for thus abdicating their functions.—Lord NAAS, on behalf of the Government, professed his inability to decide on the spot upon the merits of a bill with whose details he was only just made acquainted.—Mr. WHITESIDE having briefly spoken, the debate was adjourned.

The House then rose at six o'clock.

Thursday, March 24.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, on his accession to the title, Lord THURLOW took his seat, and signed the Parliamentary roll.

INDIA LOANS.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH, in moving for certain papers relating to India, gave notice that he should call the attention of the House to the state of the Indian money-market.

TRADING COMPANIES' WINDING-UP BILL.

On the order of the day for going into Committee on the recommitment of this bill,

Lord DONOUGHMORE, in answer to Lord Grey said that since the passing of the Limited Liability Act, in 1855, 1,988 companies, with a collective capital of £75,442,887, had been registered under that Act. Out of these, between sixty and seventy had ceased their operations, and the remaining 1,930 had at present a capital of upwards of £55,000,000. It was his opinion that the Act had exhibited little practical result.—Lord OVERSTONE wished to know how much of the capital of these companies had been paid up. Previously to the passing of the Limited Liability Act, in 1855, he had pointed out the fraudulent practices which the Act would develop, and the result had justified his prediction, for out of 1,098 companies, between sixty and seventy had been already wound up. The Act was founded on dishonest principles, and he should oppose it on every occasion.—Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY was in favour of the bill.—Lord GREY hoped the statement of Lord Overstone would prevent individuals from putting any confidence in joint-stock companies of limited liability.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE considered the bill an excellent one. The bill then passed through committee.

Several bills were then read a second time, and reports on others received. The Minor Courts (Ireland) bill was read a third time, and passed.

The House adjourned at seven o'clock.

THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, among the questions addressed to the Government was one by Mr. MITCHELL, whether they persisted in maintaining the uniformity of town and county franchise as the principle of their Reform Bill; to which the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave an important, though guarded reply. He said:—"Sir, it is impossible for me to give a categorical answer to a question of this kind addressed to me at this moment. It would demand a statement, both of argument and of detail, which could not be compressed within the legitimate scope of a reply to a question put to a Minister on this occasion. (Cheers.) But, Sir, this I will say to the hon. gentleman, that when I introduced the bill for the amendment of the representation of the people it was the opinion of my colleagues that there was no provision in that measure which might not in Committee be beneficially submitted to that calm and impartial consideration (cheers and laughter) which the house had pledged itself to Her Majesty to give to this question (renewed cheers), and without which pledge on the part of this assembly, considering the circumstances under which we acceded to power, that bill would certainly not have been introduced." (Cheers.)

THE ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The debate on the Representation of the People Bill was resumed by Mr. MILNER GIBSON, who said the speeches from the Treasury Bench were deficient in one material particular; they had not stated, supposing the House should adopt the Bill, what advantage would be conferred upon the country, and what improvements would be introduced into the constituency of England and Wales. He should approach the consideration of this measure, brought forward by the Conservative party, without any prejudice; but he was not prepared to pass any measure which he conceived to be injurious or imperfect. What, then, did the Government propose to effect? He did not call this a Reform Bill, but a measure to operate in a peculiar and novel manner upon the county and borough constituencies; and

he asked the Government what good the country would derive from a 10% county occupation franchise, coupled with the condition that freeholders in boroughs should be deprived of their county franchise? On this question of franchise he thought the principles laid down in the resolution of Lord John Russell were, on the whole, sound and adequate as a basis for representative reform. The right hon. member then examined the details of the bill, objecting to many of its provisions, especially the opportunity afforded for the manufacture of fictitious votes. The question, he insisted ought to be discussed without regard to class interests, and while protesting against any measure which left the working classes out of view, he deprecated the attempt to enlist the sympathies of another section of the community in behalf of the bill as being essentially a "middle class" measure. This was not reform; it would produce universal dissatisfaction; and was it not better, instead of killing such a bill by a slow process, as proposed by Mr. Horsman, to slaughter it at once by adopting the amendment? This was the fairest course towards the Government as well as to the House.—Mr. ADDERLEY maintained that the opposition to the bill was untenable, so long as the opponents refused to tell what better measure they were prepared themselves to propose. He observed, that the issue now plainly before the House was between two broad principles,—first, the extension of the electoral franchise on the basis of qualification, with a test of fitness, namely, property; second, its extension without limit, as a matter of equal right to all citizens, that is, on the basis of numbers. Which of these principles, he asked, did Lord J. Russell adopt? He fluctuated between both; he was said to be "in the same boat" with the advocates of the latter principle, whereas in his speech he had declared for a property qualification. The bill was based upon the first principle, but it provided by the savings-banks suffrage for the indefinite extension of the franchise to the working classes. Mr. Adderley then discussed the amendment, replying to the objection of Lord J. Russell, that the bill interfered with the freehold franchise in boroughs, and was a violation of prescriptive rights. He contended that the bill merely adjusted the balance between urban and county influence, disturbed since the bill of 1832. In conclusion, he warned the House that this was, perhaps, the last, the golden opportunity it had of standing upon the principle of property, observing that it was a grave matter for the consideration of the great Whig party, whether, agreeing as they did with the present Government, upon that principle, they would hand over this question to a party that demanded the electoral franchise without limitation, and founded only upon numbers.—Mr. HEADLAM contended that the Government, in bringing forward a measure of Reform, had no right to fetter the bill with conditions which rendered it impossible for the House to accept it, and that the amendment, the adoption of which would be fatal to the bill, was reasonable and proper. He condemned the new device of uniformity of franchise, and dwelt upon the mischievous facilities offered by the admission of non-resident voters.—Mr. BENTINCK consented to vote for the second reading of the bill, although he disliked some of its details, and thought that it did not do justice to the counties. He regarded this contest, he said, as a mere political and party struggle, and, after reading a lecture to Lord J. Russell upon his dealings with this question, called upon him to declare distinctly what were his views and intentions respecting Reform, adding that it had been asserted that there was to be a coalition, and that he and Mr. Bright were associated—a statement which drew from Lord J. Russell an emphatic "No."—Mr. W. DENISON in a few sentences, supported the amendment.—Mr. L. KING acknowledged the concession granted by the Government in adopting the 10% county franchise, for which he had himself so often contended. But in adopting his principle he found that the framers of the bill had so spoiled and mutilated his measure for reducing the county franchise that he could not give it his support. His bill disfranchised nobody; this bill deprived a whole class of the franchise. This bill professed to be a Reform bill, but he should have expected that any Government which thought it right to propose a Reform Bill in 1859 would have adopted the same principle as that of 1832, and that certain small boroughs would be included in a schedule A; whereas they were carefully preserved in this bill. There were four points which should be found in a Reform Bill, but in which this bill was deficient—the disfranchisement of small and insignificant boroughs, the enfranchisement of large towns, the extension of the county franchise, and the extension of that for the boroughs so as to admit the working classes.—Mr. DUTTON should vote for the second reading of the Bill.—Mr. W. J. FOX observed that they had heard strong laudation of the middle classes, which came very oddly from those who had opposed measures for the benefit

of those classes. The middle classes were now anxious that the working classes should be admitted to the franchise, and he had always regarded a Reform Bill as a measure for their enfranchisement, to which all had been looking year after year. In his opinion, they might be safely trusted, not as governors of the country, but to support the men who were to govern it. He treated the apprehension that if these classes were enfranchised all power would pass into their hands as a mere chimera. The machine of government could never work harmoniously until all classes were admitted to an equal share of political privileges.—Mr. B. HORSBORN combated the objection to the bill founded upon the so-called disfranchisement of borough freeholders and the nominal assimilation of the town and county franchises. The great object was to continue a full and fair representation both for counties and boroughs. If this were accomplished minor considerations might be disregarded. With respect to the claims of the working classes, he said, granting their morality and their intelligence, the franchise that would give them the preponderating influence of numbers, with their incomplete knowledge of political science, would make them tools in the hands of others to advance the doctrines of socialism. He denied that they possessed an indefeasible right to the franchise. If that principle were admitted, it would be impossible to stop short of universal suffrage. He was nevertheless ready to give the working man a larger share of electoral privilege, but always as a reward to be won by perseverance and industry. He should support the second reading of the bill, he said, as it did not proceed upon high theoretical principles, but went to work in a practical manner.—Mr. BERNAL OSBORNE said he thought the Government had fully redeemed the pledge they gave last year, but that it would have been better if they had proceeded in a larger and more liberal way to settle this question; for, unless it was settled upon a permanent basis, it would be better not to bring in a Reform Bill at all. Why was a Reform Bill called for? The act of 1832 was defective in totally omitting the great body of the working classes from the franchise, and if a Reform Bill was wanted at all, it was to redress this grievance. Did the bill propose to do it? Sir B. Lytton had expressly told the House that he declined to admit the working men to power; and they were never recognised in the bill, except when they were to be disfranchised, as the dockyard labourers. Neither the lodging-house franchise nor the savings-bank franchise would admit working men; the Government did not want them to get it. "With regard to these various 'fancy franchises,'" said the hon. member, "I must say that I quite agree with the hon. member for Birmingham—though to say so, I suppose, will be, according to some hon. gentlemen on the other side, to admit that I am a revolutionist. (Hear, and a laugh.) I agree with that hon. gentleman that these fancy franchises are not the things for the people of England. They are the mere political millinery of Downing-street. (Loud opposition cheers and laughter.) What we want is a broad and simple test. Have variety of suffrage, if you like, but let the test be broad and simple. (Cheers.) Many questions have been asked me as to what I am for. I confess that I am for a property test. (Hear, hear.) I admit that that is an imperfect test, but still it is a test which is simple and can be understood; because, as has been well said, by one of those writers of 'deplorable rubbish' to whom the right hon. gentleman (Sir E. B. Lytton) has alluded, the inheritance of property implies education, and the acquisition of property implies intelligence. Therefore, I say, what is the use of these fancy franchises?" (Cheers.) The bill would disfranchise the noble body of borough freeholders. In reviewing the reasons urged against the amendment, Mr. Osborne passed some severe strictures upon the speeches of Mr. Horsman, whom he styled "a dyspeptic politician," and the Solicitor-General, and, in conclusion, denounced the bill as an act of spoliation and injustice, a change without progress.—Mr. WALPOLE rose next amidst a hush of profound attention. In the course of his speech he laid great stress upon the necessity for facilitating voting, repeated his opposition to the ballot, and approved of the voting paper portion of the bill, except that one of the witnesses should be a public officer. He defended also the extreme moderation of the disfranchisement proposed, and challenged the advocates of redistribution to say what description of boroughs should be regarded as nomination boroughs (Mr. Osborne exclaimed "Midhurst," for which Mr. Walpole formerly sat. The ejaculation excited great laughter and cheering; but Mr. Walpole retorted, with equal effect, that though an utterly rotten borough when it escaped disfranchisement by the Whigs, it is now as independent as the borough of Dover). He condemned the disfranchisement of small boroughs, except in cases of proved corruption or nomination. If, he observed, the House wished to

keep up its elevated character, the smaller boroughs should retain their franchise, and, in this respect, therefore, he cordially supported the measure of the Government, as founded upon sound principles. Upon the first head, likewise, he assented to the scheme of the Government, which he thought entitled them to the gratitude of the country. Here, however, he must diverge, he said; he could not assent to the second reading of the bill without a guarantee and assurance that the provisions to which he objected, involving the main principle of the bill, should be fully discussed in Committee, and that their modifications would be accepted. After pointing out what he considered a grave inadvertence in the bill, by which old franchises were altered, and altered for the worse, he proceeded to discuss the principle of identity of the suffrage. He insisted upon various objections to altering in the main the different nature of the county and borough franchises, urging that the time would come, if the distinction were done away, when property would not have the influence it ought to have, and that the change must lead to electoral districts. Keeping up the old distinction, he thought he could find two resting-places; first, a reduction of the county franchise from 50*l.* to 20*l.*, and second, the bringing down the borough franchise to a 6*l.* rating. Adverting to the speculations as to the consequences of the decision of the House upon this question, he expressed himself as follows: "It is said that if we adopt the amendment of the noble lord the Government may resign or Parliament may be dissolved. (Hear, hear.) I should regret as much as any one if either of those consequences followed. (Hear, hear.) I do not believe that they will. Nay, more, I think that both this house and the country will expect that none of those consequences should take place. (Hear, hear.) I think that my friends on the Treasury bench have achieved their position honourably, have filled it ably, and I hope that they will long continue to hold that position with advantage to the country and credit to themselves. (Hear, hear.) As to a dissolution of Parliament, bold will be that man—(hear, hear)—who recommends a dissolution in the complicated state of European affairs, particularly at a moment when my noble friend Lord Malmesbury, by his prudence—(hear, hear)—by his firmness, by his sagacity—(cheers, and 'Oh, oh,' from the opposition)—has now placed this country in a position of being the mediator and arbiter of peace. (Hear, hear.) But the strength of that position mainly depends, I have no hesitation in saying, on his still receiving, as he has received, all the weight and authority of Parliament to back him. (Hear, hear.) It is a dangerous experiment, as I said at the beginning, to leave this question open. You ought to settle it now. (Hear, hear.) And you can settle it now, on the just and acknowledged principles of the Constitution. (Hear, hear.) You can settle it by adhering to prescriptive rights and usages—by maintaining the distinction between the borough and the county constituencies; and by thus upholding the interests of property as well as numbers—by thus giving to all the varied interests in this great community that variety of representation which it is so advisable to maintain—you can settle it, if you will act in this manner, fully and fairly—I had almost said finally. (Hear, hear.) Let me impress on my friends on the Treasury bench that great will be the triumph, noble the success if you accomplish that; but tremendous will be the responsibility if you throw away the opportunity now afforded you. (Cheers.)—Mr. BRIDGE, after declaring that, if he was found acting with Lord J. Russell, it was only because he believed the course Lord John was taking was advantageous to the country, observed that the objects in view in a reform of the representation were two—first, to give the elective franchise to a considerable class not now enfranchised; and, second, to give the country a larger, freer, and more independent constituency. How did the Bill meet this case? If it did not meet the case it was not a Reform Bill, and the House would fail in its duty if it countenanced the measure. Appealing to figures, he contended that the Bill would disfranchise 50,000 of the best electors in the kingdom, and that its object was to make the representation in counties more exclusively territorial than at present. "Does any one suppose" (continued he) "that this is the sort of Bill that the Chancellor of the Exchequer thinks is the best adapted for the country? No, this transference of the power from the boroughs to the counties, this refusal to grant an extension of the franchise to the boroughs,—not one of these things comes from his own heart and his own convictions. He knows that the bill is framed to satisfy the scruples, the convictions, if you like, of the 150 country gentlemen who sit behind him. ('No,' and cheers.) Now, I should think it as great a misfortune to have 150 gentlemen here representing only ironworks, or representing only ships, or cotton and woollen factories. I believe it is essential almost to a good member of this House, so far as depends on external circumstances, that he should have among his con-

stituents—a variety of interests, I presume the Chancellor of the Exchequer would call them—persons of various classes. I think they would keep him better to his duty than if, as hon. gentlemen opposite do, they represented only one interest, and were banded together as the representatives of no other interest." Adverting to the question of small boroughs, the hon. member remarked that these places had been eulogised as being the jewels of the constitution. In his view they were merely refuges for the politically destitute, and the best that could be said of them was, that the persons whom they assisted into Parliament were sometimes deserving objects. Having alluded, in a humorous strain, to Harwich and Carlisle, he said:—"You can imagine the independent electors of Banbury making speeches, explaining their political views, and working away under the belief that the ark of the constitution depended on the fulfilment of their duties, but at the same moment here was the man who concocted this bill—it always appeared to me to be the bill not of a statesman or a cabinet, but of some electioneering agent—(hear, and laughter)—you might imagine a man like this marching after dark from the Carlton Club to the pillar letter-box opposite, and dropping in ten or twenty of these letters—unless he chose to go to Charing-cross for the purpose of registering them—the train goes down at nine or ten o'clock in the morning, and whilst the unfortunate people of Banbury are deluding themselves with the idea that they are carrying out a great point of constitutional warfare, the resistless locomotive is going down, and next morning, when the leathern bag is opened, somebody is returned who has not the slightest sympathy with the people, and whom they never saw or heard of." (Hear, hear.) What, he asked, would the country say if the bill was passed in its present shape? The House would in effect tell the unenfranchised, "We don't trust you." The savings-bank franchise was the only small dole dealt out to the great body of the working people of the country. He denied that this was a Reform Bill at all; it was, in election phraseology, a complete case of personation. "The population whom you are about to disappoint and defy," said the hon. gentleman, "what have they done? They have conquered everything they have grappled with. I do not speak of the distant realms that they have conquered under your banners; but they have conquered in arts, in manufactures, in everything that tends to the civilisation and the wealth of the country; and do you think they will not conquer a much larger share of political rights than you appear determined to afford them?" (Cheers.) The hon. member for Dorsetshire said, in the course of his speech, "I am not afraid of the people of this country," and he gave a very powerful, and just, and eloquent rebuke to the gentleman who, in an unthinking moment, cheered, in a sneering manner, that observation. Now, I tell the House frankly, that they do not very well understand the great bulk of the population of this country, particularly in the manufacturing towns and districts." He added that "large employers of labour in Manchester and Yorkshire, who had much to lose, had no fear of the working classes, and were in favour of a large extension of the suffrage. The Solicitor-General had referred to the state of Europe, and had called upon the House to beware of what they were doing upon this question. He (Mr. Bright) came to a different conclusion. Let me assure the House," said he, "that resistance is not always conservative. What right have you to assume that you are more conservative in intention than I am? I have a business which is much more liable to injury from public disturbance than is your land. I have a numerous family who depend upon me, and whose hopes, unless they become exiles, are bound up with the future of this country. I profess to be in intention as conservative as you. I believe, in fact, that I am infinitely more conservative, if you will cast your eyes twenty or thirty years forward. Was not free-trade conservative? (Cheers.) And yet you resisted it to the last. (Here, here.) I recollect the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he used to come down at that time—if I were a scholar I would describe him in a Latin quotation—I recollect him when, with dishevelled hair—(laughter)—he used to rise and tell us of the cruelties practised on the ruined and betrayed agriculturists. He used to say that he would rest the whole question on the condition of the operatives three or four years after. Every one knows that their condition has since constantly improved, and improved at a rate which was not known in this country since the commencement of the great French war. Is economy in finance a conservative principle? (Hear, hear.) Is peace a conservative principle? I have devoted in this house and out of it whatever energies, whatever capacities I may possess, to the purpose of advancing these objects. I have endeavoured to stand by the rules of political economy, and in politics by the higher rule of real and true moral-

ity. (Hear, hear.) In advocating a measure more extensive than some members of this house may desire, I believe I am still pursuing the same, and advocate the measure—I am not speaking of any particular proposition I may have put forward, I mean a real substantial measure, one which the people would receive as such—because I believe in my conscience it would elevate the character of the people, and, in the beautiful language of the prayer we hear here every day, "knit together the hearts of all persons within this realm." I believe it would add authority to the decisions of Parliament, and am satisfied it would shed a lustre which time could never dim on the benignant reign under which we have the happiness to live." (Loud cheers.)—On the motion of Sir S. NORTHGORE, the debate was again adjourned; and the house adjourned shortly afterwards at a quarter to one.

GATHERINGS FROM LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

On Saturday, Mary Donovan, an Irish girl, who obtains her livelihood by selling combs in the streets, was brought before Lord Mayor Wile, on the old charge of "obstruction." The Lord Mayor asked the girl why she did not try to get "an honest living?" The girl replied, "Why I do try, and you stop me. I often stay in the streets all day to sell my combs, and only gain a few pence." Whereupon our chief magistrate committed her to prison for a fortnight. Great sympathy was expressed, by the papers, for the girl, and considerable virtuous indignation was wasted on the decision of the magistrate, who has since written to the newspapers an account of Mary Donovan's antecedents, which shows her to be a very bad character indeed.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on Tuesday, adjudication of bankruptcy was made against Rogers, Gladstone, and Co., shipowners and ship insurance brokers, in Billiter-street; their liabilities are stated at £19,000; assets uncertain. An examination meeting was held in the case of Ayers and Mellis, merchants, of Nottingham and New York, whose liabilities are stated at upwards of £200,000, besides £8,880 on bills accepted without consideration for the notorious M'Donald's of Glasgow; assets of small amount. An adjournment was ordered for three months, proceedings having been instituted for the recovery of property held adversely by creditors in New York. Mellis, not having surrendered, was proclaimed an outlaw.

Joseph Sutcliffe, cashier to Messrs. Hill, Wood, and Hughes, coal factors, who was remanded on a charge of embezzlement, has again appeared before the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, for further examination. Some additional evidence was taken for the prosecution, and the prisoner, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial. The amount of defalcation at present ascertained is between £6,000 and £7,000.

At the Middlesex Sessions, Henry Pettingall was indicted for stealing property valued at £140, from his master, and Charles Daw and Marian Oliver were indicted for receiving the same, knowing it to have been stolen. The case was very complicated, and it appeared that the police exhibited much intelligence in tracing the thieves. They found in their possession a number of housebreaking implements, as well as some of the stolen property. They were all three found guilty. Oliver had been previously convicted. The learned judge said he would consider what sentence he should pass.

At the Lambeth Police Court, on Wednesday, the chaplain of the "Indigent Sempresses' Home," the Rev. C. Geary, appeared to answer a summons charging him with imposing upon the public. Some curious facts were elicited in evidence. The case was adjourned to see if other charges were forthcoming, and also to enable the rev. gentleman to produce rebutting testimony, if he is able to do so.

The case of the Rev. Alfred Poole reached another stage on Wednesday, by the judgment delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This was the judgment in the appeal which a *mandamus* required the Archbishop to hear. The Archbishop, assisted by Dr. Lushington, decided, as he had done before, that the Bishop of London acted properly in punishing Mr. Poole. His Grace said, he was of opinion that the proved and admitted allegations afforded good and reasonable cause for the revocation of the license, and that the Bishop had exercised a sound discretion in revoking the same. He was of opinion that the course pursued by Mr. Poole was not in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England, but most dangerous, and likely to produce most serious mischief to the cause of morality and religion.

According to his intimation at the first hearing of the summons issued against Messrs. Gabriel, of Regent-street, by the vestry of St. James's, for having an overhanging lamp projecting from their premises, Mr. Bingham, the magistrate at Marlborough-street Court, has delivered, after careful consideration, a

decision on the question. His worship, on grounds fully set forth, thinks that the lamp must be held a nuisance; but in prospect of a case being submitted to the Court of Queen's Bench, a nominal penalty only is inflicted.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Thomas Parrington, second mate of the American vessel Samaritan, was brought up on remand at the Liverpool Police-court on Tuesday for harsh and cruel treatment towards William Campbell, a coloured sailor from New York, belonging to the same vessel. The complainant was in a very enfeebled and helpless state, and the surgeon of the hospital stated that the man was labouring under a concussion of the spine and other internal diseases. Mr. Snowball appeared for the prisoner, but failed to elicit anything which appeared to be in favour of his client, and Mr. Mansfield committed him for trial at the present assizes.

ACCIDENTS.

The Dutch bark Equator was entirely destroyed by fire on Saturday night in the River Mersey. She was bound to Batavia, and had a cargo of silk, cloth, and fine goods, valued at about 60,000*l.* The vessel was owned by Messrs. Voys and Co. The consignees were Messrs. J. Aiken and Co. One man, named Warburton, was killed by the mizenmast falling into his gig, which was alongside the vessel.

An inquest has been held on the body of William Death, who was found dead and in a state of nudity in an empty house. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was not in a sound state of mind. The discovery of the body was said to have been made by a person who, having dreamt that the poor creature had hanged himself, was not satisfied until he went to the empty house in question, where he saw the body as described. A surgeon was of opinion that apoplexy was the cause of death. Verdict accordingly.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

ADMIRAL HAMELIN has decided that the six-barrelled revolver shall in future be used as a boarding weapon in the French navy.

A letter from the Euryalus, 51, dated Alexandria, March 2, states that when at sea, running eight knots, Thomas Childs, an able seaman, fell overboard. A 28-foot cutter, fitted with Captain Kynaston's lifeboat hooks, was, with her crew, disengaged with great facility, although on the weather side, and the man saved. The circumstance had attracted the attention of the Pasha of Egypt, who expressed a particular wish to Captain Tarleton to witness the working of the hooks.

The new screw steam frigate Mersey, 40, went out of Portsmouth harbour on Wednesday, to test her speed. The results of the trial gave great satisfaction both to the contractors for the engines and the Government officials on board. Her nominal power is 1,000 horse, but on the trial it was worked up to the enormous power of 4,000 horses. The average results of speed obtained in the four runs at the measured mile gave better than 13½ knots. Amongst other improvements the Mersey has three auxiliary engines to supply the boilers and to act as a steam fire-engine; by means of which the engineer and his men could extinguish any fire below during an action without calling the crew from their guns. These "donkey" engines are also made available in other ways to save labour. The Mersey's armament consists of, on the upper deck, 12 8-inch pivot guns, 10 feet 6 inches long, throwing a solid shot of 68lb. Main deck, 28 10-inch guns, 9 feet 4 inches long, throwing hollow shot of 84lb. A broadside from her would give to an enemy in action 1,652lbs. of iron. The ship is said to have one serious fault, in her steering apparatus. We understand that all steamships are in future to be fitted with steam fire-engines on the Mersey's plan.

The South-Eastern Railway Company, under an engagement with Government, have commenced operations for laying down an immediate extension of their line of rails from Plumstead to Woolwich Arsenal, which will facilitate a speedy transport of guns and war stores to the coast defences, in the event of any sudden or pressing emergency.

The Right Hon. J. Stuart Wortley, chairman of the Northfleet Docks and London Quay Company, and the Directors, have had an interview with the Secretary of State for War on the subject of the increased accommodation that would be afforded by the company for the embarkation of troops and stores. His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief inspected the plans and drawings of the various works to be executed by the company.

M. Liszt, the great pianist, is shortly expected in Paris from Berlin.

Foreign Intelligence.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The grand review of the Imperial Guard took place on Sunday; but no political demonstration of any kind was observed. The expected cry of *Vive l'Italie* was not uttered; and, indeed, considering the present "pacific phase" of the question it is not likely that orders should have been given for any manifestation of the kind. The Emperor did not leave the ground till five o'clock. As a spectacle, the review was magnificent, and it was favoured by lovely weather. The Emperor arrived on the Champ de Mars, by the Ecole Militaire. He was accompanied by his uncle, the Prince Jerome, his cousin the Prince Napoleon, and an immense following of marshals and generals. He rode twice round the lines, distributed decorations to deputations from all the regiments present, and then witnessed the firing past. The Empress and the Princess Clothilde, in two carriages and four, arrived on the ground at the same time with the Emperor, and witnessed the review from a decorated balcony in front of the Ecole Militaire. The Empress was accompanied by the little Imperial Prince, who wore the uniform of a Corporal of the Guard.

The *Times* makes the following announcement:—"A Congress of the great Powers will meet either at London or Berlin, to take into consideration the state of Italy and the complications to which it has led. There is no doubt that this solution is the best under the circumstances—in fact, the only one, considering how far each of the two Sovereigns principally concerned has committed himself. The recent conduct of the French and Sardinian Courts is not calculated to ensure a happier fortune for Italy; but we trust that, now the settlement of that unhappy country has been committed to Europe, the great Powers, and especially England and Prussia, will make their voices heard in favour of humanity and good government. France and Austria have called a Congress, not only to decide the points in dispute between them, but to take counsel for the permanent tranquillity of Southern Europe."

The *Moniteur* of Tuesday contained an announcement respecting the proposed congress, differing in some important particulars from the unofficial statements by which it had been anticipated. The *Moniteur* attributes the origin of the Congress not to the efforts of Lord Cowley, but to the proposition of Russia, to which, it is added, England, Austria, and Prussia have not yet formally acceded.

As to the basis of negotiations, upon the sufficiency and firmness of which the success of the labours of the plenipotentiaries would before all things depend, nothing certain is ascertained. No tangible concession has yet been announced in any quarter on the part of Austria.

The *Morning Post* states, that "No basis is yet agreed upon for negotiating, therefore the meeting of the Congress must not be considered as certain."

The announcement of the *Moniteur* caused a rise of ½ per cent. in Rentes.

The *Moniteur* also contains a report by M. De-langle, on the subject of Protestant worship in France. Henceforth, in order to increase the guarantees for liberty of worship, the authority for the opening of new Protestant chapels, meeting-places, &c., will be granted, not by prefects, but by the Emperor, in his Council of State.

The Toulon *Sentinel* of March 23 announces that four steam frigates have received orders to sail for the purpose of fetching troops from Algiers.

It is asserted that Prince Napoleon will represent France at the proposed Congress, and also that all the Italian Princes will be represented.

Nothing certain is yet known as to the acceptance of Austria, but the general belief is that she will also give in her adhesion to the proposal of a Congress. The *Moniteur* states that the Cabinets of London and Berlin have agreed to the proposition of a Congress.

AUSTRIA.

Austria is transferring from Trieste to Venice whatever property belonging to the Government is deemed valuable. A camp of 40,000 men is to be formed on the east of the Adriatic, to protect Istria and Dalmatia. The only thing which has been yielded in the face of the improved prospects of peace, is the blowing up of the bridges on the Austro-Sardinian frontier. It is stated by the *Opinion* that the mining of the bridge of Bassilora by the Austrians has been suspended. The Austrian military authorities, it says, had entrusted the work to the engineers of the Lombardo-Venetian railway; and adds that it has been countermanded by telegraph from Vienna, there being reason to foresee a protest on the part of Piedmont.

It is stated, on good authority, that the Emperor is shortly to leave Vienna for Italy. He is to be

accompanied by Field-Marshal Baron Hess, by his first aide-de-camp, Count Grunne, and a numerous military suite."

A rumour is gaining ground on the Continent that the mental faculties of the Emperor are impaired. The stab which was aimed at him a few years since by an Hungarian, though warded off by the buckle of his cravat, touched the nape of the neck, and inflicted a wound which has induced other ill results. The first symptom indicating anything wrong was an imperfection of vision. The optical nerve was restored, but not before communicating the disease to the brain. The Emperor, at times, is stated to be unable to collect his thoughts; while his disposition has become excitable and desirous of change. The spread of the malady is feared by the physicians, since, from the nature of its origin its cure seems difficult.

The *Dresden Journal* of Monday states that Austria has, under certain conditions, accepted the proposal of France to convoke a Congress in some neutral town, for the purpose of discussing Italian affairs.

The official *Milan Gazette* of the 21st confirms the report that M. Ripamonti, editor of a newspaper, has been assassinated in Pavia.

A Berlin telegram of Thursday says:—"According to reliable intelligence, Austria has given a conditional consent to the proposal of a Congress. The place of meeting will probably be Aix-la-Chapelle."

SARDINIA.

Matters at Turin continue to look very warlike. Volunteers are on the increase, and amount already to 7,000 men; the authorities have been compelled to erect fresh barrack rooms at the depots of Cuneo and Casale. General Garibaldi is specially charged to bring into a state of discipline those volunteers who cannot for the present be received into the ranks of the army.

The protest published by Mazzini and his adherents, in their journal called the *Pensiero ed Azione* has been so far of use, that it has served to distinguish them from all those patriots who, in 1848, and since, were followers of Mazzini, but who now range themselves resolutely and faithfully under King Vittorio's banner.

The syndic of Turin, M. Muire, has caused bills to be posted, inviting young men to enlist as volunteers. The number of these, however, will be very limited, because in addition to the ordinary army and the contingents already under arms, there is some thought of calling out the reserve, a force amounting to 20,000 men.

It is rumoured that Count Cavour has resigned, and that his place is to be filled by M. Alfieri.

On the 21st inst., a picket of Austrian cavalry crossed to the Piedmontese side of the Ticino for the purpose of exploring the frontiers, opposite Pavia, which done, they subsequently returned to that town.

On Wednesday the annual commemoration of the Piedmontese soldiers, slain at the battle of Novara, in 1849, was celebrated in the cathedral. The ceremony was solemnised in the most impressive manner. The Ministers of State, deputations from Parliament, the officers of the Sardinian Army, and of the National Guard, the students of the University, and liberals from other parts of Italy, were present.

Volunteers from Tuscany continue to arrive at Genoa in companies of twenty. The authorities of Tuscany permit their departure.

A Paris letter in the *Nord* states that the Sardinian cabinet has addressed a communication to the five great Powers, strongly insisting on being allowed to take part in the deliberations of any Congress on the affairs of Italy.

SPAIN.

On the 21st inst. the Chamber heard the explanation of M. Collantes, the ex-Minister. Should the Chamber of Deputies definitively determine on impeaching Senor Collantes, he will be tried in the Senate. The Senate had commenced discussing the extraordinary budget of 2,000,000,000 reals, recently adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The Government has resolved to establish a rural police.

HOLLAND.

The Dutch Chambers, after a lively debate, in which the Protectionist orators exhausted their eloquence before a House which, for a long time, had become impatient of their declamations, has just voted a bill proposed by the present Liberal Government which almost completes the reform of the tariff in the sense of free-trade.

ROME.

According to advices from Rome to the 17th inst., General Grammont has again received a note from Cardinal Antonelli, requesting the immediate evacuation of the States of the Church by the French troops.

TUSCANY.

Letters state that Government has seized a pamphlet, bearing the signatures Ridolfi, Ricasoli, Peruzzi, and others, which protests against the treaties existing between Austria and the minor

Italian states. This circumstance has produced considerable agitation in Tuscany, and addresses for signature, expressing the feeling of the Tuscan people, are now circulating through the country.

GERMANY.

Bavaria, in a fresh despatch, addressed to the Austrian Court, has again professed its readiness to stand and fall with the Empire. The price for the assistance, it is thought, would be the appropriation by Bavaria of the kingdom of Würtemberg, whose dynasty is expected to side with Napoleon.

The two millions voted by the Hanoverian Chamber for war purposes will be expended in fortifications at Geestemünde and other important places along the coast.

PRUSSIA.

A letter from Berlin, of the 18th, says:—"Baron de Werther, our ambassador at Vienna, left yesterday for his post, and the diplomatic *ad interim*, which has certainly to some extent embarrassed the relations between Prussia and Austria, is at last terminated."

A fire lately broke out in the dépôt of clothing in the fortress of Spandau, and did damage exceeding 100,000 thalers.

NAPLES.

The King of Naples is believed to be slowly dying. The operation performed on the 10th was insufficient, and a second was determined upon the next day. Meanwhile, the agony he suffers is terrible. The veracious *Gazette Officielle*, lately quoted in *Galvani* as the true source of information in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, says, on the 7th, that the King has "happily embarked, and that he has been affected solely by rheumatism, which has given him pains in his right leg."

The cause of the King's sudden return from Bari to Caserta, while suffering so acutely, is not known; it is supposed to be occasioned by reasons of State.

TURKEY.

Long conferences have taken place between the Ambassador of Austria and the Grand Vizier. The English Ambassador has represented to the Porte that, if the latter will yield to the wishes of the Roumain people, with respect to the election of Hospodars, England, on her part, will call upon the capitalists of Europe, will found a new bank and schools, and will construct public roads and railways in Turkey.

The Ottoman Commissioner in Belgrade has protested against the proclamation of Prince Milosch, in which he claims for himself and his family authority as an hereditary ruler.

The marriage of the Sultan's son-in-law was to have been solemnised on Thursday. The Sultan relinquished his previous intention of celebrating the occasion by public fêtes.

It is stated that fresh reinforcements will be dispatched to the strong places on the Danube. Prince Couza intends visiting that part of Bessarabia which is annexed to Moldavia.

SERVIA.

The *Debats* says:—"The aged Prince Milosch, whose unexpected elevation to the throne of Servia failed to disturb Europe at a moment when the affairs of Italy had changed the current of public attention, does not seem destined to long enjoy his crown. He is believed to be near death, and his son is actively taking the necessary measures to succeed him, although the Porte has not recognised the hereditary right of this family to the throne of Servia."

CANADA.

In the Canadian Parliament, on the 8th inst., the Hon. Mr. Morse presented a petition from Hon. John Young and others, for an act of incorporation for a company to connect this continent by a submarine telegraph with Great Britain, *via* Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands.

AMERICA.

By the Canada we have received intelligence from Boston to the 9th inst. The *Washington Union*, the official organ, negatives the idea of an extra session, and calls on the contractors to avow their readiness to go on with the service, and look to the next Congress for compensation.

The election in the state of New Hampshire for Governor, members of Congress, and other officials, resulted in the entire success of the republicans.

General Houston had declined the mission to Mexico, and Mr. McLane had consequently been nominated. Mr. McLane would proceed to Mexico with all possible despatch. He goes out with discretionary powers to recognise and present his credentials to whatever Government he may find in a position to maintain itself, and based on the will of the people. The administration, whatever may be the sympathies of the American people towards the Liberals, will not interfere with either party, but will be governed by the existing state of things.

Rumours were afloat at Augusta, Georgia, that fifty of the negroes of the slaver Wanderer had been recaptured from the federal officers.

Navigation was re-opening on the upper lakes. The Senate on the 8th inst., ratified a number of treaties with the Washington and Oregon Indians, also the Cass-Herran treaty, by a large majority, after amending it by a provision to the effect that those who have not already presented their claims may do so before New Granada shall take final action on the subject. The treaty provides for the settlement of all claims against that republic, including those prior to the Panama riots.

The steamer City of Baltimore, from New York on the 12th, has arrived at Liverpool. The news is unimportant. The extraordinary session of the Senate closed on the 10th.

At Oswego, on the 9th, as an immense concourse of people were listening to a discourse on "the Last Judgment," in the St. Mary's Roman Catholic church, a part of the floor gave way, and four people were killed.

An attempt had been made to set fire to the Massachusetts State House, by firing a large bin filled with shavings in the basement. During the confusion, two suspicious persons attempted to force their way into the coat-room assigned for members. The smoke filled the whole building. Both houses were filled with spectators and members at the time, and the excitement was very great. The fire was extinguished without much damage.

MEXICO.

TAMPICO advices to the 26th ult., report that the Liberals were actively prosecuting the war. Juárez had taken the field and gone to Vera Cruz, which is in a perfect state of defence. General Espage had been taken by the Liberals at Aguascalientes. A portion of Miramon's troops had been repulsed in an attack on Jalapa. Miramon subsequently arrived before Vera Cruz, where the Liberals were confident of being able to defeat him. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Times*, reports the best understanding among the English and American officers now operating in the Mexican waters. The English Minister in Mexico is instructed to exercise his own discretion in recognising either party.

Advices from Vera Cruz of the 1st of March state that a portion of Miramon's forces had been defeated in an attack upon Jalapa, and returned to Perote. Miramon subsequently marched eastward, and reached Alvarado with 3,000 men, intending to march upon Vera Cruz, *via* the sea coast. There was much excitement at Vera Cruz, but they were confident of defeating Miramon. It was rumoured at Minatitlan on the 5th, just as the steamer was sailing, that Miramon had arrived before Vera Cruz, with 5,000 men and 40 field pieces. The express from the capital intended for the steamship Tennessee was detained by Miramon to conceal his movements.

WEST INDIES.

The Magdalena has arrived this week, with news from Kingston to the 26th February.

JAMAICA.

The papers were engaged in discussing the question of encouraging immigration into the colony of coloured and black people from Canada. Sir Houston Stewart had arrived from Barbadoes on a visit to Jamaica. A deputation from the Haytian Government had waited upon the Governor with an address, announcing the re-establishment of the Haytian Republic, and expressing their acknowledgment, on its behalf, for the asylum afforded the Haytian refugees during their exile, and whom they were now commissioned to remove to their native land, having furnished them with the means of enabling them to discharge whatever pecuniary obligations they have incurred in this island. A spirit of insubordination had manifested itself in Westmorland, where the people, in large bodies, one night demolished all the tollgates and tollhouses in the vicinity of Savanna-la-Mar. The rioters, after completing the outrage on which they were bent, dispersed quietly to their homes. A detachment of the 2nd West India Regiment was ordered to Savanna-la-Mar from Kingston. The public health continued in a very unfavourable state.

BARBADOES.

The House of Assembly met on the 22nd of February, when a report from the Auditor-General was read, accompanying the abstract of revenue and expenditure for the year. The returns of the last quarter showed the public in credit the handsome sum of 30,883. The weather continued very dry, and rain is much needed through the country. Sugar-making has commenced partially.

GRENADA.

At Grenada a three days' session of the Legislature had been actively occupied. Two bills were passed, one creating the office of a new stipendiary

magistrate, with a salary of 300*l.*, the other adding to the Attorney-General's salary of 280*l.* an annual allowance of 120*l.* The statements relative to the treatment of immigrants in Grenada were to be made a subject of inquiry in the House of Assembly. The weather was highly favourable for the planters, and manufacturing operations were proceeding vigorously. It was complained that the canes did not yield very abundantly, owing to the last year's drought. A whaling establishment had been formed in the colony, and in the first week of its operation two whales had been taken and reduced into oil. American whalers still hovered about the coasts and made a good thing of the fishery.

SOUTH AMERICAN STATES.

CHILI.

INTELLIGENCE from Valparaiso is to January 31. The revolutionary movement is still advancing. In the south, the province of Talca, and in the north, Huasco and Copiapo, are in arms against the Government. Atacama continues in the same revolutionary state, and the small force sent by the Government can do nothing until reinforced. On the 21st the revolution movement broke out at Talca, and the revolutionists fortified themselves in the public square. The Government have sent 300 men, in two steamers, to Constitution, but the result is not yet known. A son of General Las Heras commands the cavalry at Talca. Carlos Corea is at the head of 900 cavalry in the field. The political prisoners in Santiago are sentenced to banishment to Magallens, and Super (an Englishman) is in irons. A revolution movement is expected to take place in the province of Arauco. The Government is organising two battalions of infantry and a regiment of cavalry, paying twenty dollars bounty to each recruit. Copiapo still holds out, and more troops are to be sent to sustain the Government cause. The rails of a portion of the railroad have been taken up, so as to stop the communication with the Port of Caldera. In Valparaiso it is daily expected that the revolution will break out, and great fears are entertained that the mob will commit many excesses. The editors of the *Comercio* have offered the Government security, 50,000 dols., to be allowed to re-issue their journal, but their request was refused. Latest dates from Coquimbo, Concepcion, Chillan, and the rest of the Republic, are satisfactory. The ports of Hérasco, Carrisal, Bago, and Caldera, have been closed, in consequences of the disturbances in the north.

PERU.

From Lima we learn that business is completely paralysed, and the stores are all deserted. In political matters, the arrests and persecutions still continue, and but little confidence is shown in Castilla. The bloodless war with Ecuador still continues, but it is expected will soon be over. Peru is getting tired, and her men are suffering from sickness. It is expected that the efforts of the Chilean minister will lead to an amicable settlement.

Original Correspondence.

FRANCE.

Paris, Thursday, 6 1/2 p.m.

THE NEW EUROPEAN CONGRESS—ITS UTILITY AND DANGERS.

THE proposition to hold a Congress of the five great European powers, for the settlement of the affairs of Italy, offered by Russia, has been accepted here with an eagerness which proves how sincerely desirous the Government are of retracing their steps, and of satisfying the legitimate and honourable desires of the nation for the preservation of peace. To-day, the *Moniteur* announces that the British and Prussian Governments have given in their adhesion to the Russian suggestion, and that the answer of the Vienna cabinet has not yet arrived. There is, perhaps, a little bitterness and ill-nature in the style in which this part of the communication is couched, springing in all probability from the innate conviction that the Imperial discourtesy of New Year's day, and subsequent hectoring, have placed Austria on vantage ground, so far as public opinion is concerned. That any new-born sympathy with the Kaiser and his Government exists, would be the height of absurdity to profess; still, it is felt that Austria has done nothing to merit the opposition she has encountered from certain partisans of "order," and that she neither exceeded nor diminished the severity of her domination, nor her servility to clerical intolerance, which only a few years back won the admiration and praise of the Emperor Napoleon, his ministers and adherents. The inconsequence and contradiction of the present with the past attitude of the French Government are keenly felt, and people here begin to perceive that the conduct of their rulers has placed them in a very false position in the eyes of the rest of Europe, not altogether unattended with

ridicule, for the means of offence are quite inadequate to the fulfilment of threats uttered.

At the first announcement of the proposed Congress the funds rose, hopes were awakened, and confidence partially restored; but they have all given way before calm reflection. People begin to ask what Congress is to do; what chance it has of permanently restoring calm and contentment to Italy so as to remove the causes of future disturbance to the peace of Europe? To begin with Naples, which although unheeded, is in the most volcanic and dangerous condition of any of the Italian states; no hopes are entertained that King Ferdinand will restore the constitution he swore to maintain, but violated on the first occasion. No one imagines that either he or his son could ever be induced to lighten, much less abolish, that priestly tyranny which grinds down, corrupts and annihilates the populations of the two Sicilies. The "absolute king," the favoured of Iazzaroni, whose first wife has received the honours of canonization, and for whose health St. Januarius intervenes by miracles, will be the less likely to reform his Government when he remembers that Russia, the instigator of the Congress, has all along supported him in his brutal despotism, and encouraged him in his arrogant resistance to the councils of England and France, as well as in his contemptuous ill-treatment of Sardinia in the affair of the Cagliari.

If we turn to the States of the Church, we find misgovernment greater even than that of Naples. What can Congress do there? England and Prussia, as Protestant nations, and Russia, as the schismatic Greek empire, can offer no advice; or if they did, it would not be such as Rome would be disposed to accept. The reforms, therefore, to be recommended to the Papal Government for their adoption will have to be discussed and settled by France and Austria. Judging from the amount of liberty and self-government which these twin empires confer upon their subjects at home, it is not feasible that they will suggest such concessions to popular desires as will content the unhappy inhabitants of the Eternal city and the Legations. What remedy will either Franz Joseph or Napoleon offer to eradicate that black cancer which gnaws into the heart of Roman society, and taints the blood of every member? Why, not many months have passed since that clever feuilletoniste, M. Edmond About, was obliged to leave Rome, devoted partizan as he is of order and Imperialism, because he wrote in the *Moniteur* of the disregard of life, and lax morals of the Roman population.

As to Lombardo-Venetia, there can be no doubt but that the misgovernment of the inhabitants is rendered more grievous by being enforced by aliens, but the condition of the Venetian subjects of Austria is infinitely preferable to that of the subjects of native states. I say this in no excuse of the Austrian domination, which all Englishmen must desire to see terminated, but simply to point out the difficulties that must beset the action of Congress, and to prevent too sanguine hopes of beneficent results from its labours. If the efforts of plenipotentiaries, who are soon to meet at Aix-la-Chapelle, are to diminish the chances of outbreak in Italy, for prevent if they cannot, they must embrace the whole of the Peninsula, for were the Austrians to withdraw from her Italian provinces to-morrow, the condition of the Neapolitans and Romans would not be one whit the better; or, supposing that without abandoning her possessions, Austria were to endow them with constitutional and parliamentary government, and revive the strong local action of the congregations—evidently, the example would be contagious, Rome and Naples would chafe, conspire and rise, just as do the Lombards now with the prospect of the progress of liberty among the Piedmontese before their eyes.

There is a strong feeling here that great inducements should be offered to Austria to withdraw from the Lombardo-Venetia provinces, and to abandon her reversionary interests in the Italian duchies; and I am assured that, so great is the desire to destroy chances of future disturbances, that almost any sacrifice would be accepted. That Austria should give up what she holds by inheritance, and under the guarantee of treaties, would be foolish to imagine, unless she received an equivalent. Now, it is thought that means do exist by which this may be accomplished. It is suggested that in exchange for her Italian provinces, Austria should receive the Danubian provinces, which, in a few years, would prove of infinitely more value to her, and afford that outlet to the sea which is necessary for the development of her resources. The Principalities have, in their election of Prince Couza, set at naught the provisions of the Congress, and their inhabitants would infinitely prefer to be integrated to a powerful empire rather than to be left in their present feeble and anomalous condition, distracted by factions, and the prey of mercenary partizans. Turkey, it is believed, would willingly renounce her nominal suzerainty for the

security she would obtain by the interposition of Austria between her European frontiers and those of an unrelenting foe. To Europe, the extension of the Austrian empire to the shores of the Black Sea would be of incalculable advantage. The preponderance of Russia in those waters would be destroyed, a rival marine would be called into existence, a great development would be given to a German navy, and, what is the most satisfactory feature is, that Russia would be punished in where she had sinned. For it is now no secret that the whole of the present complications are due to the emissaries of the Czar. The first motive was to retaliate upon Austria for her "base ingratitude," the next was to sow ill-will between the British and French governments, and the last was to recover her prestige in Germany, and position as protector of central Europe. If she has sought to sow the whirlwind we do not desire that she should reap the storm, but we should not be sorry if her efforts to beget mischief should terminate in the erection of an effectual barrier to the realisation of her covetous views on Constantinople.

Supposing Austria were to accept the Principalities in exchange for her Italian provinces, and on condition of the latter assuming the liability of a fair proportion of her public debt—which would be no more than just—she would have bequeathed a fatal legacy to France, and not a jot of the danger to Europe from an Italian outbreak would be abated. True, she would have withdrawn from the evil circle, and fortified by the accession of German sympathy, and secure within her natural frontiers, could survey the struggles of Imperial despotism in the disguise of Italian liberalism. Leaving, however, this aside, as well as the inevitable dangers from Central and Southern Italy, the difficulty would still remain as to what was to be done with Lombardo-Venetia. It would be tolerated that Sardinia should be permitted to annex these provinces by either England, Prussia, or Austria; and, indeed, the latter power would be fully justified, as well as certain to find support, that Victor Emmanuel should make some concession to the cause of Italian nationality by abandoning Genoa and the territories he holds under the Treaties of 1815. The nomination of Prince Napoleon to the kingdom of Northern Italy would certainly not be permitted, nor is it by any means certain that his cousin would owe his elevation to a throne. The man who destroyed the republics of France and Rome is not likely to give a similar form of Government in Lombardy, nor to permit a Parliamentary and constitutional system to rust, so that when the Austrians leave we shall be as remote as ever from a satisfactory solution of the Italian difficulty. In suggesting the holding of a Congress, it must not be supposed that Russia's views were limited to the annoyance of Austria and the recovery of her former standing in the opinion of Germany. Her chief ambition is to take that revenge of England by means of her diplomacy, which she could never achieve by her armies. The main object of the Czar in getting a Congress appointed is to obtain an opportunity to bring the pretended grievances of the Ionians before Europe. I am assured that, so soon as the Italian question is under consideration, and before it is disposed of, the Russian plenipotentiary will be instructed to re-enact the part played by Count Cavour at the Congress of Paris. The ambassador of the Czar will plead community of religion and being a party to the treaties as excuse for interference. He will appeal to the professed sympathies of England for national independence and to her well-known phil-Hellenism. He will insist upon the logical necessity, when Austria gives up Italy, of England withdrawing her protection from a portion of Greece, and of the Ionian Islands being annexed to the main land for their enjoyment of the enlightened, uncorrupt, and patriotic government of King Otho. If this step be taken, which it is confidently expected, a very artful trap will have been laid for the British plenipotentiary, for he will find himself quite alone on the question. It is to be hoped that he will remember the answer of another Englishman, when asked by what title he held his land: "By my sword I won it, and by my sword I hold it."

POLITICAL MEETINGS.

THE Reform meetings increase rather than diminish. Crowded assemblies have been held at Leeds, Oxford, Deptford, Darlington, Haverfordwest, Cirencester, and other important places.

Another demonstration against the Government bill, and in favour of manhood suffrage and the other "points," was held in Hyde Park, on Sunday. Mr. Ernest Jones was the chief orator on this occasion. He divided his speech pretty fairly between abuse of Mr. Disraeli and abuse of Mr. Bright. A requisition, and also a petition, were enthusiastically adopted.

The Northern Reform Union has succeeded in

organising an immense demonstration against the Government measure; and 35,000 signatures are said to have been attached to their petition. All the meetings did not go for manhood suffrage; but the most moderate demands were household suffrage, the ballot, shorter Parliaments, and a better apportionment of members to population, the meeting declaring, at the same time, that nothing less could be accepted. In all the large towns the mayor or some of the principal inhabitants presided; and the following places have held meetings and sent petitions against the bill:—Newcastle on Tyne, Gateshead, North Shields, South Shields, Durham, Chester-le-street, Middlesbro', Darlington, Blyth, Berwick, Blaydon.

The members for Rochester again met their constituents on Wednesday night. This time they were permitted to be heard, and their expressions of opinion against the Government Reform Bill were loudly cheered.

NEAPOLITAN EXILES.

A FORTIOT of the exiles landed at Bristol on Saturday. Their reception was of the most enthusiastic character. Mr. Langton, M.P., and other city dignitaries, proceeded on board the vessel, and gave them a hearty welcome. They passed through the streets amid the acclamations of countless thousands, and the waving of flags and the playing of bands of music added to the spirit and heartiness of their reception.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Edinburgh was held on Friday, in the Council Chamber, for the purpose of setting on foot a subscription in behalf of the exiles; the Lord Provost presided. A number of gentlemen, headed by the Lord Provost, put down their names on the subscription list in the room, and upwards of 40*l.* was realised before the meeting separated.

The exiles reached the Great Western Railway station at Paddington, on Monday, and found a great congregation of people at the platform ready to receive them. The approach of the train that contained them was the signal for most hearty cheers. The exiles were conducted to the great Western Hotel, and welcomed and entertained. Mr. Hodge, whose name had been associated with the Orsini plot, appeared to be the master of the ceremonies. He briefly spoke to the exiles, and presented to them a formal address of congratulation and sympathy. Other speeches were made, and the exiles were ultimately conveyed to the Union Hotel in Cranbourne-street, assigned to them as their temporary residence.

A letter from these Neapolitans has been published, addressed to the people of England, in which they modestly, but decisively, repudiate public demonstrations in their favour.

Norwich, in common with the rest of the empire, is showing its sympathy with the exiles. A committee, formed for the purpose of receiving subscriptions to alleviate their necessities, includes Sir S. Bignold, late Conservative M.P. for Norwich, and several of the leading citizens, of various political opinions.

In consequence of the letter which had appeared in the public journals from some of the leading exiles, expressing a wish that no public meetings on their behalf should take place, the proposed St. Pancras demonstration has been abandoned.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone entertained at dinner on Wednesday, in Carlton House-terrace, Signor Settembrini and Signor Spaventa. There were also present the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, the Earl of Carlisle, the Earl of Southesk, Lord and Lady Overstone, the Right Hon. James Stuart Wortley, Sir Walter James, Mr. E. Ellice, M.P., Mr. Lacaita, and Mr. Panizzi. A select circle assembled later in the evening, several of the Neapolitan gentlemen being among the visitors.

We notice in the second list of subscriptions to the Exiles Fund the following:—Duchess of Sutherland, 50*l.*; Lord Belper, 50*l.*; Earl of Kilmorey, 50*l.*; Earl of Ripon, 50*l.*; Sir Joseph W. Copley, Bart., 50*l.*; W. Brown, Esq., M.P., 50*l.*; John P. Heywood, Esq., 50*l.*; Jos. Locke, Esq., M.P., 50*l.*; William Roupell, Esq., M.P., 50*l.*; T. W. Bencke, Esq., 50*l.*; Earl of Clarendon, 25*l.*; Lord Farnham, 25*l.*; Kirkman Hodgson, Esq., M.P., 25*l.*; J. Stewart Hodgson, Esq., 25*l.*; Humphrey F. Mildmay, Esq., 25*l.*; H. Mackenzie, Esq., 25*l.*; Stafford Price, Esq., 21*l.*; Duchess of Cleveland, 20*l.*; Marquis of Clanricarde, 20*l.*; Sir John Boileau, Bart., 20*l.*; the Right Hon. Sir David Dundas, Bart., 20*l.*; J. P. Brown Westhead, M.P., 20*l.*; H. A. Slaney, Esq., M.P., 20*l.*; G. W. Norman, Esq., 15*l.*; Lord Macaulay, 10*l.* 10s.; Earl Ducie, 10*l.*; Lord Cranworth, 10*l.* 10s.; Right Hon. Sir G. Grey, Bart., M.P., 10*l.* 10s.; Sir B. Brodie, Bart., 10*l.*; Burnhead Samuelson, Esq., M.P., 10*l.* 10s.; Sir R. Murchison, Bart., 10*l.* 10s.; Henry Crabb Robinson, Esq., 10*l.*; the Lord Mayor, 10*l.* 10s.; the Master of the Rolls, 10*l.* 10s.;

Dowager Lady Dillon, 5l.; Bishop of Cork, 5l.; W. M. Thackeray, Esq., 5l., &c. &c.

The Mayor of Bradford has issued a public notice inviting such of the inhabitants as concur in the object to meet him at St. George's Hall this day, to express sympathy with the Neapolitan exiles, and to contribute to the fund.

There seems to be a difference of opinion among the exiles relative to the proposed demonstrations in their favour. A letter, signed by a portion of them, repudiates that other letter, mentioned above, and urges, that if the demonstrations are intended to prove that England sets its face against oppression, they ought not to be discountenanced. At the same time, like their brethren, they have no wish that meetings should be called simply for the expression of personal sympathy with those who have suffered.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and her family are still at Osborne, and, with the exception that they are all in good health, there is little to record. The Queen and her children walk and ride daily in the grounds and neighbourhood, and have interchanged visits with the Prince and Princess of Leningen. Admiral Bowles dined at Osborne on Wednesday. Her Majesty and the Prince, with their children, purpose, according to present arrangements, to leave Osborne on Tuesday next for Buckingham Palace.

ELECTION ITEMS.—For the University of Cambridge, the supporters of Mr. Selwyn, Q.C., are pledging themselves to procure, if possible, the return of the learned gentleman, in conjunction with the Right Hon. S. H. Walpole.—At the borough of Cambridge the Liberal party have adopted Messrs. Adair and Mowatt as their candidates. The present Conservative sitting members, Messrs. K. Macaulay and A. Stuart, will offer themselves for re-election.—Mr. Leatham is again a candidate, in the Liberal interest, for the representation of Wakefield in Parliament.—It is stated that both divisions of Norfolk will be contested. In the west Mr. W. Bagge, of Stradsett, who retired in 1857, will again come forward in the Conservative interest with Mr. G. W. P. Bentinck.—At Dudley it is said that the Hon. Mr. Calthorpe, the new Liberal member for East Worcestershire, will be put forward as a candidate. Mr. Sheridan will also come forward again, and the following candidates are also spoken of: the Hon. Mr. Littleton, eldest son of Lord Hatherton; Mr. E. Dixon, son of a local banker; Mr. W. Matthews, ironmaster, Edgbaston, near Birmingham; and a Mr. Locock.—In the event of a dissolution, Sir Henry Stracey, late M.P. for East Norfolk, will contest Great Yarmouth in the Conservative interest in conjunction with Sir Edmund Bacon.—The retirement of Mr. H. S. Waddington from the representation of West Suffolk is announced as probable.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The return of the Registrar-General for last week, exhibits as favourable a state of the health of the metropolis as that of the previous week, the number of deaths being only one in excess, viz., 1,175 as against 1,174. The number of births was 1,841, exceeding the deaths by 666. Dr. Lethely also reports favourably as to the health of the City.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.—A Court was held on Thursday, at which the death of Mr. Prendercast, Judge of the Sheriffs' Court, was formally announced, and it was stated the Common Serjeant would perform the duty *pro tem.* A report from the improvements committee upon the Metropolitan Railway was presented, but its consideration was adjourned to a special court. A petition was presented from the London Mechanics' Institution, praying for a donation in aid of the funds, when a motion to grant the prayer was agreed to by a large majority. The other business was disposed of, and the court adjourned.

MR. W. H. RUSSELL.—A Bombay letter says:—"Russell, the *Times* special correspondent, may almost be considered one of Lord Clyde's staff, as he goes about with him everywhere. He is said to have got enormously stout, as the result of his long rustication in that glorious sanitarium, Simlah, after the unfortunate kick which he received from his horse. He has been well abused by a portion of the Indian press for the tone of his communications. Mr. Russell, I believe, glories in being considered a plain-spoken writer; but, as I dare say you are aware, plain-spoken people are often very unjust, and he certainly has sometimes been too sweeping in his censures upon the English in India, and has, I am glad to see, begun to think so himself, and apologise and draw in his horns accordingly. The Indian newspapers were also unjust in the manner in which they resented his charges, but a more equitable feeling is now displayed in their columns."

BLESSINGS OF NAPOLEONISM.—France, by immoderate armaments, has placed Europe in a state of deep alarm. Every one who hears the continual discussions concerning the number and equipment of troops, the size of line-of-battle ships, and the newly-invented guns, rifles, or shells, must feel that the attention of Europe is far more fixed on matters relating to war than was the case a few years since. The gains of trade are eaten up by taxes; the progress of education is impeded by the sacrifices necessary to keep up forces by land and sea, and it is only the unremitting industry of multitudes which enables the nations to bear the intolerable burdens imposed on them. The Emperor alone has been the cause of the evil, and we trust that the good sense which has actuated the French in this long dispute will urge them to demand a further decrease in their needless and provoking armaments.—*Times.*

VERY CHASTE!—In his "Lectures on Authors," Mr. S. C. Hall describes Mary Russell Mitford. Her face, like her figure, was broad and round, but pleasant and good-humoured, and indicative rather of intelligence than of genius. Of the art of dress she knew nothing. On her way to an evening party at the lecturer's house, she purchased a most unbecoming yellow turban, which caused her to be for some time an object of merriment, owing to the fact of the shopkeeper from whom she had bought it having forgotten to remove from behind it a large ticket bearing the printed inscription, "Very chaste. Only 5s. 6d."

THE CONGRESS.—It has been proposed that the Congress shall be held at Geneva, but that place has been objected to, on account of the comparative difficulty of access and the severity of the climate at this season. Aix-la-Chapelle has also been proposed, and with more probability of its proving generally acceptable. It has abundant accommodation, excellent hotels, and is accessible by railway from every direction. London, Brussels, and the Hague have also been mentioned, but we believe Aix will ultimately be selected.—*Times.*

NAVAL RESOURCES OF ENGLAND.—The *Débats* devotes an article to the debate in the House of Commons on the Naval Estimates. It concludes thus:—"The great fact to be remarked is the immensity of means commanded by the English navy. To add in a single year to the fleet twenty-six large vessels, of which fifteen are line-of-battle ships, is an extraordinary exertion which England is alone capable of making, and which could not be executed by the dockyards of all the other powers of the old and the new world, were they even to combine their efforts. The French steam fleet comprises splendid vessels, which can bear advantageously any comparison with those of England, and the First Lord of the Admiralty spoke perhaps with greater truth than he suspected when he admitted that fact in full Parliament; but he laughs at the public when he pretends that the number of these vessels causes him alarm. He is too well aware that in this respect England still possesses no rival."

COURT OF ALDERMEN.—A Court was held on Tuesday, the Lord Mayor presiding. A report was brought up from the gaol committee, stating that they had suspended the governor of Holloway Prison, and appointed Mr. Weatherhead, governor of Newgate, governor *pro tem.*, of Holloway. The facts disclosed were sufficient to induce the committee to advise the court at once to dismiss Mr. Wright, declare the office vacant, and proceed to appoint his successor. A motion for agreeing with the committee in their report was agreed to *nem. con.* Mr. Alderman Copeland intimated his conviction that a majority of the court had already decided in favour of transferring Mr. Weatherhead from Newgate; but ultimately it was decided to refer the whole subject to the gaol committee, with instructions to inquire and report upon the office, and to select three well qualified persons from among the candidates, with the view of one being appointed to the vacant office.

THE SPANISH CERTIFICATE HOLDERS.—It is announced that Mr. J. D. Powles, chairman of the Committee of Spanish Certificate Holders, who is now in Madrid, has determined on presenting a memorial to the Cortes on the subject of his mission; and we have received a copy of the letter which he has addressed upon the occasion to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Powles earnestly deprecates the importation of "considerations of party feeling" into this question, solicits the support of the government to his petition to the Cortes, and suggests the appointment of a committee of that body to examine and report on the statements contained in it.

MALT.—The gross total quantity of malt made in the United Kingdom in the year ended 30th of September, 1858, amounted to 5,742,820 qrs., whereof 5,113,722 qrs. were charged with duty. 4,548,500 qrs. of malt were used by brewers and victuallers and retail brewers—viz., 3,261,343 qrs. by brewers, 900,569 qrs. by victuallers, and 386,597 qrs. by retail brewers. These statistics are gathered from a return moved for by Mr. J. Locke, M.P.

FRENCH FISHERIES.—The herring fishery at Boulogne for the season just closed has been the most productive recorded in any French port; 109 boats of 3,185 (French) tons, manned by 1,506 men, were engaged in it; and the result was, 4,518 lasts of fresh and salted fish. Of the latter there were prepared 54,314 barrels, and the total money proceeds of the fishery were £118,015. In the previous season they were only £69,674.

TRADE IN FRANCE.—The weekly commercial review of the *Presse* reports that trade generally is in a state of complete stagnation. It observes that the favourable returns of the railway receipts are no evidence of commercial activity, as they are attributable to increased mileage on the lines; and, moreover, the comparison is now made with a period when the commercial crisis of last year was at its meridian.

THE LITERARY FUND.—At the annual meeting of the Literary Fund on Wednesday, Mr. Charles Dickens communicated the noble offer of a friend of literature to give £10,000 in money, and 17,000 volumes of books, to the corporation, on condition that certain reforms calculated to increase the utility of the Fund were adopted.

THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG.—The Prince Consort's brother has, at a sitting of the Berlin Hippological Society, delivered a speech on the peculiarities and excellencies of the various breeds of horses.

QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY.—The treasurer of the governors of Queen Anne's bounty has just made a return to the House of Commons of the sums which have been paid by him since the Act passed in 1847 relating to this charity. The largest payments were made in 1848, and amounted to £340. Of this £216 were paid in Salisbury, and £112 in Worcester, Durham receiving the remainder. In the succeeding years the payments were trifling, but in 1858 they amounted to £220; Gloucester and Bristol receiving £89, Hereford £64, Lincoln £27, and Llandaff £41.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—The *Times* (City article) states that a private bill has been introduced, in a covert form, by the Great Western Railway, to enable them at pleasure to raise their fares for passengers and goods to an extent ranging from 50 to 100 per cent., as well as to acquire other powers, with a view apparently of screening their arrangements from observation. It is stated to have been merely by accident that the trading community discovered the project in time to take measures for its defeat. The bill is entitled "A bill for authorising the construction of a railway for carrying the West London Railway over the Great Western Railway, by means of a bridge, in substitution for the present level crossing; for revising the tolls of the Great Western Railway Company, and for other purposes;" and it was in this manner, by putting forth the change of a crossing into a bridge as the prominent object, that it was hoped to gain the means to tax to an almost indefinite degree the entire traffic of the West of England. Opposition to the bill is threatened.

DEATH OF A NOBLE POLISH EXILE.—On Wednesday last Count Sigismund Krasinski, a Polish noble, hero, and poet, died in Paris. He was related to the Royal houses of Saxony and Piedmont, and his godfather was the Emperor Napoleon, who appointed him on the day of his birth aide-de-camp to the King of Rome.

RAILWAYS IN ROME.—The inauguration of the railway from Rome to Civita Vecchia, which was announced for April 1, has been postponed to the 15th or 20th. It is now said that only the pontifical authorities and the foreign ambassadors will be invited on the occasion.

PROTESTANTISM IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.—On Tuesday last two meetings of Protestants were held at Torquay, one in the morning, which was most respectably attended, and another in the evening, which was filled to overflowing. Mr. Paul Fokett delivered two powerful addresses, and was warmly received. The Protestant faith, the sufficiency of Holy Scripture, and justification by faith, were contrasted with the doctrines of the Trinitarians and Roman Catholics.

LIGHT IN ROME.—The Roman correspondent of the *Times* says:—"An anecdote which was recently related to me shows in another form how averse the Papal Government is from letting in too much light in the public mind. The gas pipes in the Piazza del Popolo were being examined not many mornings since, when a stranger observed, 'So you are letting in light upon the Popolo.' It might have been meant as a *double entendre*, or it might have had simply a reference to the site on which they were standing. However that may be, the stranger was followed to his hotel by a respectably-dressed man, who made particular inquiry of the proprietor as to who the stranger was, at the same time inadvertently on the ominous words that had been uttered. The hotel was that in which the Prince of Wales resided, and it so happened that the stranger was the equerry who formed part of His Highness's suite."

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, &c.

LITERARY CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THE secret offer to the Literary Fund, communicated through Messrs. Dickens and Elwyn (the Editor of the *Quarterly*), is understood to be a large sum of money offered by a benevolent lady, in addition to the fund remaining over and above from the hitherto unsuccessful proceedings of the Guild of Literature and Art. This sum of money having remained inactive all this time upon their hands, and amounting, it is said, to about £5,000, Mr. Dickens and his friends have more than once tried to induce the Committee of the Literary Fund to accept it—under conditions; and what these conditions have been it is not difficult to imagine, seeing that Mr. Dickens has long been urging upon the subscribers to the Fund a series of reformatory measures not agreeable to the committee. We do not propose to enter into that question now; all that we can do is, to inform the reader of the nature of this new movement, which has diverted, for a time, the thunder of Mr. Dickens and his friends from the heads of the Committee of the Literary Fund. The meeting appointed for Wednesday last, when Mr. Dickens and Mr. Elwyn were to communicate the nature of the proposal to the Committee, proved quite abortive; for no sooner had the gentlemen met, than some ingenious person started a preliminary question, whether they had a right to meet for such a purpose; and after some consideration it was decided that, according to the provisions of their Charter, they had not; and, consequently, as nought could be done, and nought could be said, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Mahon, and the rest of the noble and distinguished committeemen retired. A curious instance this of the value of forms.

The "Vestiges" question has taken a new form, and has developed itself in an unexpected manner; bidding fair to be the greatest literary cause célèbre since Junius. The *Critic*, which makes itself very busy in all such matters, this week prints a formal document signed by Dr. James Cox, the nephew of George Combe, and one of his literary executors, and written, it is alleged, with the full concurrence of his co-executors, in which the imputation of authorship to George Combe is most emphatically and strenuously denied. "Mr. George Combe" says Dr. Cox, "knew nothing of the 'Vestiges' till he saw a published copy of the work; and we are confident that he never, by word, look, or silent acquiescence, knowingly gave the slightest countenance to the supposition that he was its author, or had taken any part whatever in its production." This statement is strong, but it proves rather too much. How can any man pronounce absolutely upon what another knows or does not know, or has seen or not seen? It is impossible. And then, in opposition to the denial of his ever having given "the slightest countenance to the supposition that he was its author," even by "silent acquiescence," we have Professor Owen's evidence, that in his letters to Combe he always treated him as the author, and he never denied the assumption in his replies. Two other events in connexion with the question are the emphatic denial of Professor Nichol of any complicity in the authorship, coupled with an announcement that he will shortly publish a work in which the views of the "Vestiges" will be refuted; and Mr. David Page's emphatic assertion, that "Mr. Robert Chambers is the sole and responsible author of the book."

No new books of marked importance have either appeared or been announced. Two additions to the cheap popular press are spoken of; one a penny *Bull's Life*, to appear twice a week, and the other, an English edition of the *New York Ledger*, a cheap periodical on the pattern of the *Family Herald*, which has risen in America to a circulation of nearly half-a-million.

The British Museum has got two new trustees. One, the Rev. W. Cureton, of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and Canon of the Abbey, appointed to the vacant Royal trusteeship which has been unfilled since the death of the old Duke

of Cambridge. Mr. Cureton was once employed in the library of the Museum, and has gained much celebrity as a Syriac scholar. It may be doubted whether mere scholarship, without the aid of such patronage as that of the Prince Consort, would have led to such a result. It is stated that before this appointment no person outside the pale of the Royal Family has ever held the post of Royal Trustee to the British Museum.

Among coming events interesting to the literary world is the annual feast of the Literary Fund. It is fixed for Wednesday, the 18th of May, and the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, the statesman and literary man, who did not pacify the "Isles of Greece," but *did* criticise Homer, is to preside. This is always the most interesting, if not the best, dinner of the season.

From Paris we hear that the Emir Abd-el-Kadir has got his Memoirs in the press; a French literary gentleman having undertaken the task of translating them from the Arabic MSS.

CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.

Christianity in India. An Historical Narrative. By John William Kaye. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Of all subjects at the present time, this is perhaps the most important to an Englishman; and we may esteem it a great happiness that it has fallen into the hands of one so competent to all the relations of the great argument as Mr. Kaye. To a thorough knowledge of India, Mr. Kaye adds much power of eloquence, which, when there is occasion, illuminates these pages with remarkable radiance. As an example of this, we might instance his narrative of the heroic missionary efforts of the Jesuit, Francis Xavier, which is as fine a piece of writing as we have met with, in its way. With the mission of this extraordinary man properly begins the history; all events prior to that period are fabulous or mythical. The story of St. Thomas having been an apostle here is simply a mistake; it relates to a St. Thomas of the eighth century, not of the first.

The greatest enemies of Christianity in India have been Christians themselves. Their conduct, so inconsistent with their profession, and so infamous in itself, is of a nature to make one shudder. The natives summed it up in one sentence of broken English—"Christian religion, devil religion; Christian much drunk; Christian much do wrong; much beat and abuse others." We regret to add that this saying was especially true of the Protestants; against the Romanist very different charges have to be brought.

Soon after Xavier had accomplished marvels in Syria, and died, Rome began to spoil the work he had done, after her usual fashion. She contested the supremacy of the Patriarch of Babylon. She came down like a wolf on the fold upon the doomed Indian Churches. More than one Syrian prelate expiated their alleged heresies in the dungeons of the Inquisition. Don Alexis de Menezes, archbishop of Goa, conducted the work of persecution with stern cruelty; declaring the supremacy of the Roman Pontiff, and excommunicating the patriarch. Sixty years of servitude and hypocrisy, according to Gibbon, succeeded. But as soon as the Portuguese empire was shaken by the courage and industry of the Dutch, the Nestorians asserted the religion of their fathers.

It is, however, on the eastern coast that the movements of the Jesuits had to be traced. The time of the strange drama that they enacted was the seventeenth century. In the regions watered by the Ganges, they were disheartened and repulsed, but in the Southern Peninsula they had, according to their own account, marvellous success. They sought their converts among the Brahmans, and for that purpose assumed the disguise of Brahmans, calling themselves Western Brahmans. "They shrunk," says our author, "from no amount of labour—from no suffering—from no humiliation. They turned aside from the practice of no deceit—from the exercise of no hypocrisy. They lied in word and they lied in action." Following this infamous plan of dissimulation, they mixed with

the people, talked their language, adopted their customs, and countenanced their superstitions.

"Clothed in the sacerdotal yellow cloth, with the mark of sandal wood on their foreheads, their long hair streaming down their backs, their copper vessels in their hands, their wooden sandals on their feet, these 'New Brahmans' found acceptance among the people, and were welcomed by the princes of Southern India. They performed their ablutions with scrupulous regularity; they ate no animal food; they drank no intoxicating liquors, but found in the simple fare of vegetables and milk at once a disguise and a protection. The Christians had hitherto appeared upon the scene, eating and drinking—glutinous and wine-bibbers—and they had paid penalty of an addiction to those feverish stimulants under the burning copper skies of the East. The holy men who now wandered half-naked among the natives of Southern India, and, sitting on their haunches, ate the common fare of the country, braved the climate with comparative immunity, and were not suspected of fellowship with the sensual Europeans, who had turned Goa into a style of corruption. Whether it was necessary to the due simulation of the Brahmanical character to preserve in all other respects very great purity of life, may be left to all who are acquainted with the habits of that priestly class to conjecture for themselves."

The whole affair was a pretence and an hypocrisy; for instance, under the pretext of administering medicine to them, they baptised all the dying children. Their notion was to save virtual proselytes by the magic of priestcraft. The Christianity of Madura, so taught, was mere idolatry, and disguised itself as a brotly as the priests who taught it. Instead of attempting to break down caste, they made a parade of it in their own behalf, declaring that they were sprung from the head of Brahma himself. The high-caste Christians and the low-caste Christians were suffered to worship apart. They could not pray in the same temple or dip their fingers in the same holy water. The Jesuits' method of converting the heathen was by becoming themselves heathens. At length the fraud exploded, and the contests betwixt the Dutch and Portuguese brought the whole matter to a premature close. It had no root in truth, and perished at the slightest collision. The Dutch merchants, if they did not encourage the Malabar Christians, "sheltered them against the rapacity of the Jesuits; and the dawn of the eighteenth century found the authority of Rome a mere shadow among the Syrian churches." The ruin of the Jesuit missions in Southern India was accomplished, in time, by a natural internal process, rather than by any outward violence. The "New Brahmans" were detected at last. They were found to be only Peringhees in disguise, and the natives rejected their ministrations with anger and contempt.

The first Protestant church was erected in Madras, in 1681, by one Streynsham Master, a devout man, and chief of the factory; in 1718, another was erected in Bombay. More decency of life had commenced among the settlers, but true Christianity was of tardy growth. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, however, England was associated with the Hollander and the Dane, in missionary enterprise. Of the last named, Bartholomew Ziegenbalg, and Henry Plutsch, two distinguished men, undertook not to baptize, but to convert the heathen. They translated the Bible into the vulgar tongue of the natives, the Tamil; and in due course the words, at first punctured on the primitive palmyra leaf, were perpetuated by means of the printing press. At first paper was not to be procured. "The missionaries looked the difficulty boldly in the face, and made paper for themselves." The name, too, of Frederick Schwartz, is honourably distinguished as that of a religious labourer for nearly half a century in Southern India.

During all this time, however, and long afterwards—during the periods over which Hastings and Clive presided—the conduct of European society was most immoral. The grossest social vices prevailed; drunkenness, concubinage, and worse. "It was of little use to think of christianising the people, until the English in India had begun in some measure to christianize themselves." Never-

theless, Mr. Kaye insists on holding the scales justly. Many a European, says he, made "the native concubine the companion of his life, and worshipped her with his body, in all fidelity, as truly as though the Church had sanctioned the bond.

"With this fidelity often went unfeeling kindness—even tender affection, surviving the youth and beauty of the mistress; and when circumstances, as they sometimes did, prevented the performance of the union—when the English officer returned to England, or when he married an English wife, he was sure to make provision for the woman who had shared his bed. It was for a higher state of social civilisation and Christian morality than that of which those much-reviled Anglo-Indians boasted, to sanction the practice of casting adrift upon a cruel world the unhappy victim of the sated lust of an English gentleman. Such victims added in India none to the list of public prostitutes. The concubinage, which custom sanctioned, may have been reprehensible in itself, but there was not one seduction at the one end of it, and desertion at the other."

Mr. Kaye is careful to trace the steps of improvement in the social morals of India; for, notwithstanding all, improvement was possible; and the India of later years has not been so far behind the standard of the mother country. In both, indeed, the standard has wanted elevating; nor, in fact, can we point to any country as a nation of Christians, strictly speaking. That, at this period, Cambridge was not a Christian university, is sufficiently proved by the tale told in this volume of Mr. Charles Simeon, through whose agency the Indian mission was recruited. Well might Lord Cornwallis think that there was small chance of converting the Hindoo? small chance, indeed, of obtaining proper converters. Mr. Charles Grant, however, a Director of the East India Company, thought differently, and to his exertions both countries have been much indebted.

The nineteenth century, as we have intimated, shows fairer than the preceding. Its great missionary ornament was Henry Martyn, whose labours are charmingly recorded by Mr. Kaye. Nor must we neglect to acknowledge the merits of Bishop Heber. Great efforts were made by these men, and others; yet the work of conversion has been confessedly slow. Every attempt to force the Hindoo to become a convertite has failed. Always has it alarmed the native, and of his alarm the Mahomedan has constantly taken advantage. Public controversy even was dangerous, if it went to the extent of condemning the religions that it would substitute. Christianity in India can only be promoted by example, not by the denouncement of error. The Mahomedan and Hindoo will have it proved affirmatively and practically, not negatively and theoretically. They will not hear that their own creeds are false, until, by their conduct, Christians have demonstrated that their own is true. This is the only way left. Ought we to regret it? We think not. The true Christianity is not a speculation, but a Life. It must be taught by Life, not by incomprehensible logomachies.

The revolt of 1857 had its prototype in the mutiny of 1806. There is a marvellous similarity in the antecedents of both; and both teach the same lesson. There was in 1806 the same kind of apprehension excited, that a "forcible conversion of the native army to Christianity" was intended. What, however, is meant by those who spread the alarm, according to Mr. Kaye, is the destruction of caste. "The appearance of a Christian ministry in every village in the country would excite little apprehension in comparison with even a rumour that the Government are greasing the cartridges in the magazines with animal fat, or mixing animal bones with the flour sold in the bazaars. The natives know that they may meet the missionary with argument, or that they may turn a deaf ear to his charmings, charm he never so wisely; but covert attempts to destroy caste they can neither grapple with nor evade; and when they believe that the immense machinery of a powerful foreign Government is set at work to compass their pollution, no wonder that a panic is engendered, and that panic rapidly ferments into revolt.

There is the moral of the entire history. Enlightened by it, we must proceed cautiously. We have an Oriental empire, and we must consider the temper and wishes of our subjects, whether Hindoo, Buddhist, Mahomedan, or Christian. The sceptre must be wielded with impartiality; and matters of

opinion must be indulged in that liberty which is the element of discussion, and without which we can never be sure, when victory is obtained, that it is Truth that has triumphed.

AMERICAN LITERATURE.

Trübner's Bibliographical Guide to American Literature; a classed list of books published in the United States of America during the last forty years. With Bibliographical Introduction, Notes, and Alphabetical Index. Compiled and edited by Nicolas Trübner. Trübner and Co.

THE literature of a colony may very properly be said to belong to that of the parent state, more particularly when, as in the case before us, the same language is spoken, the same habits of thought prevail, and the same ardent aspirations after liberty and religious toleration are the chief characteristics of both parent and child. Such would appear to have been Mr. Trübner's reason for confining his researches to the first half of the present century, or rather to the last forty years. As in all young states, after the American declaration of independence in 1776, the national enterprise found many other and more congenial fields than literature for its development; and though there are most honoured names and giant intellects which make the exception, it was not till about the year 1820, that the United States of America may be said to have possessed a national literature. Indeed, in confining himself to the limits he has chosen, we think the compiler has used a wise discretion; for the book-trade of the great republic has of late years become so important a branch of her commerce, that any national writers she may have had before then, whose works properly belong to a nation's literature, have no doubt appeared in new editions since the year 1817, which may be said to be the commencement of her claim as a nation, to be counted amongst the contributors to the literature of the world.

"In a work of general reference like the present, one of two methods must necessarily be adopted; it must either be subdivided into classes, or be alphabetically arranged throughout. I am not about to raise the vexed question of the impossibility of forming a strictly philosophical classification of the productions of the mind; nor am I going to defend the arbitrary classes which I have adopted, in compliance with the wishes of many competent judges, who value the practical utility of the work more than its extreme bibliographical accuracy. These claim the readers' indulgence, as all other imperfect productions of mankind must ever do; and the more so, as a full and general alphabetical index has been added, by which a facile reference can readily be made to any work sought, if it is not found at once in the class first referred to."

The classification, however, needed scarcely this apology. It is true it is not according to the strict rules of bibliographical science; but we live in fast days—days of progress would, perhaps, be the better expression—and the classification of books adopted by bibliographers towards the close of the last century would scarcely meet our present requirements, when the facilities of the printing press, by the aid of steam, multiply books with a rapidity those bibliographers could never have calculated upon. Besides, it is within the memory of most of us what a miserable failure the picked staff of our own British Museum made in their attempt to produce a classed catalogue of our national collection; and what a far more abortive and laughable affair, had it not cost such a ruinous sum of money, is the first volume of the Catalogue of Printed Books in the Library of the British Museum, prepared according to the rules prefixed, which bear the signature of its present principal librarian. Mons. Tachereau, to whom the present Emperor of the French has entrusted the production of the catalogue of the printed books in the Imperial library at Paris, candidly admits the difficulty of producing a classed catalogue according to strict bibliographical canons, and Mr. Trübner may quote him as sufficient authority for having deviated from them in the present instance.

Anglo-American literature, by its rapid rise and increasing importance, forces itself daily more and more on our attention. The Americans themselves appear to have no notion of furnishing a catalogue which can supply a great and admitted want; for they have nothing even like our London Catalogue, the English *Booksellers' Trade Manual*, and far less any prospect of such a work as Kayser's "Bücher Lexicon," one of the most valuable of all attempts to give a perfect record of the literary

progress of any nation, in which the titles of all books published in Germany for a lengthened period are given in full, with the sizes, number of pages, names of publishers, and such other particulars as can interest any one who is occupied in literary pursuits, or in the formation of libraries and collections of books. Mr. Trübner has produced a work on the literature of the United States of America on a plan every way superior to that of the London catalogue. If not so full as that adopted by Kayser, it must be recollected that he had to gather his materials in many cases, not from the books themselves, but from the very imperfect, and too often slovenly lists of their publications issued by American booksellers. On turning over the pages, it will be seen that the titles are given sufficiently at length to represent the contents of the books, that the places of publication, the dates, and sizes are given, and in many cases the number of pages enumerated. There is one feature of the work which claims particular notice. Of all encyclopædic works, transactions, memoirs, and journals of learned and scientific bodies, a most prolific class of American publications, the enumeration of which fills thirty-five closely printed pages, there are full and accurate tables of contents, drawn out upon the plan of Reuss, whose "Repertorium Bibliographicum" furnishes similar tables of contents of this class of books published in Europe. The importance of these tables is beyond all value, and if the whole work were even less carefully compiled than it is, it would still put forward a claim as one of the greatest utility, on their account alone.

(To be continued.)

Two Journeys to Japan, 1566-7. By Kinahan Cornwallis. 2 vols. T. C. Newby.

MR. CORNWALLIS must be accounted the most fortunate or foresighted of literary travellers, for scarcely had he allayed the cravings of the public for "all about" British Columbia, when that hydra-headed monster, hungering for information that might enable it to comprehend the full advantages of Earl Elgin's treaty with Japan, than our alike ready writer and traveller announces as in preparation two volumes of adventures on the identical subject—the land of fogs, earthquakes, and—innocence.

Strangely too, if we do not miscalculate, these travels must have happened about the same time that we, in our ignorance, should have supposed him to have been in the neighbourhood of the Fraser River, picking up materials for his work on British Columbia.

Be this as it may, these volumes contain a vast amount of information about Japan and her people, which will be new to those who have not at hand Charlevoix Albertus Montanus, Kaempfer, and Thunberg, or those of more recent date, by Titsingh, Doeff, Fischer, Meylan Siebold, and the author of the narrative of the American expedition to Japan in 1842-3. To the latter of which, if we except the carelessness of Mr. Cornwallis's diction, and certain personal adventures, which, in despite of ourselves, we must take *cum grano salis*, the book before us bears a strong family likeness. This, however, may be accounted for by the fact that our author, in company with Americans, visited those parts only which are opened by treaty to our Transatlantic relatives.

For so cosmopolitan a traveller as, from the many hints in these pages with reference to visits to other countries, we take the author to be, he surprises by the one-sided, rose-tinted view he takes of the interesting but semi-barbarous people of Japan. He will have no spots upon his sun among nations; even his vision and his lungs were too strong to feel the effects, or even notice, either the precipitous streets of Nangasaki, which it is inconvenient, if not dangerous, for equestrians to traverse, or those fearfully dense and frequent fogs for which this land of volcanoes is proverbial. Then, in his enthusiasm for these children of the sun-goddess, he will scarcely admit the necessity of Christianity; and boldly, like an honest enthusiast, not only hints the non-necessity for their christianisation, but insists that they are the most ingenious, amiable, but especially most modest and virtuous people in the world;—that they are children of Paradise, now living in a garden of Eden, with hearts unalloyed as previous to the fall of man.

It is scarcely possible that one so well "up" in Japanese matters can be ignorant of a national institution at which even the Chinese blush, and which at once, in our opinion, sets aside the attempts which have recently been made at foisting upon the public absurd notions of Japanese innocence. We allude to the public tea houses, which, although not noticed by our observant traveller, all writers—the earliest and the latest—decry as the great social evil

of the empire, and of which one writes: "The proprietors of the tea houses are licensed to purchase female infants of indigent parents for purposes of infamy. These girls act, during their childhood, as the servants of the full-grown inmates, but are, at the same time, educated with the utmost care; they are not only rendered skilful in every accomplishment that can enhance the effect of their personal charms, but their minds are sedulously cultivated and enriched with all the stores of knowledge that can make their conversation attractive and agreeable."

Surely this refinement in the vices of Mr. Cornwallis's children of nature exhibits a sufficiently true view of the state of morals without our repeating the additional fact of the easy terms upon which the Dutch bachelor or widower, residents at Desima, obtain their female servants. Of course, like another Asmodeus, our author had the power of viewing interiors, going everywhere, and seeing everything. His good fortune taking care that he should not want an illustration of a national institution, threw him in the way of a personal adventure, which we confess rather surprises us, as from all other writers we understand that the performance of the Harakiri, or happy dispatch, is the peculiar privilege of the high-born offender, who, by adopting it in anticipation of an imperial sentence, thereby saves the wholesale execution of every member of his family, whether distant or near of kin, whom it is the custom of this amiable people to immolate for the crime of an individual, and for which purpose the families of governors and princes, appointed to offices distant from Court, are invariably retained in Jeddo.

Inasmuch as the adventure with the ladies, is given as a proof of innocence, so is this suicide quoted as a proof of the mildness and amiability of the national character, and not alone the above, for the author in support of his theory proceeds, among others, to relate an anecdote of a Japanese Lucretia, which, notwithstanding he tells us he picked them up as "hearsays," we are bound to say may be found less diluted in any compilation of Japanese life, manners, and history.

In a like "hearsay" spirit the author writes near the close of the first volume:—"I shall now proceed to give a somewhat copious account illustrative of the ways and means, the character, and the customs of the Empire; at once historical and descriptive, and gathered during the time of my visits to its shores, and which I trust will prove itself a pudding not altogether destitute of plums."

In reply to which assumption of imparting fresh information we are provoked to add, that if not more accurate, it would have been, at least, less trouble, had the author taken "plums, pudding, and all," from almost any one of the writers before quoted.

Without seeking to detract unnecessarily from whatever merit there may be in these Journeys (and we repeat there is much information for those not conversant with the literature already existing in Japan), we have felt it our duty to examine with caution a book which, while it is put forth as a truthful narrative of adventures among the Japanese people, at the same time bears the impress of being a kind of hybrid between fact and fiction, only calculated to mislead instead of inform a public whose attention at the present moment is necessarily so much attracted to that Empire.

Apart from its one-sidedness, it is a clever and amusing compilation—such a one, indeed, might have been made by a ready and imaginative man who, to the advantage of an acquaintanceship with one of the officers of the American Expedition, from whom he might glean *locale* and adventure, possessed the faculty of culling from existing authorities lively incidents and descriptions of manners and customs which, skilfully put together, would, as a whole, make a readable, life-like book.

Rival Rhymes, in Honour of Burns; with curious illustrative Matter. Collected and edited by Benvenuto.

Routledge, Warnes, and Routledge.

THAT the Burns Celebration at the Crystal Palace, and its prize Ode, should stimulate an attempt to rival the celebrated "Rejected Addresses," was a result to be naturally expected. That result we have before us. Is it successful? Well, we cannot award to it all the commendation that belonged of right to the older volume. The leading fault is, that it has not taken a range sufficiently extensive. Of living celebrities we have only Father Prout, a proverbial philosopher, Longfellow, Barry Cornwall, Tennyson, Lord Macaulay, and Thackeray. These are supplemented by certain spirit-lays attributed to the ghosts of Thomas Campbell, Thomas Hood, and Alexander Pope, with a supposed unpublished poem by Robert Burns, odes by an admirer of Milton and an enraged Bard, and a letter by Lord Brougham. Where are the Brownings, Herand, Marston, Dobell, Arnold, Alexander Smith, Macdonald, Frances Brown, and many others, whose styles would have afforded good opportunities for imitation and parody? Of the imul-

tations that are ventured, perhaps that of Mr. Tupper is the best and broadest; but that, after all, was a feat of easy achievement. Father Prout is like enough, but it is not brilliant. Longfellow's hexameters are certainly echoed, but not rivalled; the style is also neat, but not as imported, being evidently adulterated for the purpose of sale, which the slightest taste of their quality may prove—e.g.

"Thou wert the lad for the lasses!—lasses the same are as misses;
And here we have misses had pleased you—Missouri and the Mississippi.
And "green grow the rushes" beside them—as thy ever-green chorus would have them."

This might have been expected, of course. But what shall we say to the following miserable couplet?

"And though some might object to carouse in this State of Massachusetts,
Who dare forbid, when Sambo would say, 'Massa chuses it!'"

Barry Cornwall also is but meagerly represented; and Tennyson madly and spasmodically. Macaulay is, perhaps, better treated; but the "fooling," though "tolerable," cannot be pronounced "excellent." The book, notwithstanding these shortcomings, may serve to excite an occasional smile and amuse a leisure moment with a topic *à propos* of the time and occasion; but will not, like its prototype, achieve a permanent reputation.

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

This work comprehends "descriptive lists of upwards of 1,780 objects," and contains "full directions for obtaining, preparing, and viewing them." Moreover, it is illustrated with "plates, including sixty-one figures." So much information regarding the book the title-page supplies. Nor does the interior of the volume belie the promise thus made. Information is given to enable the reader to select the instrument best adapted to his means and objects, without needless expense; and to provide himself with the apparatus by which observation may be facilitated. The real uses of the microscope are also distinguished from the imaginary ones; in a word, we are taught how to use it as a scientific instrument, rather than as a toy. What the writer has evidently attempted was to give a synopsis of microscopical study; and this purpose he has adequately accomplished. He compares the microscope with the telescope, and weighs justly the advantages of each. The latter shows us that the world is one of a group; and that there are galaxies of worlds besides, some of which are altogether undiscernible. The former enables us to investigate the minute proportions of the infusory animalcule, that, notwithstanding their smallness, are furnished with nutritive and locomotive organs. They exist, too, in inconceivable numbers, and are of amazing fecundity; yet is the balance so finely preserved, that none multiply to the exclusion or extinction of others. To these infinite myriads, also, food is given in abundance; and in all beauty is profusely exhibited, and most remarkably in their intimate structure. "The most gigantic human intellect is bewildered and lost in the contemplation." Such are the marvels which the little book before us enables us properly to appreciate.

A Journal of the First French Embassy to China.—1698, 1700. Translated from an unpublished MS. By Saxe Bannister, M.A. Newby.

The object to be attained by the publication of this log of the officers of the French ship Amphitrite, which conveyed the first French Embassy to China, is, to our dull comprehension, as hazy as the explanation of the author, who states his aim to be, "to show that the friendly intercourse of that remarkable people with the western world depends essentially on our sincere observance of every measure that ought to be introduced by both nations in furtherance of humane policy in the East."

The Journal which Mr. Bannister heralds to the world as an important discovery, and which forms his only excuse for this piece of the voracious book making, is little more than a sea log, wherein is chronicled, day by day, changes of wind and weather, "spoken withs," and other marine information, without any fact of importance not to be found, in the almost contemporaneous "Lettres éditantes et curieuses," of one of which, indeed, it might pass as a skeleton.

By preserving, however this sea diary, by an unmethodical compilation of scraps from the English missions from Cuthbert to Lord Elgin, and extracts from various well known sources ancient the intercourse between the Chinese and Europeans, which may be found more interestingly arranged in every home book upon China, and affixing a similarly eccentric appendix, the author has succeeded only in producing a volume that few will read and none recommend.

The Causation and Prevention of Disease. By John Parkin, M.D. John Churchill.

The author, who was lately Medical Inspector for Cholera, in the West Indies, may be presumed to be fully acquainted with the subject of his treatise, and has otherwise fully proved his competency by previous works, and by two reports, one of which, the Statistical Report of the Epidemic Cholera in Jamaica, has been published. His conclusions are the result of a study of all the phenomena, its relation to cholera from the first outbreak in 1817 to the present day, "and in all climates and latitudes—in the intertropical regions of the East and the West; on the burning sands of Arabia, and on the snow-covered steppes of Russia, as well as in the temperate regions of Europe and America." He has a difference with the Board of Health, into which it is not our purpose to enter. It is sufficient to state that he holds the innocuousness of animal exhalations. One proof he gives is striking.—"Though almost every description of mechanic was, at some period or other, admitted last year into the Fever Hospital, I do not recollect a single instance of a butcher being sent to the establishment." We must leave the writer in the hands of Dr. Southwood Smith. This argument, however, is maintained with great learning, and merits serious attention.

MISCELLANIES.

Parliamentary Reform; an Essay, by Walter Bagehot. Chapman and Hall.

This is a reprint, with considerable additions, from the *National Review*, in which a laudable attempt is made at an impartial criticism of the existing electoral system, and some indication of the mode in which it should be amended. Some of the author's notions are confessedly paradoxical. For instance, he states that "the evident untenableness of Mr. Bright's views gives them a claim on our attention." We find in him, therefore, what might be expected, a subtle reasoner.

Her Sister,—Shall I Marry Her?

Groombridge and Sons.

We must now expect a shoal of pamphlets on this subject. The pamphleteer's answer to the question proposed is in the negative. To answer otherwise, he thinks, would be to consent to "a retrograde step, the unlimited depth of which it is impossible to foresee or fathom."

Macintosh's System of "National Defence," or "New Strategies in Warfare." W. Clowes and Son.

MUCH of this work consists of official correspondence with the British Government, and we doubt not that it will receive due attention in the proper quarters.

Every Child's History of France. By Edward Farr. Dean and Son.

This little work is a meritorious adaptation for the junior classes, from Miss Corner's History of France, and will prove useful.

Moore's Melodies, with Symphonies and Accompaniments for the Pianoforte. Longmans.

Nos. 6 and 7 are now published, containing twenty-four pieces, and maintain the claims to public preference of this copyright edition.

1. *On the Progress of Society in England as affected by the Advancement of National Education.* By J. D. Morell, M.A.

2. *The Difficulties of the Education Question.* By the Rev. Canon Richson, M.A.

Edinburgh: Thomas Constable and Co.

THESE are two papers read before the United Association of Schoolmasters in Great Britain. Both are excellent; and by men who are thoroughly conversant with the subject, and the practical application of the principles that they recommend.

A Comprehensive History of India.

Blackie and Son.

Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 14 are now published, and carry the narrative down to 1757, during the administration of Clive, and in the midst of his treaty with Surajab Dowlah, the nabob of Bengal. The parts are illustrated with engravings representing Vasco de Gama and the Zamorin of Calicut, and the meeting between Lord Clive and Meer Jaffer, after the battle of Plassey; and also with several marginal woodcuts, representing natives and costumes.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The Queen has been pleased to exercise her right to appoint one Royal trustee for the British Museum in favour of the Rev. William Cureton, Canon of Westminster and Rector of St. Margaret's. We believe that no Royal trustee for that institution has been appointed since the death of the late Duke of Cambridge, and the appointment in the present instance will be hailed with satisfaction by the literary world as a recognition by her Majesty of the eminent services which Mr. Cureton has rendered to the science of Biblical criticism, and which have secured for him an European reputation.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Friday Evening, March 25th.

HOUSE OF LORDS. INDIAN FINANCES.

THE EARL OF ELLENBOROUGH moved for copies of all the notifications issued by the Governor-General in Council, from 1857 to the present time, relative to the terms on which the Government of India would receive money on loan. The papers had shown that the condition was deplorable of the Indian finances, and that was the reason he brought the question before the House. The Four per Cents. had in a short time fallen 9 per cent., and the Five per Cents. had fallen 5 per cent., and this had occurred at a time when it could least be expected. This fall could only be attributed to the erroneous financial policy of the Indian Government. He hoped it was not true that Government had been unable to pay their servants in Oude, but only to give them subsistence money.

The Earl of DERBY would agree to produce the papers required, and remarked that, owing to the exigencies of the times, the Government had been obliged to come to Parliament for powers to raise a loan of three millions. After some further remarks the motion was agreed to.

In reply to a question, Earl Derby said it would rest with the Crown to confer any further mark of honour on Baron Pennefather.

The House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. W. O. STANLEY gave notice, that in case the Government Reform Bill failed to be read a second time, he would move a vote of want of confidence in her Majesty's ministers.

This intimation was received with loud cheers by the anti-ministerialists.

Some questions of minor importance were asked and answered, and then the adjourned debate was resumed.

THE REFORM BILL DEBATE.

SIR S. NORTHCOTE defended the Government bill and condemned the objections of the noble lord, the member for London. He contended that Government would have placed themselves in a false position if they had listened to the suggestions of opponents, and altered the bill in the way proposed to them. The House had been placed in a situation of embarrassment by the supporters of the noble lord's resolution, for they did not tell the House, in case Lord Derby's bill was defeated, whether they intended to bring forward the bill which Lord John Russell had some time ago introduced. There was one objection against the Government bill which had some force—it was, that the principle of uniformity was adhered to in respect of votes for boroughs and counties. He contended that the objection might be met at once, if necessary, but he asserted that Government were by no means rigidly wedded to this principle of uniformity. Let the bill go into committee, and then alterations might be made in this or in any other respect that might be expedient. If the resolution of the noble lord had only reference to the second reading of the bill, the House would not be placed in its present dilemma. He hoped the House would vote for the second reading, that the bill might go into committee, and there be amended.

MR. CARDWELL considered that the bill contained no one point entitled to the honour of being called a principle. The bill was only made to serve a purpose—to get rid of the real question. The present was a great opportunity of performing the important duty of revising the shortcomings of the old Reform Bill, and adapting it to the progress of the age. We could do this without placing class against class; but we could not do any practical good with the present bill. He understood that the principle of the bill was uniformity of franchise; but he contended that this uniformity was contrary to the principles recognised by the constitution. He considered the bill would only be productive of mischief, and he thought, therefore, the House ought to vote for the resolution. He denied that the bill could be dealt with or properly amended in committee, and that was a sufficient reason for rejecting it.

MR. DRUMMOND said the House on both sides seemed mystified and at cross-purposes. No one seemed to know whether they were speaking on a principle or a detail, or whether the bill contained either principle or detail. The question of a Reform Bill was simple enough. You were to extend the franchise to persons who had it not, and yet ought to have it. You had to give members to places that had no members, but ought to have them; and you had to take away members from places that ought not to have them. The whole thing lay in a nutshell. (Laughter.) He should certainly not support the resolution, because he believed it was only a move for the purpose of bringing in Lord J. Russell or Lord Palmerston.

MR. DENT supported the resolution. MR. PACKE opposed it.—Lord Harry Vane said he could not give his support to such a measure.

MR. S. WORTLEY considered that by voting for the noble lord's resolution the House would lose the opportunity of settling a great question; and by voting for the second reading of the bill the House would gain an opportunity of settling the question, and of amending that bill in committee.

LORD PALMERSTON stated he was going to give his cordial support to the resolution. The present was no vote of censure on the Government; it was an amendment strictly appertaining to the subject, and brought

prominently forward what were the leading features of the bill. He could not but say that the time the House had bestowed on the discussion had been thrown away. There was one speech to which he would particularly allude, he referred to the hon. gentleman Sir. H. Cairns, who had infused personalities into his remarks, and who had overstepped those bounds of forbearance which had been adhered to by hon. gentlemen on his side of the House. He would not follow the example of the Solicitor-General and charge them with having abandoned their principles.

LEFT SITTING.

THE CONGRESS.

The *Monitor* of this (Friday) morning contains the following:—"The Cabinet of Vienna has given its consent to the proposal of Russia to convoke a Congress. Count Cavour has quitted Turin for Paris, on the invitation of the Emperor."

The *Ostdeutsche Post* of to-day (Friday) states that Austria has declared herself willing to consent to the proposal of a Congress, upon condition, however, that Sardinia will discontinue the extraordinary armaments she is now making, and that the Congress assemble on the principles of the Protocols of the Aix-la-Chapelle Conference. The town in which the Congress is to meet is not yet decided upon.

FRANCE.

The following intelligence has been received through Mr. Reuter's office. The statements in it can only be accepted as echoes of reports more or less authoritative in Paris to-day:—"The Prince Napoleon had personally insisted upon the admission of Piedmont into the Congress, and has represented to the Emperor that in the event of Piedmont not being admitted, Count Cavour intends to resign. In Piedmont the people may wish to prevent the Government from sending a representative, because the popular feeling is that the cause of their country has been betrayed. There is even a fear of some popular demonstration in Turin. The date for the Conference respecting the election of Prince Couza is not yet fixed."

TUSCANY.

According to advices from Florence, the Grand Duke of Tuscany has suppressed the law on the liberty of the press in political matters.

The carnival of Venice was, it appears, as dull as a funeral, in spite of all the efforts of the police, who tried hard to get up some little animation, out of respect to the Archduchess Charlotte, who was in the city. The Venetians pitilessly hissed everybody who went to the masked ball.

MR. ROBERT MALCOLM KERR, LL.B., of the Northern Circuit, is a candidate for the office of judge of the Sheriffs' Court, which, within the last few days, has become vacant in consequence of the death of Mr. M. Prendergast, Q.C. Mr. Serjeant Thomas has also come forward as a candidate for the office.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)
Last week but two of the engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews.

Monday and Tuesday (for these two nights only, and by desire) to commence at 7, with the Comedy of A GAME OF SPECULATION. Sir Ahab Hawk. Mr. Charles Mathews. After which A HANDSOME HUSBAND, with THE EPON BOY, concluding with THE SWISS CO-TAGE.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, positively for these nights only, LONDON ASSURANCE, with THE CRITIC. Sir Fretful and Puff, Mr. C. Mathews; Tibbina, Mrs. C. Mathews. Concluding with the GALICIAN FETE.

On Saturday (never acted) a New and Original Comedy, in three acts, when Mr. Charles Mathews and Mrs. Charles Mathews will appear.
Stage-manager, Mr. Chippendale.

ORATIONS BY MR. T. MASON JONES. WILLIS'S ROOMS.

This day, Saturday, March 26th, at half-past three o'clock, "Dean Swift, his Critics and Biographers."
Monday evening next, March 28th, "Cairns, and the Wits and Orators of the Irish Bar."
Saturday afternoon, April 2nd, "Milton, the Patriot, Statesman, Prose Writer, and Poet."
Monday evening, April 4th, "Grattan, and the Wits and Orators of the Irish Parliament."
The Evening Orations commence at half-past Eight; and the morning (till to half-past Three
Stalls (numbered) 5s.; Reserved Seats, 3s.; Back Seats, 1s. May be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street; Mr. R. W. Ollivier's Music Warehouse, 19, Old Bond-street; and all the principal Libraries.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

MADAME LOLA MONTEZ (Countess of Landsfeld) will give her POPULAR SERIES OF FOUR LECTURES, on the Evenings of April 7, 8, 14, and 15; Thursday 7th, Subject, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CHARACTER; Friday 8th, EUROPEANS IN THE NEW WORLD. Doors open at Seven, to commence at Eight. Carriages ordered at a quarter past Nine. Stalls, 5s.; Reserved (half-price) Seats, 3s.; Unreserved, 1s.; may be obtained at Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street; Crum and Boulton, 201, Regent-street; Hammond's, 214, Regent-street; Kelly, 48, Chancery-lane; and at St. James's Hall ticket office, 28, Piccadilly.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

(Farewell Season of Mr. Charles Keen as Manager.)
The Public is respectfully informed, that Mr. and Mrs. C. KEAN'S ANNUAL BENEFIT will take place to-morrow, MONDAY, March the 28th, when will be produced the Historical Play of KING HENRY THE FIFTH, being the last Shakespearian revival under the existing management. Shakespear's historical play of KING HENRY THE FIFTH, will, under approval, be repeated every evening until the 10th of April.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

(Lessons—Messrs. F. Robson and W. S. Emden.)
Monday, and during the week will be performed the Comedietta, by Mark Lemon, Esq., entitled FASHIONABLE ARRIVALS. Characters by Messrs. Addison, G. Vining, H. Wigan, G. Cooke, F. Charles, E. Cooke, H. Cooper; Mesdames Cottrell, Hughes, Bromley, Mrs. Emden, and Miss Wyndham.
After which 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 OBJECT OF INTEREST. Characters by Messrs. G. Cooke, H. Wigan, F. Charles, Miss Cottrell, Mrs. Leigh Murray, and Mrs. Emden.
Commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Manager, Mr. Edmund Falconer.)
On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, EXTREMES; OR, MEN OF THE DAY. After which A DEAD SHOT. Louisa Lovetrick, Miss Kingslake (her first appearance); Hector Timid, Mr. Ellerton. To conclude with, on Monday, being for the Benefit of the Lauri Family, with the Ballet of THE JACK IN THE TUB.
On Thursday, March 31st, will be produced, with New Scenery by Mr. W. Calcott, Mr. Edmund Falconer's New and Original Play, FRANCESCA; A DREAM OF VENICE. In the course of the Play a New Song, composed for the occasion by M. W. Balfe, Esq., will be sung by Miss Cecilia Bance. After the Play a New Farce, entitled HUSBANDS BEWARE. To conclude with a BALLET DIVERTISSEMENT. Miss Rosina Wright, &c.
Mr. Clara St. Cape will make her first appearance on Monday, April 4th, in English Opera, for the Benefit of Mr. J. W. Kingslake.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Arrangements for Week ending Saturday, April 2nd.
Monday, open at 9; Tuesday to Friday, open at 10. Admission, 1s.; Children under 12, 6d.
Saturday, open at 10. Vocal and Instrumental Concert at 2-30.
Admission, 2s. 6d.; Children 1s.
ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, ORCHESTRAL BAND, and GREAT ORGAN daily.
The PICTURE GALLERY remains open for this week only.
Collection of Autograph Letters of Eminent Men, in the Centre Transept.
Sunday, open at 1-30, to Shareholders, gratuitously by tickets.

HANDEL COMMEMORATION FESTIVAL, 1859.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

The Directors have the pleasure to announce that this great CENTENARY MUSICAL FESTIVAL, the preparations for which have occupied the closest consideration for nearly three years, will take place as follows:

MESSIAH Monday, June 20th.
DUTTINGEN TE DEUM, with selections from Belshazzar, Saul, Samson, Judas Maccabeus, &c. } Wednesday, June 22nd.
ISRAEL IN EGYPT Friday, June 24th.

Commencing each day at One o'clock.
The Orchestra in the Great Transept, now being extended to the clear width of 216 feet (or double the diameter of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral), will be rendered capable of accommodating nearly FOUR THOUSAND CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMERS, who will be selected with the greatest care from the various metropolitan, provincial, and continental orchestras, cathedral choirs, and choral associations, presenting a combination of musical executive talent far exceeding any previous undertaking.

The orchestral arrangements for this unparalleled musical congress will be under the direction of the SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.

CONDUCTOR, MR. COSTA.

Tickets will be issued according to priority of application at the following rates.

Central Numbered Stalls, } Two Guineas and a Half the set
in lettered blocks, } for the three days, or if for one
only, ONE GUINEA each.
Seats not numbered, but } Twenty-five shillings the set, or
reserved in side-blocks } Half-a-Guinea each for one or
two days' Performances.
Preference will be given to applications for sets of tickets.

The Ticket Offices at the Crystal Palace, and at No. 4, Exeter Hall, are now open for the issue of Vouchers; where the plans of seats may be inspected, and the full programme of arrangements, with block plans, may be had on either written or personal application. No application can be attended to unless accompanied by a remittance of the amount; and all cheques or post-office orders sent to either office, are to be made payable to the order of GEORGE GROVE, Esq., Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company.

By order, GEORGE GROVE, Secretary.

March 16th, 1859.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.

APPEARANCE.

By the first sight are most things judged, and partiality or prejudice for the object is formed at once. In the human body disease is always pitiable; but some cutaneous diseases are almost repulsive. Whatever their nature, eruptions, or intractability, they are invariably cured by the conjoint use of Holloway's purifying remedies—which, acting on the blood, reach the most distant vessels in the body, thoroughly cleanse them, displacing all disease, and restoring softness and elasticity to the skin, and a perfectly healthy complexion. These inimitable medicaments are the safest and best preparations extant for cleansing, beautifying, and preserving the skin. They are, at all times, perfectly harmless, and their purifying effects are always permanent.

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE LEADER."
ONE GUINEA PER YEAR,
 UNSTAMPED, PREPAID.
 (Delivered Gratis).

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. A title page and contents to Vol. 9, will shortly be presented to subscribers.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC FATHER AND HUSBAND.—Will appear in our next.

OFFICE,

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

The commodious premises formerly occupied by the
 MORNING HERALD.

The
Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1859.

Public Affairs.

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

THE REFORM DEBATE.

PARLIAMENT, as its name denotes, was primarily invented for the purposes of conference between the estates of the realm on matters of common concern. When money was wanted, an enemy near, or rogues at home were troublesome, the King was wont to call upon the great men of the country and the good men of the towns to meet him on a given day, that they might talk over the matter and settle what should be done. Nobody had then heard of the fine phrases now in everybody's lips, about what is called "government by public opinion;" but, substantially, that was very much the notion our wise old ancestors had in their heads, though it was often hard work keeping their kings and great men up to the principle. Now-a-days, indeed, we fare somewhat better, and our hereditary rulers don't find it answer to neglect what is said in the conference halls of Westminster—especially in the ungolded one. True to its traditions, Parliament seems to think that its chief function is that of indulging in a grand national talk. There was a little appearance of indolence or indecision at the beginning of the present session; but that is all over now, and during the last week the hundred tongues of St. Stephen's have been in full swing.

We need not repeat our opinion of the Government bill for the reform of the representation. It has been now for a month before the country, and nearly every man's mind is made up as to its merits and defects. In the progress of the question it is undoubtedly a great step. It scores off many important items never admitted before as debits to the people, and so far it helps materially to hasten the long looked for settlement of the national account. But settlement itself it is not, and is hardly, indeed, any longer pretended to be. It was perhaps the largest offer which the liberal men in the Cabinet could have got their colleagues to sanction or their adherents to vote for; and if so, instead of taunting Mr. Disraeli, Lord Stanley, and Sir J. Pakington, with not having jumped out of the window three months ago, we ought to thank them for having remained where they were, and thus obtained the consent of their Ministerial associates to opening the door half-way. Now that it is near, it will be the fault of others if it be not thrown open wide. We have got 102 franchise in counties and a weekly-lodger suffrage in towns to begin with in framing a better measure; and having so much in hand, nothing short of treachery

on the part of Whig leaders can prevent our having a large and practical measure of Reform by the end of the present session.

It will never do, however, to leave the determination of what the actual terms are to be to a dozen fine gentlemen on either side of the House. When the purely negative amendment of Lord John Russell is carried, Lord Derby will have to tell the Queen one of two things—either that she ought to dissolve Parliament, or that she ought to form another administration. It is his undoubted right, as a Constitutional Minister, to give her Majesty either counsel; and it is equally certain and clear, that, as a Constitutional Queen, her Majesty has no right to refuse either. If she had not a belief in Lord Derby's public and private loyalty, talent, and honour, she ought never to have confided to him the Treasurer's staff. For twelve months and more she has confided to him and his colleagues, with every appearance of unreserve, the safe keeping of the empire, and the conduct of our affairs. When the draft of the proposed Reform Bill was submitted to her for approval, no objection was made that it was too small; on the contrary, the Court, as is well known, do not even profess to care how small the change may be; and every Phipps and Grey, in whose blankness is mirrored the looks of those that use him, reveals how great is the anxiety, and how fervent the hope, that the Reform Question may be dealt with and got rid of anyhow, without shortening the duration of Parliament, or the adoption of the ballot. But having once permitted the bill to be introduced, by Ministers who had undertaken to govern by means of a Parliament called by their foes, as long as it might be possible, and to whom no intimation was given, at starting, that whenever their rivals chose, they might turn them out without an appeal to the country, the Sovereign became in honour committed to follow any lawful or legitimate course her present advisers might recommend; and though there be many in Parliament, as well as at Court, who, if they had their way, would never have Parliament dissolved at all, it were an ill day for the power and security of constitutionalism in England, if the Queen should be betrayed into refusing the Tory cabinet what is their uncontested right.

Why Ministers should, under present circumstances, wish for a dissolution is quite another affair. Supposing their most sanguine calculations realised, they can hardly hope to gain a majority in a new House of Commons. So strongly, indeed, is this felt that more than one of them have avowed their unwillingness to having recourse to such an expedient. The names of Lord Salisbury and of General Peel are freely mentioned as amongst those that lean this way; and, what is still more important, the Premier himself is strongly suspected of being reluctant to run the risk of a similar beating to that which he received at the hustings in 1852. On the other hand, it is understood that the old gentlemen we have named have had enough of party toil and trouble, and want, above all things, to be allowed to retire to the pastimes of which they are fond, and to the care of the large possessions of which they are proud. The ambition, the pluck, and the youth of the party are of a different mind. They want an electoral fight, as all true soldiers do, in the hope of distinction, and for sake of the chance of power. They say, and with truth, that when they enlisted under Lord Derby twelve months ago, they did so with the distinct understanding that they were not to hold office on Whig sufferance, and that unless they broke down as an administration, their chief would keep faith with them. No wonder, then, that in his own Cabinet Lord Derby is in a minority on that which is now the pressing question of the day. His bill is as dead and done for as any still-born constitution of the Abbé Sieyès. The debate of the past week has not been really maintained with any reference on either side to the fate of the measure, because from the outset this has been thoroughly known. Every clever speech has been addressed to the constituent body, with a view to a place in the next Parliament, and to the possession of power or influence in that assembly. Had the Whigs been up to the mark of popular demands, Mr. Horsman would never have hazarded his chance of a seat in the next Liberal cabinet by his brilliant philippic on his former colleagues, and his bitter invective against the Woods, Ellices and Greys. And had Sir Bulwer Lytton not made up

his mind that the only resource left to conservatism was to alarm the selfish fears of the middle classes throughout the country, he would never have rung the tocsin of the "Constitution in danger," as he did on Tuesday night. Instead of advancing to meet popular wishes, the crafty and ambitious oligarchs on both sides of the House have seemed only bent on strengthening their actual position, and consolidating their strength for defence. Lord John Russell has missed a great opportunity of putting himself at the head of the popular party in the nation, by abstaining from saying what he would do regarding the suffrage. This may be the way to office, but it is not the way to power.

THE PROPOSED CONGRESS.

At the instance of France, Russia has proposed a Congress, to be held in some neutral city, on the affairs of Italy. Great Britain and Prussia have readily assented; but though Lord Cowley was told at Vienna that Austria would not object, she naturally hesitates until the basis of deliberation shall have been very distinctly and definitely arranged. It is not to be expected that an old, a powerful, and a haughty empire will readily agree to submit her pretensions in the Peninsula to the judgment of her assembled rivals. Territorial sovereignty over the Milanese and Venice will not, of course, be so much as questioned; and it is only the rights claimed by her, under treaties, to interfere in the domestic concerns of the minor Italian States that can, under any circumstances, become a subject of discussion. Count Buol affects a tone of intense moderation, and professes to regard the care which Austria has hitherto been called on to exercise for the domestic tranquillity of the Peninsula as a costly burden which the Apostolic Empire would gladly be relieved from. Nobody, of course, is expected to believe such professions. We know, indeed, that it is not for the honour and glory of gaolership that Austria has undertaken to play the part of bully and hangman whenever called upon, and sometimes when not called upon, in the States of Central Italy. Notoriously and avowedly it has been because she believed, and with good reason, that if free institutions were established on her southern as well as upon her western frontier, her retention of Lombardy would soon become impossible. When France proposes, therefore, that she should burn her separate treaties with Modena, Tuscany, Parma, Rome, and Naples, and take no thought for the morrow, she proposes that which, if conceded, might afford Louis Napoleon a diplomatic pretext for withdrawing from Piedmontese designs, but which, as regards the future of Italy, would be utterly and totally fruitless. If the separate conventions were at an end to-morrow, and that revolutionary movements threatened the existence of any one of the ducal or royal despots whose safety they now formally assure, can anyone suppose that the Court of Vienna would therefore give ear to their cry for military aid?

When somebody asked the French Ambassador the other day what his master promised himself from a Congress, the outspoken victor of the Malakhoff is said to have explained that it would enable him "to retire from his present attitude with honour." Is he, then, already preparing to abandon the credulous ally, who but six weeks ago bartered the hand and the happiness of his inexperienced child for the military support of France, and who has mortgaged deeply the resources of his country in making preparations for war? What will Sardinia be the better for a Congress, supposing all that peace-making diplomats recommend should be done? How will the condition of the Milanese be improved? How will the importunities of a suffering nation be more easily stilled when their tone has become that of reproach? What is to become of all the men of education, of family, and of enterprising spirit, whom the Government of Cavour has collected in Turin, and fed with hopes of a movement for national deliverance? And what is to become of constitutionalism as the moderate alternative to republican unity, after the long dream of a royal liberatorship shall have passed away? Or what is to become of constitutionalism in Piedmont itself when its high priest shall be driven out with it and discomfited from the councils of the King, to make way for some plausible reactionist like Count Ravel? On what has Victor Emmanuel to fall back? The perspective is, indeed, for him and his realm a grave and gloomy one.

But there are other considerations. The Congress proposed is said to be intended solely with reference to the affairs of Italy. Are the Italian Princes to be represented therein, or are they not? If represented they will, we may be sure, plead hard for new securities of some kind for the maintenance of the decrepid power against their subjects; if not, with what face, or upon what plea of international legality can the great Powers of Europe pretend to dispose of their fate? In either case we own our unalterable repugnance to the whole proceeding. However shaped or guarded, it will inevitably, and we must say, justly be deemed by Europe as one in which England may have been compromised. Our plenipotentiary will never venture to set his hand and seal to any document formally guaranteeing the possession of Italy to its present mis-rulers; but practically that will be the effect of it. In concert with the great military tyrannies of the Continent, England will be looked on as planning and plotting how Austria may be made more permanent and safe in her domination over an oppressed people; and how excuses may be taken away from those who wish to further their emancipation. We have been from the first against all armed interposition by this or any other foreign State in Italian affairs; and we are so still. But we are all the more bound to protest against diplomatic interposition on behalf of absolutism. Unless, therefore, Lord Malmesbury can obtain stipulations from Austria, that under no circumstances whatever shall Austrian troops be sent into Tuscany, the Duchies, or the Legations, and that a violation of such condition shall be deemed by the other great Powers a *casus belli*, he had much better never had meddled with the proposed Congress, for the Parliament and the people of this country will be certain to repudiate it.

CRIMES AT SEA.

THE *Times* reminds the public that a captain of a merchant ship was executed, a short time ago, for a murder committed on the high seas, and the public is generally aware that at present a charge of roasting a man to death on board a steamer is undergoing investigation at Liverpool. Between June 1st, 1857, and June 1st, 1858, the same journal informs us that 150 patients were admitted into one hospital at Liverpool, who had limbs broken and were otherwise maimed or mutilated by violence committed on them on board ships. Such brutal violence is described by our contemporary as common to seafaring men in all ages. On board her Majesty's ships, apparently, this assumed natural disposition finds a legal vent in inflicting flogging, holystoning, grog stopping, shot carrying, &c., &c.; and the 1,165 men and boys who are flogged annually in the navy are the victims of the same kind of violent disposition as sends, yearly, 150 men to the hospital at Liverpool. On board merchant ships a handspike or a marlinspike serves the purpose of a cat-o'-nine-tails, or tying up at the gangway, and a formal summons of the whole crew to see the delight satiated which seafaring men are supposed to have in human sufferings. The impatient skipper or mate seizes the first thing that comes to his hand, and knocks down an offender, or hurls at him some instrument of wrath, and he gets deservedly blamed, while his rival who serves the State is justified, or perhaps applauded, for the discipline he enforces by legal and more measured violence.

Our contemporary imagines that to subject the merchant ships of different nations to some common jurisdiction, might check the violence of skippers and mates, but if their violence spring from a natural disposition in those who, for considerable periods, are excluded from the humanising effects of civil society, as the flogging in our navy seems to show, little could be hoped from extending to ship captains the jurisdiction of courts of Admiralty. Our criminal courts and our extensive police have had too little success in preventing crimes ashore to encourage us to expect much from bringing all ships under a criminal jurisdiction. Seamen have the reputation of being superstitious; what then might be the effect of reviving amongst them, could it be revived, the old notion, that every offence is sure—whether subjected or not to a criminal investigation, whether committed at sea or on shore—to be visited on the offender? Such a creed might be an effectual restraint on haste and violence where no civil magistrate can interfere.

The eagerness, however, to institute courts to punish offences is at variance with this creed, and discourages it. Acts such as those which fill the hospital at Liverpool with maimed bodies, and our men-of-war with scarred backs and degraded minds, are all felt to be forbidden by the Power which calls life into existence, and it would not be, therefore, irrational, and might not be difficult, to implant this creed in seafaring men, and keep them, by apprehensions of they scarcely know what, from committing petty acts of violence, as such apprehensions keep men from committing greater crimes.

On shore a man may hope to escape in a crowd from the anger or vengeance of a person he injures; but shut up in a ship, the aggressor and the victim are continually in the presence of one another, and the disdain, the contempt, the hatred, they mutually feel is for ever renewed. They continually exasperate one another, and thus the very necessities of their peculiar lives might teach them mutual forbearance and mutual deference. Perhaps the law—though, from bringing them more under its jurisdiction, much benefit is expected—may not be blameless for their violence. There can no longer be any question that collisions, or the possibility of collisions, between individuals in civil life is the chief source of the sentiment of justice. If men had nothing whatever to fear or to hope from one another, it would have no existence, and accordingly it is strong, as men are free to act and express their thoughts. The authority which society, from a notion possibly erroneous, confers on captains of ships, in order to maintain discipline, removes them from that collision with other men, certainly with all their inferiors, which teaches all moderation and justice. By classing mutiny with piracy and murder, and treating it as deserving death, arrogance is nurtured in commanders, and servility in all beneath them. An unfavourable opinion is never expressed of their conduct. They are removed, not by natural circumstances, but by the law, from those collisions, and fear of collisions, which keep other men moderate and just. To cease, then, from classifying mutiny—which, under some circumstances, when the captain is a drunkard or half mad, is laudable—with the most revolting crimes—piracy and murder—and to withhold from captains the unlimited authority the State now confers on them, might be a better method of lessening crimes at sea, than extending the jurisdiction of Courts of Admiralty.

Something is undoubtedly required. Day by day the evidence is accumulating that many cruelties and many crimes are committed by seafaring men. The commissioners to inquire into harbours of refuge, assure us that the character of seamen under the present system is deteriorating; that they embark in a state of intoxication, that they desert in great numbers, and cause great losses to the owners of ships. From her Majesty's navy, too, desertion is very great. About one-twelfth of the sailors employed run away every year. In other employments men are glad to remain as a means of getting a living, but seamen, who can neither resist their officers nor obtain redress for wrongs, desert. Our laws and regulations pervert their moral sense, and converting resistance to oppression into an enormous crime, make desertion beneficial and appear like a virtue. The rules laid down for the royal navy are adopted in the merchant service, and the conduct of the State towards the seamen, whom it long treated most cruelly and unjustly, was made the guide of private shipowners and ship captains. This is a serious subject for the public; for both our foreign trade and the defence of the nation depend on the character of its seamen. The several examples referred to show that the time is come when a reform of the spirit of our maritime regulations must take place, and they must be more imbued with the justice which men learn in civil life.

THE FORLORN HOPE.

ALL frequenters of the Baths of Hombourg must be acquainted with the name and features of a certain aged baroness, who was always to be found at the roulette tables of that world-known Kursaal. The circumstance of a foolish old woman losing her money at "rouge et noir," is a thing too common in these localities to excite attention. The sole interest attaching to the lady in question,

arose from the fact that she was known to be one of the chief proprietors of the public gambling tables. She lived by the folly of others, and yet she was caught herself by the very snare she baited with. She knew that in the long run she must lose; she knew too that people thought her a fool for playing—and yet she played. Nature is indeed inscrutable. We believe that some apothecaries drink their own medicines; we are told that some clergymen read their own sermons in hours of meditation. Never, however, were the feelings, with which, in former days, we have looked upon the lady gambler, so vividly recalled, as when we learnt that Mr. Beresford Hope was about to stand for the University of Cambridge.

Mr. Alexander James Beresford Hope is the *Saturday Review*, or the *Saturday Review* is Mr. Hope. We know not which is the proper way to word it. Whether the body is greater than the soul, the purse than the paper, we must leave to metaphysicians to decide. But considering that body and soul are inseparably connected—that just as the soul could never have existed without the body, so the paper could never have subsisted without the purse—we are justified in assuming, for all practical purposes, that Mr. Hope (for the sake of brevity we drop the prefixes) and the *Saturday Review* are one. Throughout the brief term of its existence, Mr. Hope's organ has lived and flourished by deceiving everything. Every generous aspiration, every liberal project, every earnest effort has been the object of their constant depreciation. It is easy enough to sneer at everything when you propose nothing. When you present no point of attack, you can hit right and left without danger. The post of the universal critic, who cannot be criticised, is a pleasant and a lucrative one. What can induce the representative of the *Saturday Review* to leave the position of judge for that of culprit? Why should the bull who is in his glory in the china shop desert its precincts, of his own accord, for the perils of the arena? Mr. Hope would have done more wisely if he had followed the example of Noah Claypole, and kept to knocking down small children, without exposing his own person. At all events, it is a comfort to have fresh proof of the existence of a retributive justice.

A considerable number of Cambridge graduates (and, we suppose, contributors to the *Saturday Review*) have, we learn, presented a requisition to Mr. Hope to stand for the University at the next election. "Considerable" is a relative term. We quite agree in thinking that seven is a larger number of supporters than we should think, Mr. Hope could have reasonably reckoned on. Seven is a mystic number. Seven men can certainly be termed a public. Mr. Hope has twice as many supporters as the tailors of Tooley-street, and an odd man into the bargain. If Mahomet had waited to announce his creed till he had collected a body of believers, Mahometanism would never have existed. The faithful seven are Mr. Hope's Fatimah, and it is to them, in consequence, that the virgin charms of the Hope creed are first exposed. The address of Mr. Hope to his considerable body of supporters has been published solely, as yet, in the columns of the *Saturday Review*, and has not, in consequence, attracted much of public attention. Fearing however, as we do, that the movement of this "Band of Hope" may shortly die, and give no sign, we make haste to call attention to this manifesto of our modern "Young England"—his last speech and confession of the *Saturday Review*.

Mr. Hope is attached to the British constitution in all its aspects. Its monarchical, its purer aristocratic, and its highly-refined democratical features, are all equally objects of his tender solicitude. The chancellor's wig and the head's staff are alike dear to him. Occasions, however, will arise when one section of the body politic must be preferred to another. The New Zealand cannibal loved the missionary's teaching dearly, and, alas! he loved as dearly the taste of that luscious flesh. How, we would ask Mr. Hope, could both tastes be gratified at once? The answer to this hitherto insoluble problem is contained in the prophetic utterance, that the member for Maidstone is the "friend of amelioration and the antagonist of change." What a pity that so beautiful a sentiment should be wasted on seven supporters. Mr. Dickens' "Old Patriarch," in his deepest moods, never produced a sentiment so sweetly sonorous, so utterly

unintelligible. To the vulgar mind you might as well tell of progress without motion, of heat without warmth, as of amelioration without alteration. We accept the dictum in silence, and ponder over it reverentially. Then follows the most marvellous piece of logical induction which it ever entered into the brain of man to conceive. Mr. Hope is an equal foe to Americanising or Gallicising our institutions. He cannot fail to remark that the Constitutions both of France and America are the offspring of the ballot and universal suffrage. He, therefore, cannot consent to any measure which smooths the way to the introduction of these institutions, and therefore voted consistently, against what? Against Locke King's bill? No. Against Berkeley's Ballot motion? Guess again—against the removal of the Government of India to the Crown. What the connexion between the India House and the ballot, between Cannon-row and universal suffrage, was, or is, or ever can be, Mr. Hope alone can tell. The only vestige of an explanation is to be found in the following statement: that if you once establish the precedent of interfering with corporations, no one can tell where you may stop. Horrible to relate, you may eventually come to tampering with the corporations of Oxford and Cambridge. Why, actually, in time, Cambridge may cease to return a member! Let us turn in dread from the awful prospect.

On continental politics the Hope oracle is equally mysterious. He desires to maintain religiously the faith of treaties. He objects to interference with the internal condition of other countries; but (the language here becomes too beautiful to be abridged) "wherever the greed of a great Power, or the acquisitiveness of a small one, seeks to cloak its own selfishness under any simulated or plausible zeal on behalf of suffering nationalities," then his "earnest exertions will be given to the maintenance of British influence by the majesty and extent of British resources." We have only to call the attention of our readers to a small manifest misprint in this magnificent peroration, and the sentence becomes intelligible as well as eloquent. For the first word "British," read "Austrian," and you have a key to the whole foreign policy of Mr. Hope and the *Saturday Review*.

It is, however, on his view of religious questions that Mr. Hope rises to the seventh heaven of involved unintelligibility. After having studied his statement with deep consideration, and having carefully dissected every sentence, and weighed every word, we have only been able to arrive at the following positive results, viz., that Mr. Hope is a sincere but moderate member of the Church of England—equally opposed to extreme opinions on one side or the other—and that the system of the Established Church "literally but reasonably" (whatever that may mean) interpreted is at once conformable to apostolic precedent, and suitable to the wants of our restless and progressive age. There is one step from the sublime to the ridiculous—and whether this is all deep wisdom or sheer nonsense we will not venture to decide. If, however, the tree is to be judged by the fruits, we incline to the latter opinion; for the only tangible result of these brilliant ideas on Mr. Hope's part appears to have consisted in a steadfast opposition to the bills for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister and for abolishing church-rates. Mr. Hope has been teller in five divisions on these subjects; and we are glad to learn has been rewarded for his services on behalf of the Establishment by being entrusted with petitions from the chapters of Canterbury, Westminster, Ely, and Lichfield. Truly in this instance the hire has been worthy of the labourer.

Small as this positive result may appear, it was a comfort to us to arrive at any definite profession of faith; but, alas! in the very next paragraph this small resting-place of fact is cut away from us, and we are left wallowing again in the quicksands of uncertainty. Though Mr. Hope is a steadfast opponent of the abolition of church-rates, yet he is quite ready to exempt Dissenters from the necessity of paying them; and though Mr. Hope assures us that on the topic of education his convictions are fixed, he only volunteers the information that he proposes to foster the exertions of communities and individuals. He unfortunately forgot to add from what funds, or in what proportions, or subject to what regulations, he proposes to foster these educational movements. There is a vague allusion, however, shortly after,

to the "auspices of the Established Church," which is somewhat suggestive.

The address concludes by a process analogous to what Mr. Wigan, in the "First Night," terms "tickling" his seven contributing constituents. No small amount of our national prosperity is attributed, under Providence, to the existence of our "seminaries of sound learning and religious education." Well, there is "nothing like leather, after all;" and if college dons, and fellows, and tutors have, at times, an uncomfortable suspicion whether their lives and careers are strictly in accordance, either with apostolic precedent or the spirit of the age, it must be a comfort to them to learn, on the authority of the founder of the Church of England Missionary College, that in some mysterious way they are foundation stones of our national greatness.

In plain English, we ask what is the real meaning of this confession of faith? The articles of the creed have a familiar jingle in our ears; an unreasoning horror of democracy, an uniform resistance to all reform, a blind support of continental despotism, a bigoted adherence to all vested abuses and ecclesiastical privileges, read to us like a political manifesto not unknown before. The only novelty about the creed is a kind of dilettante pseudo-liberalism, and an arrogant assertion of exclusive wisdom, with which the old worn-out tenets of the Tory party are bedecked and veiled.

Of Mr. Hope, personally, we have little to say, because there is little to be said. He is a very respectable man, and also a very wealthy one. He gained two or three college prizes in his youth, and in later life got hold of the *Saturday Review*. He is a shallow thinker, a poor speaker, and a poorer writer. The worst fate, indeed, we could wish the *Saturday Review* would be for Mr. Hope to take a fancy to write his own articles. Let Mr. Hope remain at Maidstone, or he may go farther and fare worse. Of late years, the members for the University of Cambridge have not been a distinguished body, but the standard has not yet been lowered to the intellectual calibre of Mr. Beresford Hope.

STREET VIEW OF ITALY.—No. III.

LEGHORN—PISA—FLORENCE.

We suppose that in every civilised country the condition of its periodical press is, more or less, a fair test of its intellectual development. Judging by this standard, we should assign a low place indeed to the moral culture of Italy. In Sardinia the press, of late years, has grown into active existence, though, like all the liberal institutions of that go-ahead country, it has somewhat of a lath and plaster character, and commands but small influence. Throughout Tuscany, the Papal States, and the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the press can hardly be said to exist. We have seen an old English country newspaper of some hundred and twenty years ago, in which, though published at the time of the rebellion of forty-five, the only item of political news is comprised in the paragraph that at Genoa, a town in Italy, two deserters from the State forces had been captured and executed by military law. Such a piece of intelligence, bald as it is, would be almost a startling novelty in a South Italian newspaper. In fact, these journals are little more than State advertisement sheets, filled up with the most meagre scraps of intelligence, and every now and then a column of what, in country newspapers, are termed "Varieties." Heaven help the unlucky editors, and the still more unfortunate readers! Throughout the south of Italy, in all places of public resort, in cafés and barbers' shops, and steam-boats and hotels, you never, by any chance, come across an Italian paper. The songs of Zion never sounded so sweetly as when sung in a strange land, and you must have resided long in Italy to know the value of an English newspaper. Leghorn is the Liverpool of Italy, and yet even there there exists no newspaper which can be termed political.

Indeed, as you enter Leghorn, coming from the Sardinian dominions, you become aware at once of a change of government. It would take the all-swallowing faith of Mr. George Bowyer to believe that the change is for the better. On landing, you are stopped, and all your luggage opened, to guard against the most distant possibility of your bringing in fire-arms with you, which, by some means or other, might find their way unauthorised into the hands of the loving subjects of this paternal

Government. To such an extent is the rule enforced, that we have heard of a midshipman's dirk being taken from him and locked up till his departure. Even bribery, which will do almost everything in Italy, will not avail in this instance. On leaving the town, however—which is a free port—you are submitted to a second inspection, where you may bribe to your heart's content. Everybody wants to be bribed; the Government officials avowedly live by bribes; it is the rule all over Italy. We have seen, ourselves, an Austrian commissioned officer, with the epaulettes upon his shoulders, accept five shillings with the utmost complacency, as the reward for his acquiescence in our assertion that our luggage contained nothing contraband.

Passing through the city of Pisa, and travelling through that wondrous burying-ground of the "Campo Santo," where the sacred soil of the Holy Land moulders away beneath the cypress branches, and the fresco-covered walls are studded with the tombs of Pisa's worthies, we were struck most of all with two recent inscriptions. Since we last had passed through those fretted cloisters there had been one slab raised, over which hung the chains of Pisa's ancient gateways. Centuries had passed away since the Florentines had carried them off in triumph from the walls of the captured city, but in that short and sweet period of Italian national independence, which succeeded the revolutions of '48, the fittest gift which Florence could find to make to Pisa, was the gift of her ancient chains; yet it seemed to us that the very fact that such a gift should be welcome, showed how little the memory of old divisions had passed away; how far the old states of Italy were yet distant from the time that they could be fused into one homogeneous country. Here too, we found another slab, also new to us, and in our eyes more hopeful of the future. It was a monument erected soon after '48, to the memory of those who fell in the great struggle between Austria and Italy. All honour be to those who, even if mistaken, fought and fell manfully for a noble cause.

The whole railway between Leghorn and Florence is a dead flat, and lies in the wide Arno plain, celebrated for its system of agriculture and irrigation. You cannot travel through it without being struck by the richness of the pasture land, and the extreme care with which every plot of ground is watered and tended. This very fact recalls to us an observation, which, we believe, explains, in a great measure, the divided state of Italy, and which is generally overlooked by enthusiastic travellers. The Governments of Rome, and Naples, and Tuscany, are all bad Governments, according to our notions. They are all despotic, all intolerant, and all oppressive; yet there is all the difference in the world between them, as far as their subjects are concerned. The Government of Tuscany, however faulty, is still a Government. Life, and property, and enterprise, are efficiently protected under it. There is, therefore, a fair opening for material progress and development; and, in consequence, the agricultural and uneducated classes in Tuscany are well enough content. Now what all classes in Rome and Naples require, is not a good Government, in our sense of the word, but a Government at all.

The old story about the two sides of the shield is especially applicable to travellers; so much, in a traveller's impression, depends on the side from which he enters a place, or the aspect from which he views it. When we last entered Florence, we came from the dead stagnation and squalid torpor of the Papal States. On the present occasion we were fresh from the life and bustle of the Sardinian cities. But whatever may have been the cause, it seemed to us that Florence had fallen off in activity and energy since the days of the revolution. The shops looked less brilliant, the streets less crowded, the palaces more dingy than of old. At the time, too, that we happened to be there, the capital was in mourning for the death of the young Saxon Princess, who had been but lately married to the Crown Prince of Tuscany. A few months before we had been at Dresden, when the news came, that one of the royal Princesses, the bride of the Archduke of Austria, had died suddenly—another was now dead, and a third was dying when we left Italy. The Ducal family are detested at Florence, which is of course the head-quarters of the Liberal party in Tuscany, and by a reversion of feeling, not unknown even in our own country, the poor Crown Princess, whom

no one had cared about when alive, was canonised into a sort of patron saint upon her death. There were talks of an outbreak on the occasion of the funeral. However, the day was very wet and miserable, and the body of the poor young Princess was conveyed to the church of San Lorenzo in the quietest manner, and the affair passed off in silence.

MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETIES, NO. II. LIABILITIES OF THEIR POLICY HOLDERS.

To prevent any misunderstanding as to the object of the observations in our last issue, in regard to these institutions, we now beg to state that we entertain the highest opinion of their utility and public importance; but the recent proceedings in the Vice-Chancellor's Court in respect to the "Security Mutual," have led us to draw attention to the present very unsatisfactory state of the law. We are in search of improvement, and a better legal position, for a class of societies calculated to benefit the prudential portions of the population more than any other institutions of the country which have a financial and commercial bearing on their interests. It did not, therefore, come within the scope of our observations to enter into the history of the origin of the company thus prominently brought out of obscurity into an unenviable notoriety. No doubt its management has been of the most culpable description, or so disastrous results could never have been brought about. To go into the details, however, of so ephemeral, and it may be said, of a scheme so infamously conducted, and thence to expose the discreditable behaviour of its promoters, would be of quite minor importance to an exposition of the existing very defective state of the law. To this latter view we mean, therefore, to chiefly confine our observations.

The order recently made by the Vice-Chancellor Kindersley is not in any way legally authorised or sanctioned on the ground that the Directors of the "Security Mutual Life Assurance Society" have neglected or abused the trust assumed by them. Malpractices on the part of the directors form no element in the legal liability declared of 30% for every 1% paid by the policy-holders in shape of premium. Had the directors been paragons of perfection, the policy-holders would still have been equally liable for any losses which might have happened in its affairs; and it is a protection to innocent policy-holders, who have practically no voice or authority in the direction of the affairs of such institutions, that is now sought for.

One good purpose to be served by giving prominence to this remarkable case, will be to induce greater caution on the part of the public in connecting themselves with societies which offer no guarantee for the fulfilment of their engagements. It must, however, not be overlooked that the state of the law, now so much regretted, is equally applicable to all kinds of Mutual Societies, and our best institutions of this kind escape its ruinous consequences, wholly on account of the management being entrusted to competent and honourable men. It is known to all who have given special attention to this question, that it is, in these times of busy competition, all but an accident whether a person in the provinces joins a weak or a strong company. It is notorious that some mere mushroom companies have continued to be represented in many of our largest manufacturing districts by men of the highest respectability and leading positions, and any test beyond this of the stability of the company can scarcely be expected to be employed by intended assurers in the country. Again, the age of an office, and its large revenue, are no guarantees for either its stability or permanence, for within a very short time no less than five old life offices have been compelled to transfer their business to other companies. One of these had been established more than half-a-century, another nearly forty years, two others about thirty-four years each, and the fifth upwards of twenty years, and this does not exhaust the list of old offices about to merge into others. From this state of things, an important lesson to the assured in Mutual Societies is to be drawn, as to their legal responsibilities. It is quite true, that although none of the ex-companies now referred to belong to the mutual class of institutions, still, within the same period several Mutual Societies have also been forced to seek amalgamation. The Mutual Societies were certainly, however, not of the same age; but what guarantee is

there that a Mutual Society may not have as protracted a duration as any of the others, and yet be finally under the necessity of breaking up. In ordinary experience it is generally observed, that what is everyone's business is the business of no one, and the affairs of a proprietary body might, therefore, be fairly expected to be better managed, and if this observation be held to have any weight, it would follow that we need be no more sanguine as to the career of a Mutual Society, than as to that of a proprietary company.

It is not likely that any institution long established will relinquish business, unless it has been playing a losing game; and, notwithstanding the balance of more watchful management in favour of proprietary companies, from the great stake usually held in them by their directors, let us ask what has been the result of the experience of those referred to? The proprietors of one company lose all their capital, and have also to pay 50% a share in addition, in order to be released from their liabilities. Another company has had to relinquish two-thirds of an original proprietary paid-up capital of nearly 100,000*l.*; and no doubt the proprietors suffered largely in all the other concerns to which we have alluded. We do not mean to assert that at the present moment there is any large and long-established mutual company in an embarrassed condition; but neither was it for many years known that any one of the proprietary companies now under consideration was in anything but a thoroughly sound state. It is, therefore, imperative on every prudent man to profit by past experience, and to see that, in the case of complications arising in the institution with which he is himself connected, the legal eventualities are limited to at least the loss of his investments in it, and do not involve the sacrifice of his whole fortune.

These disasters in Assurance institutions are by no means confined to, and characteristic of, the experience of recent years. Careful students of the subject will at once see that occasional failures are inherent in the very nature of the adventure, whether the business be conducted on the purely mutual or the proprietary plan, and hence the necessity for a limited responsibility for policy-holders. On referring to the Essay by Mr. Gale, on "Contingent and Eventual Losses," it will be found that in the twenty years, 1816-35, although assurance companies were then but few in number, upwards of thirty schemes broke down. There is a cheap periodical, which for more than fifteen years has been conducted with great spirit, thorough independence, and having the most beneficial influence on the conduct of the assurance companies themselves. We refer to the *Post Magazine*, published weekly, at a cost of one penny, and, although uniformly read with profit by those more immediately connected with the management of these companies, we fear that it is only seen by a very small portion of the quarter of a million persons assured in the various institutions of the Empire. Every policy-holder, whether his interest be large or small, should subscribe for this publication. It will prove to be a good investment; for from no other source can he hope to obtain the earliest, the best, and most accurate information regarding all the assurance institutions of every class. It is, of course, impossible for us to indorse all the opinions of its writers, but the abundance and accuracy of the facts from time to time furnished, are invaluable. In addition to the statement made by Mr. Gale, of the failure of societies prior to 1836, were it not to occupy too much space, we could furnish a large list of others; but those who are desirous of understanding the effect of recent legislation on assurance projects, cannot do better than consult the *Post Magazine* and its companion Almanac, on the results of the numerous and needy progeny of schemes conceived and launched into existence under the germinating warmth of the 7th and 8th Vict., cap. 110. That Act, the favourite nursling of the leading actuaries, secretaries, and managers of the life institutions of the period at which it became law, is at once the most singular and remarkable document in the Statute Book. The evidence taken before the Parliamentary Committee, and also the Report of the Committee itself, on the recommendation of which the bill was introduced, show that it was desirable, and it was the wish and intention to check the growth of new institutions, and hence the patent purpose of the 7th and 8th Vict., cap. 110, being to secure the monopoly of trade in life risks, it was thought that he must, indeed,

be a bold and singularly intrepid person, who would attempt to found a new company under this most stringent Act; but, fortunately for the safety and justification of the existence of all really natural and beneficial laws, it was soon discovered that the artificial and ill-considered means taken to carry into effect the provisions of the 7th and 8th Vict., cap. 110, were not only abortive of the intentions of its promoters and most zealous advocates, but were actually in the highest degree productive of the most evil consequences which the originators and supporters of the measure were anxious to avert. Whether an institution deals in money, or in the commodities which money represents, it matters little, or in fact nothing; there should be no distinction in consequence in the laws which regulate its transactions.

Of all undertakings, therefore, which can be safely trusted with self-governing powers, a Mutual Assurance Society ought, without doubt, to have primary and pre-eminent claims on the Government of the country. Institutions of this class conserve, perhaps, even to an objectionable extent, the existing order of things, and to this circumstance, perhaps, more than to those of all others, is owing the fact that Mutual Societies have hitherto maintained their position in a commercial sense in so inferior a degree, and not progressed with the times.

Twenty years ago, a great political agitator—the greatest and the most intellectual to which, perhaps, this empire has ever given birth—it is told, saved one of our best mutual societies from a severe crisis, if not from a much worse state of affairs. A great authority had pronounced an error of alarming amount as having been made in the estimates of its assets and liabilities. What has taken place before in one, may happen again in other societies; and although better methods are now employed to determine the actual financial position of nearly all companies, still much obscurity and uncertainty must even now exist, under the present tests employed, as to whether any particular institution is really solvent or not. The proper appreciation of the full value and import of technical knowledge on this subject is centred within so small a number of persons; and as from the nature of the subject, it must for a long time necessarily continue so, there is no hope of now making its importance well understood by the mass of the people really interested in the success of these institutions. A great effort is, therefore, evidently needed to bring a sufficient pressure on the Legislature to introduce such measures as are really demanded to place the assurance institutions of the kingdom in that legal position which, from their national importance and political value, they are entitled to hold.

The additional risk attaching to the plan of mutual assurance has been admitted almost universally; still a few old-fashioned people will be found to cling not only to their ancestral patrimony, but their equally valuable and remarkable stock of economical ideas on finance and commerce, and the unalterable attachment of our respected exponent of the *Post Magazine* to the ivy-grown institutions of the day cannot be due wholly to that well-established law of natural progress which insists on a succession of changes as essential not only to a well-ordered and a beneficial state of things in the physical, but also in the moral and legal world.

If man were introduced into this scene of conflicts and of aspirations, perfect and free from all misdirection, legal checks, and guarantees for his conduct would be unnecessary, and whatever might, therefore, be the laws affecting Joint-Stock Companies for the time being, they could have no influence on the conduct of minds so well constituted. It is in overlooking so obvious a principle, that our law-makers and law-givers manifest so much incapacity for governing the body politic. Nearly all our institutions assume the power and capacity of perfection in moral attributes, and declare any other condition of these as a deliberate violation of them. So that laws and enactments are made not to prevent and counteract his moral declension, but to detect departure from moral perfection, and to punish that turpitude which arises out of a state of things which owes its existence to the absence of the very conditions which ought to be non-existent, to justify the enactments of the law on the principles they are at present made.

At all times, whatever may be the precautions taken, it will be found that assurance companies

will occasionally be unsuccessful and break down, and, from whatever cause such failures may take place, whether from mismanagement on the part of its conductors, or from causes external to the company, there is no good reason to be advanced in favour of the continuation of the present state of the law, which holds the innocent and prudent policy-holder answerable for the amount of the whole debts of the society. It is not sufficient, in the case of a mutual society, as the law now stands, that the loss should be limited to the premiums paid to the institution, for, if need be, it must extend to the sacrifice of his whole property.

In our next we shall direct attention more precisely to the real state of the law, and point out such remedies as appear to us calculated to place policy-holders in a better and improved condition.

Fine Arts.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS, SUFFOLK-STREET, Pall Mall.

THE private view of this exhibition takes place this day, and will be found much stronger than usual in landscape and domestic subjects. As the word "improvement" may be considered supercilious, we will only go so far as to say that several leading men have been felicitous in their choice of scenes and subjects, and that many of the yet undistinguished painters who exhibit here, would, in our young days, have been considered great guns at the Royal Academy. The president, Mr. Hurlstone, has, besides some portraits, two works of the high school and of much power. One is the appeal of Desdemona to Othello; the other is Hamlet, Gertrude, and the Ghost, at the instant when the former stabs Polonius through the arras. The former picture strikes us as the finest conception of the two, but both exhibit fine drawing. Mr. Salter has a picture, on which we cannot congratulate him, of Sir Walter Raleigh's widow pleading before King James for her husband's lands. Mr. Leighton, whose "Procession of Dante" caused such a sensation at the Royal Academy five years since, has an historical work, which, to say the most, is very singular. This gentleman's peculiar weakness appears to be for Titian, and with the exception of the drawing, which is not good enough, his present picture might be taken for a copy from that master. It is a relief to turn to Mr. Deffett Francis' "Scottish Gleaner" (144), a large and highly wrought female study, beautifully drawn and richly lit up. Mr. Pyne has a large noble picture of Genoa, in which he has displayed all his power; and an Italian dreamy lake scene, to which many will give the preference. Mr. Cole displays a large and masterly cattle piece; and Mr. Baxter some of those lovely studies of heads for which he is renowned. Mr. De Fleury and Mr. Shalders are two landscape painters who have taken great strides. The former would appear, from No. 420, to be a worshipper of Pyne; the latter, we see by No. 425, worships nature unadorned. Both these works are excellent specimens. Mr. Cobbett is more than usually fascinating; he has several powerful interiors, Breton and English, besides two lustrous beves of outdoor beauties. His great works are "Heather Belles" (11), and "Nut Gatherers" (188). One of the best known members here, Mr. Gosling, whose woodland scenes all amateurs must well remember, has this year materially altered his style, and has most successfully abandoned the almost extreme breadth, which of late years characterised his work. Mr. Clint's "Coast Scenes" (274 and 294), show decided improvement in sense of colour. Mr. Boddington's unimprovable *chef d'œuvre* is, of course, a sweet, still pool, bathed in dim, religious twilight. Mr. J. P. Pettitt, head of the London branch of this extensive clan, and almost the founder of a high-class landscape school, exhibits, besides minor works, two imposing gallery specimens of his industry and skill. Of these "A Salmon Pool" (562), embowered in lofty trees, through which a radiant sunbeam plays, is a picture that the lover of nature may muse over again and again with pleasure. The large "View on the Conway," in the great room, by the same loyal hand, is a miracle of handiwork indeed. This painter delights more in engineering difficulties than in what vulgar mortals are pleased to term success. In the pursuit of the former he leaves sometimes the path of the picturesque

and beautiful; and while the hundred sympathisers appreciate and admire, the million are apt to pass him by, or linger but to smile. These Conway rocks, with their cranky holes, corners, and curves, worn into basins by the ceaseless whirl of boulder stones, have given Mr. Pettitt a subject after his own heart. He has first got down into an almost inaccessible gully, where painter, easel, and all, must be in hourly danger of being flooded. He has then outlined, with photographic accuracy, the most fantastically tangled forms of rock that can be conceived, even by rock and river experts. Lastly, he has truly coloured every ridge, and point, and hollow, in the stream bed; every spot of lichen, every streak of land drainage, and every spray of ivy. But the result, after months of mental and physical toil, is a wonder-picture that a few only can understand, and a very few adequately pay for. Mr. Vicat Cole is one of the new lights of the Society, and will in time be a very bright one; his landscape (34) is a work of great beauty; the sky is somewhat low in tone, but the barked tree and clustering wild flowers of the foreground are admirable. Mr. Hensell is in the track of Mr. Cobbett, and makes way very fast. He has several pictures, which show an advance within twelve months that we hardly anticipated. Mr. Hensley has a good low-comedy picture—the administration—or, as the doctors say, the "exhibition"—of pap, porridge, or "Godfrey," to a naturally discontented infant, by its elder brothers and sisters. Mr. Woolmer has his usual pieces of bright colour. Mr. West is strong in Irish inlets and Norway Fjords; and the veteran Zeitter, whose hand seemed, last year, to have wellnigh forgotten her cunning, is once more, we are pleased to see, in form again.

INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS, PORTLAND GALLERY, REGENT STREET.

THE twelfth exhibition of this prospering little society is, in landscape—to which its members and exhibitors seem to devote their almost entire attention—a good deal above its average. It being beside our purpose to find reasons for the comparative scarcity of high art works, we will proceed at once to name, with small pretence to order, the few paintings of either school that seem best to claim a place in our first notice.

The Messrs. Underhill—by one of whom is "The Jew's Harp" (No. 1)—have several important pictures, presenting, with one exception, their usual characteristics. In our anticipatory notes of last week we unfairly omitted to observe that one of these, at least—by Mr. F. Underhill—"The Rose of Lucerne," presents agreeable points of difference from the generality of his productions. The sweet faces of the Trinket Seller of Lucerne are very pleasing and nicely studied. The shadows may be here and there even too thin—a fault we have never before found with Mr. Underhill; and there is a great deal of light in the picture. "Left in Charge" (6), by J. D. Watson, represents a pretty little girl at work near a sleeping babe in a cradle. It is a common-place subject enough by this time, but one of the last that the gentle-minded should scoff at. The artist well deserves a position among the painters of domestic scenes. The chequered light in Mr. B. W. Leader's "Woodland Pool" (24), is a pleasant reminiscence, and a number of the same artist's works promise excellent things. His "Mountain's Top" (30), and "Ben Voirlich" (181), will please all admirers of mountain scenery. His "Warren Gate, Albury"—a photograph-like portrait of a well-known gate and tree—must arrest all who love the simple school of field and hedgerow; and his other work, of the same Baotian type, "Early Summer Time" (323), is a really wonderful transcript from nature. Its spring-green corn-field, its self-coloured Surrey hills, the barked oak in the foreground, and the somewhat stiff trees, may be warranted true copies and faithful to nature in colour. Mr. Henry Moore's "Gathering Bark" would better have been called a south coast or Devonshire scene; its aerial perspective is excellent. A noble bay stretches miles and miles from the haven and the just indicated village. The fishers' boats standing seaward graduate the distance; the shadows of clouds play lightly upon the blue water, but the foreground bark-gatherer is *de trop*. Mr. Horlor's marvellous "Calf and Sheep" will claim a glance in passing to the blazing "Sun-foli and Clover in Flower" of Mr. Raven. Here is a large canvas devoted to a labour of love, we presume. It cannot be denied—in fact, it should not be—that the painter has well succeeded in his aim. The hues are garish, it is true, but time will subdue them. The slender tree on the proper left of the picture is a beautiful feature again, but the general effect produced has more of wonder than pleasure about it. "Red Wheat and Wild Flowers" (122),

and "Mid-day on the South Downs," by the same hand, are, in their way, curiosities, and will not fail to attract connoisseurs.

Mr. C. Rossiter's "Turnstile" (98), a minutely-finished and amusing group of children in close confabulation must find a host of admirers; nor will the investigative pass over his tiny work, "Too Hot" (564). Mr. John Thorpe has two admirable works. "For Sale" (133) represents a beached vessel, with the besom at her mast-head, and the usual accessories around her. We demur to the very urban-looking lamp-post, which, of course, must have been on the ground to have found a place on the canvas, but which is, to all intents, "a sun-beam that has lost its way" on the sea-beach; but with this most trivial exception, which a discreet purchaser would paint out by himself or his agents, the picture is a very nice one. The "Pevensey Bay—Windy Weather" is a fitting companion for the work just named. Mr. J. Adam is a painter of power and promise. The "Mill-stream" (131) is small and covetable; and in various corners of the room we were attracted, as in the case of Mr. Leader, by works which turned out, on reference, to be by this artist. His "Summer Evening" (376) is of the same calibre as the last-named. The "Druids' Circle near Keswick" (461), a picture very low hung and barely visible, is one of the boldest in the rooms. The orange light of declining day gilds the weird-looking circle and the vista of mountain crags all in due degree, and the chill solemnity of sundown is finely suggested. "Derwent Water," again, a shockingly dull, lifeless, lightless picture, is, in its way, very clever. The hues of the fell-side that overhangs Grange village, and of the grey old clay slate crags that protrude through the turf in that place, cry "stand," to all who with eyes to see have wandered there. Of the rocks and stream in the same painter's "Otter Hunt," we may speak with praise, but the trees have the questionable air of lean boughs stuck, for the occasion, in the river's bank. In the "Red Tarn, Helvellyn," Mr. George Pettitt, a younger brother of the justly-eminent landscape-painter of the name, has given a specimen of his best abilities, and the result of much study on the spot. The Striden-Edge and Catbedcam, drawn near, by the clearness of the mountain air, seem to menace the spectator. In the middle distance the faithful dog watches the body of his master, as described in Scott's poem; and the dull, dead tarn reflects in the foreground all the horrors of the scene. In his "Lago d'Orta" (418) and "Village on Lake Como" (486) he has given us elegantly fanciful delineations of Italian mountains, but with far less power. Few will be so bold as to deny that both (the latter especially) exhibit much talent in sketching and chiaro-scuro; but it were as hard to deny that both are too transparently artificial. Two scions of this strong artistic clan—Messrs. C. and E. Pettitt—are also exhibitors. The former has abandoned, and, we hope, for a permanency, the uncompromising hardness that threatened to mar an industrious career, and shows at least one meritorious work. The "Margin of a Mountain Lake," a stilly pool backed by feathering woods and a crumbling mountain slope, is, in all respects, excellent, save in the piece of foreground, which, though well studied, seems out of place. This defect is, however, more than balanced by the skill with which the artist has indicated—not "niggled out"—the stratification of the background crags and the "screes," or, as the Londoners have it, the *débris* which slope from their summit to the bosom of the pool. Mr. E. Pettitt's works are, as may be expected of so young a professional, of the "promising" order only. His "June" (459) and "Mountain Home" (438) are both true as true can be in point of sketching, though in colour, the first especially, is over blue. Mr. W. E. Bates's most pleasing picture is "Dover Beach" (146), and his other sea-side pieces (426 to 428), are all meritorious. The Williams family are prolific as ever. Were we to detail the charming river and sea-coast pictures that delight, this year as ever, even those to whom the manner of these artists is as familiar as their names, we should soon overrun our space. Whether a Williams, a Percy, a Boddington, or a Gilbert selects a "Breezy Day on Thames" (145), "An Evening on Thames" (147), a "Sussex Hayfield" (with a daring and successful attempt at cut hay), "Napose" (338), a "Summer Evening" a gem (399), or "On the South Coast" (359), or a superb "Welsh Autumn" (160), they are always charming to us who, dwelling among the house-tops, are glad to burnish with their sympathetic and our well beloved associations.

We shall continue our notice of this exhibition in an early number.

Our advocacy of a hearing for the "Old Water-colour Society" before the distributors of the Burlington-house Estate, has brought on us a brisk fire of correspondence from members and patrons of other bodies, who conceive themselves to have an equal

locus standi. The "Old Water-colour Society" are roundly taxed, by some, with having taken the hint altogether from the New Society, and having very "cannily," to say the least, stolen a march upon the latter. "I am utterly at a loss," says one whose position in the art world is guarantee for his accuracy, "to conceive upon what ground, not also shared by the new Society, the 'Society of British Artists,' or the 'Portland Institution,' the old Society, can demand a portion of the Burlington-house Estate. As public teachers of art they have no earthly claim. That they have painted pictures, exhibited them, and sold them to their great advantage, there is no doubt. That the removal of the Royal Academy may change the locality of the fine art market from Pall-mall to Piccadilly, and so diminish their receipts, is also possible. But this is no reason why a body, equalled only by the Academy itself in its conservatism, and whose exclusiveness has been shown by the manner of its refusal to fill up its vacancies, should have money or money's worth of the country, while the other bodies named remain unendowed." We think we may safely assure our correspondent, on the strength of the Premier's recent answer to Lord St. Leonards, that neither money nor money's worth will be given, or in any way heedlessly appropriated to the Water-colour Society. That even its offer to rent a portion of the estate will be acceded to we have our doubts. We wish much we could see our way more clearly than we do to a central public institution for the teaching of the arts, and a central hall for the exhibitions of such societies as chose in virtue of receiving state patronage to accept certain responsibilities. The elaboration of a scheme is no affair of ours: but then it strikes us, at first sight, that few difficulties would oppose any conscientious step in this direction on the part of her Majesty's Ministers.

An advertisement just issued by the Science and Art Department at South Kensington cannot be made too public. It refers to a course of twelve lectures on the human form, by Mr. John Marshall, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., Assistant Surgeon to the University College Hospital, which will commence at four p.m. on the 1st of April. The course is to be such as may be attended by lady students, and will be a great boon to the many amateurs whose studies have hitherto been stopped, where the necessity for anatomical teaching has arisen. The fee for a single lecture is to be one shilling: for the course, six shillings. Students are recommended to provide themselves with note books.

Theatres and Entertainments.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

This luxuriously fitted theatre is now in full swing. The management seem, for the present at all events, to have struck the old Adelphi colours—melodrama—and hoisted those of the light and elegant school. This they have been enabled to do with completeness, by the addition of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan to a company previously rich, as numbering among its members those old favourites Mrs. Alfred Mellon and Mr. B. Webster, and the very natural and promising comedian, Mr. J. L. Toole; and by no means poor as possessing in its second ranks Miss Keeley, Miss K. Kelly, Miss Arden, and Mr. Billington. The revival of "The Bengal Tiger" and "The First Night," two of Mr. Wigan's best pieces, have stamped the present change in the character of Adelphi entertainments with success. The house has been nightly filled with larger crowds—and those of a far more refined character than, even in the most triumphant days of the pieces, were wont to applaud the fine pathos of Madame Celeste, and the extravagancies, legitimate and illegitimate, of Messrs. Bedford and Wright. We have been pleased to observe that Mr. Wigan has completely recovered his health, the state of which at one time made imminent his entire loss to the stage. His personation of the testy old Anglo-Indian in "The Bengal Tiger" is no less admirable now than when he first charmed us with it—now some years since—at the Olympic, when *Sir Paul Pagoda* was set down by all real judges as second to none of his efforts, except, perhaps, his *Achille Talma Dufard*. He is, we need hardly say, admirably seconded by Mrs. Wigan, whose *Miss Yellowleaf* is her best part, and a perfect piece of comedy. Mr. J. L. Toole's *David*, again, free from that exaggeration which often tempts the players of comic servants, was a worthy pendant to the principal gems of "The Bengal Tiger."

In "The First Night," in which, as *Achille Talma Dufard*, the artist has to contend with some inconveniences of dramatic construction, Mr. Wigan was no less than ever successful. His delineation of the old French actor's anxiety to secure his daughter's *debut*, his intense love for "his wondrous fool shild," his musical fanaticism, his courtly manners, his poverty-stricken make-up, as rapidly and as readily as heretofore provoke alternate sympathy and laughter. We

cannot say that Miss Keeley comes up to our old impressions of the *debutante*, *Rose Dufard*, though she sang very fairly with Mr. Wigan the duet *travestie* from the Hugonots. The *prima donna* whom *Achille* contrives to depose in favour of his "shild" is now adequately represented by Miss Arden; and Mr. Billington, as *Fitzurse*, must be particularly noticed as a vast improvement upon the stage "swell" of ten years ago.

ITALIAN OPERA, DRURY LANE.

Our readers have for some time, of course, been aware that it was in contemplation to open Drury Lane for Italian Opera after Easter; but if they had so far fathomed the mysterious depths of Mr. E. T. Smith as to be prepared for the monster programme he has issued, we can only say they were cleverer than ourselves. We are inclined to imagine, from the announcements, which we should hardly believe the lessee capable of making without some foundation, that the chances of Her Majesty's Theatre being opened have diminished. At the head of Mr. Smith's bill figure Mademoiselle Tietjens and the far-famed Giuglini, who were Mr. Lumley's trumps last season, and Signor Graziani the favourite baritone. The stars of the second magnitude comprise Marini, Badioli, and Mdlle. Vancro, whom we have heard with pleasure, and a host whom we have yet to hear. The possibilities and promises form a strong array, but we cannot venture to raise the hopes of reasonable people by retailing them in this column. Among them we find the names of *Elvira Brambilla* and *Borghini Mamo*, of whom the latter is now—after years of climbing—the rage in Paris. The list of works whose performance is in contemplation is long and important. Among them figure the master pieces of Mozart; Verdi's "Sicilian Vespers" and "Macbeth;" Elotow's "Martha;" Rossini's "William Tell," and "Gazza Ladra;" and the "Armida" of Gluck. The published list of band and chorus shows strength, and the name of Mr. Benedict is guarantee for strenuous exertions to obtain completeness. The theatre, we hope we may say, will be redecorated. Its interior is at present in a state that demands the outlay of a small sum, which, unless we are mistaken, will much improve its appearance.

PYNE AND HARRISON OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

The season was, as we predicted, safely enough brought to a brilliant conclusion on Saturday night. An enormous crowd bade an enthusiastic farewell to the fair managers, and in a brief address, published with the bills, it was announced that an Opera by Mr. W. Vincent Wallace (composer of *Maritana*) was accepted for the next season. While saying our *au revoir* to this excellent *troupe*, which of course cannot find favour with all our contemporaries, we must remind our readers that the repeated change of performances which some of our clever friends clamour for, may, when managers have only themselves and the public proper—not a list of subscribers—to consult, be considered always as a concurrent symptom of weakness in the treasury, and a sure forerunner of weakness in the *ensemble*. We are convinced that the splendid mounting of the stage, the admirable band, the extensive chorus of Covent Garden, could not have been maintained at their late level for a month, had a change of bills been forced upon the management every week. We are sure, again—and all but fanatics will agree with us—that practice, now as ever, makes perfect; and the perfection to which the nightly performance of Balfe's operas has brought the aforesaid band and chorus, would never have been achieved had the attention of principals, conductor, leader, band, and chorus been turned, night after night, to the study of different works. We had rather hear one work perfectly than half-a-dozen only moderately played; and though this would appear at first sight a desperate platitude, it is by no means universally acknowledged. The fact is, that opera managers are on the horns of a dilemma. If they stick to a limited range of works, they attain perfection, and leave the critic without an occupation. If they rush wildly in quest of novelty, and dream of pleasing by dint of new sensations, they reap whirlwinds of censure for disgraceful carelessness and imperfections of all sorts. *Appropos* of the Drury Lane Opera and Mr. E. T. Smith's long list of promises: we hope that manager will take heed ere he pledge himself and a newly collected company to a season of spasmodic failures. He has no list of private-box patrons, who may fairly insist upon a change of performance—for who would take a box to hear even "Don Giovanni" for forty-five nights—but only the real public to please—ample enough to find a fresh change of hearers every night, if a real musical treat is provided for them.

ST JAMES'S HALL.—MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

The Popular Concerts are soudding before the wind. Without mountbankery, or meretricious attraction of any kind, but by the mere provision of a classical bill of fare, the directors contrive to crowd this beautiful hall once a week. It has even proved, somewhat unexpectedly, it must be confessed, that

extravagantly paid vocalists are not indispensable. As brilliant a gathering welcomed, on Monday, Mdlle. Behrens, Mr. Wilbye Cooper, Madame Enderssohn, and Mr. Patey, as could have been collected a few years since by only one or two greater stars, in the magic of whose names an undue confidence was reposed. We may safely attribute this change to the growing appreciation of classical instrumental music, most excellent professors of which, it seems, have standing engagements at these concerts.

At the second Beethoven concert, of which we are about to speak, a quartet in C minor, and another in E flat, for two violins, tenor, and violoncello, was exquisitely played by Wieniawski, Ries, Schreurs, and Piatti. Mdlle. Behrens was heard to the greatest advantage in the beautifully solemn air, "In questa tomba secura." Her tone was truth itself, and her enunciation so remarkably good, that this song was a treat. The delicious "Kennst du das land," which never fails to charm, was done very fair justice to by Madame Enderssohn, who threw considerable feeling into her version. The superb quartet from *Fidelio*, "Il cor, e la mia fe," was conscientiously rendered by Madame Enderssohn, Mdlle. Behrens, and Messrs. Wilbye Cooper, and Patey. Mr. Patey has certainly not adequate power to take the bass part of this composition. He has a voice of good *timbre*, good taste, and intention; but for the foundation of such a splendid fabric as this quartet more physical quality is requisite than he possesses. He sang very well the fine song of the jailor from the same opera, but out of the abundance of his other qualities he could not supply the one deficiency. When we have said that Mr. Wilbye Cooper sang *Adelaide*, as might be expected, well and purely, we have done with the vocal part of the concert. The *Kreutzer Sonata*, a duo for pianoforte and violin, was superbly played by Miss Arabella Goddard and M. Wieniawski, the former of whom was no less successful in Beethoven's pianoforte masterpiece, the sonata "Pathétique." The auditory included such a number of amateur musicians that the inordinate length of this work seemed but to stimulate and harden their patience.

MAJOR GODFREY RHODES ON TENT ARCHITECTURE.

A very pleasing lecture on the above subject was delivered on Monday evening at the United Service Institution, Scotland-yard, by the gallant author of "Tents and Tent Life"—a work already reviewed in our columns. The major's valuable improvements in the military tent were illustrated by diagrams and drawings, and were fully appreciated by an audience of competent judges.

It was announced that the inventor had been highly complimented by his Majesty the King of Hanover, and other continental Powers, and that the tents were under trial at Aldershot.

CHIPS.

From a recent correspondence between Messrs. Gye and Smith, respectively the lessees of Covent Garden and Drury-lane Theatres, it appears that both these gentlemen conceive themselves entitled to advertise the enrolment of the baritone Graziani in their *troupe*. In a letter dated the 21st inst., the former manager proposes to obviate the continuance of such announcements by submitting their rival claims to the arbitration of some two leading managers. The tenor of Mr. Smith's reply is, that though the Signor may have, in truth, at one time been bound to Mr. Gye, he was subsequently loosed by that gentleman's default; and that having transferred his services to Drury-lane, he cannot now be given up. Mr. Gye rejoins that this refusal of arbitration needs no comment, and distinctly states that he has made no default in the contract with the singer. Mr. Smith replies with a letter to the leading paper, which is considered final, and which seems to settle the matter of the Signor's freedom to choose a manager. The sympathies of the interesting party in dispute appear to be with his new allies, who, if needs be, will, we presume, have to fortify him against injunctions and such like managerial artillery.

The last new "Wizard" who occupies the professional chair of Artificial Magic, at the Hanover-square Rooms, *vice* Philippe, Jacobs, Anderson, Döbler, and others, "translated," we must suppose—(for magicians are, of course, borne off to realms unknown, on fiery dragons)—is astonishing the legions of the west as much as did any of his predecessors, by the aid of electricity, mechanics, and first-rate sleight of hand. As the extent to which the former sciences are applicable to the conjuring art becomes from year to year more recognised, the elegance of the apparatus employed, and, in the hands of a skillful craftsman, the completeness of the deception, become more remarkable.

The erratic Lola Montes, Countess of Landsfeldt, who has, by her strong-minded exploits and the agreeable recital of her own and other folks' experiences in a queer world, made a name through America and Australia, is announced to be again visible in London on the 7th of April. She will then repeat a lecture on "The comic aspects of

fashion;" a theme not without capabilities, which she has delivered with some success at the Pavilion Rooms, Brighton.

Letters from Paris say that a tremendous amateur vocal society, 6,000 strong, called the "Orphéons," or "Children of Orpheus," has descended from the provinces upon the French capital. Our Exeter Hall, Crystal Palace, and Yorkshire choruses must look to their laurels indeed. If volume of sound be (as their bills, it must be confessed, too often seem to say) the great thing to aim at, our neighbours have sprung ahead of us indeed. Thrice has this vocal storm threatened the stability of the "Palais de l'Industrie," in the Champs Elysées—on one occasion for the benefit of the poor.

On Tuesday night, Mr. T. Mason Jones, to whose oration on "Curran and his Contemporaries" we referred in our last impression, took "Grattan" for his text; and for two hours much interested a very large and well-composed auditory.—The Polygraphic Hall, best known as the seat of Mr. Woodin's entertainment, is now occupied by a troop of female Creole melodists. We are in no position to speak of their attractions or talents, and confine ourselves, therefore, to the announcement of the fact, for the benefit of amateurs of this school of minstrelsy.—Mr. James Bennett, an actor well known in the provinces and in the United States of America, has been performing during the last week in "Othello" and the "Lady of Lyons," at the Lyceum Theatre. The main attraction of the company, which is for the most part unsuited to the higher drama, is Mrs. Charles Young, the *Pauline* of Bulwer's play.—On Wednesday a complimentary dinner was given to Mr. Benjamin Webster by his personal friends, dramatic patrons, and literary connexions. The toast of Mr. Webster's health, and the prosperity of his new theatre, which last desideratum, by the way, the public have taken in hand to secure for their old favourite, were very warmly responded to, and several very fair speeches were made during the course of the evening.

Madame Ristori is in Paris, and, as *seconda donna*—a requisite her pieces have hitherto been weak in—has secured Madame Santoni, an Italian actress of real eminence.

At the Adelaide Rooms, Lowther Arcade, the morning performances of a Miss Margaret Cooper's "Sketches and Past and Present," are creating a minor sensation. The aspirante is aided by Mr. J. B. Dale, whose imitations of actors are highly amusing.

The trade in counterfeit pictures has received a check in the right place, namely, at the source. The *Bulletin* tells us that a prolific manufacturer of pictures of the "Düsseldorf" school, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, three years' suspension of civil rights, and a fine of 100 thalers.

The programme of next Monday's Popular Concert is identical with that of the last, consisting entirely of Beethoven's music. Those who would hear this master's works aright, will thank us for recommending the interpreters selected by the managers of these concerts. The "Sonata Pathétique"—acknowledged to be Beethoven's pianoforte *chef d'œuvre*—could not be in more capable hands than those of our gifted countrywoman, Arabella Goddard, and her last performance of it was in her own best style.

Three paintings have recently been added to the National Portrait Gallery, 29, Great George-street, S.W. King James the First (artist doubtful), a pale, thoughtful-looking child, in trunks and jerkin, with a hawk on his fist. Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke, a superb portrait of an elderly person, in an elaborate laced velvet robe, over a crimson and black brocaded petticoat. The latter, the muslin ruff, and the lace cap and gawlets, are exquisitely imitated. The painter is unknown, but the execution reminds one of the debauched artist of Henry the Eighth's time, who, having spent in drink the money allowed him for a suit of damask, painted so satisfactory a surcoat of paper that he passed muster very well in a procession. The very last acquisition by the collection is a portrait of Dr. Nathaniel Hooke, the historian of Rome, presented during the present week by Lord Boston. The days on which alone the public are admitted to view the gallery are Wednesdays and Saturdays.

On Thursday Mr. Falconer produces his new play of *Francesca*; the scene of which is laid in Venice, in the seventeenth century. It is said to be founded on a story which appeared many years since.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Our pleasurable recollections of the Crystal Palace Handel meeting of 1857, which was, independently of its musical glories, the most splendid gathering show of British ladies and gentlemen it has ever been our fortune to witness, are being from day to day revived by the advertised programme of the festival, which the Sacred Harmonic Society are about to hold there. Mr. Costa is already at work drilling the metropolitan division

of the Commemorative choir; and there is no doubt but that thousands of applications to take part in the performances will have to be rejected. The "Messiah" and "Israel" oratorios will be given entire on two separate days, and on the third there will be a selection from others. Vouchers for tickets may be now applied for, at Exeter Hall, or at the Palace, Sydenham; and these will be exchangeable for admission tickets, on and after the 28th of April. It may be as well to observe that the issue of single tickets will follow the order of application, but that the allotment of "sets" of tickets will be attended to first of all. The chorus is expected to number four thousand. The great orchestra is being enlarged for its accommodation, and for the better concentration of sound will be entirely backed, as well as covered by a wooden roof, extending farther forward than the line of the conductor's seat.

At last Saturday's Winter Concert, Madame Anna Bishop was the star. She was very well received. Among other airs, she sang "Oft in the still night" with intense feeling; and on the inevitable *encore*, substituted "I'm waiting for thee, Katty Darling." Mr. Poussard, a French Violinist, may be looked on as a valuable addition to the company's fine band. We are well pleased to observe that at the concert of to-day, the magnificent opera of "Fidelio" will be given entire. This graceful homage to the memory of the immortal Beethoven, paid on the anniversary of his death, will doubtless stimulate the many German artists engaged—not to say our own compatriots—to a worthy performance of a work so highly appreciated by intelligent amateurs, yet so seldom, owing to its difficulties, heard to advantage here. We always admire Madame Rudersdorf's *Leonora*. Mr. Weiss we have not had the advantage of hearing in *Ilse*; but if he be sufficient in volume, he has, we know, the other requisites for a concert-room representation of the part.

FACTS AND SCRAPS.

Messrs. Perrotin and Boiteau have already collected 2,200 of Beranger's letters for their projected publication of the poet's correspondence.

The *Gazette Musicale* of this week announces that a Stradivarius violin has lately changed hands at Paris, for the sum of 15,000*fr.* (600*l.*)

The anniversary festival of the Royal General Theatrical Fund will be held on the 18th of next month, Mr. Charles Mathews in the chair.

A Turin letter, dated Wednesday, says:—"Garibaldi is here, and may be seen walking about in an eccentric hat and semi-military surcoat."

The Lyons Railway has incurred great odium by refusing to convey Sardinian recruits at reduced fares.

The present of her Majesty to her grandson on his christening, is a splendid and very valuable coral, of the most tasteful style of manufacture.

The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Cobourg may be expected to reach London in the early part of April, and will be the guests of her Majesty.

The *Medical Times* says:—Seanzoni, of Wurzburg, attended the Empress of Russia in her last confinement, and received for his services 5,000*fr.*

A letter from Berlin contradicts the news, which was not very probable, of the Count de Paris being about to take service in the Prussian army.

The *Journal de Saône-et-Loire* states that a young lady, named Martin, who resided at L'Aigle (Orne), lately died, bequeathing by will to M. de Lamartine a farm, and a house in the town.

A brother of Madame Ristori is about to start for Piedmont to enlist in Garibaldi's brigade. A son of Tamburini has already left Paris to take service in the Sardinian army.

We learn that the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., will take the chair at the anniversary dinner of the Royal Literary Fund, fixed for Wednesday, the 18th of May.

Mr. Bennett, the respected proprietor of the *Salisbury Journal*, was found dead in his bed on Wednesday. He is supposed to have died from an affection of the heart.

The American papers announce a last reading by Mrs. Fanny Kemble previous to her retirement from public life. This lady is expected to arrive in England before the autumn.

We understand that the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot has consented to preside at the forthcoming anniversary dinner of the Printers' Pension Society.

According to a letter in a Turin journal, the prohibition of the export of horses is so strictly enforced that a company of chess riders, which was about cross into Piedmont, to give performances at one of the Turin theatres, has been detained until it can be ascertained from Vienna whether its egress is to be permitted!

The Earl of Carlisle laid the foundation of a very large church, to be built in the early English style, at Welburn, near Malton, Yorkshire, on Monday. The earl is the chief donor.

Dr. Hook was installed in the Deanery of Chichester Cathedral on Saturday last. On Sunday the very Rev. Dean preached in the cathedral before an immense congregation.

On the anniversary of the birthday of the Prince Imperial of France, their Majesties gave a sum of 100*fr.* to each child born on the same day, and whose position may render such gift needful.

Sir Charles Younge, and his assistants, have placed in St. George's Chapel, over the stall of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Knight of the Garter, the banner and insignia of that order.

Mr. Joseph Wyon, a very promising young medallist, as well as the son and grandson of excellent engravers, has received the appointment of chief engraver of her Majesty's seals.

Mlle. Marie de la Rochejacquelein, daughter of the marquis and senator, took the veil three days ago in the Convent des Oiseaux. The Bishop of Poitiers officiated.

The rectory of Petworth, Sussex, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. Thomas Sockett, M.A. The benefice, which is worth nearly 1,000*l.* a year, is in the gift of Colonel Wyndham, M.P.

Mrs. Assheton Smith has given directions for a church to be erected at Tedworth, in memory of her late lamented husband. It is to be built of stone from the Tisbury quarries, and to be completed in November.

The municipal council of Marseilles, which a few months ago voted 400,000*fr.* towards the completion of the "Eglise de Réformés," has just voted a sum of 425,000*fr.* for finishing the new church of St. Michael.

The Prince de Ligne has been appointed president, and Count L. de Beaufort secretary, of the recently constituted Commission of the Museum at Brussels. The Commission has already entered on the discharge of its duties.

The negro market is lively in Georgia; good slaves "in demand," and prices extraordinarily high. The *Savannah Republican* says that at a sale in that city last week, "prime young men" brought 1,250*dols.* to 1,350*dols.* a piece; a family of six was sold for 6,025*dols.*

Among the passengers who came home in the *Magdalena* were some negro soldiers belonging to British West India regiments; who have been sent to England to learn the use of the new instruments of war. They are dressed like the French Zouaves.

Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald, M.P. for Ennis, and late Attorney-General for Ireland, was burnt in effigy by his late constituents on Monday, the motive being to denounce the right hon. gentleman for prosecuting the two priests—the Rev. Messrs. Conway and Ryan.

Madame Ristori has arrived in Paris. She brings with her Madame Santoni, one of the best actresses in Italy, who would only consent to play second to the first tragedian in the world, which title—after the death of Rachel—Madame Ristori may claim without a competitor.

A prisoner in Alton Penitentiary, U. S., who was requested to give up a knife he had in his possession, declined to do so, and the officers fearing to resort to force adopted starvation measures. At the end of ninety-seven hours the man was so weak that he was overpowered and the weapon taken from him.

A communication from Vienna, in the *Nuremberg Correspondent*, states that an envoy is to be shortly sent by the Austrian government to London, and that Field Marshal the Prince de Windischgratz is to be selected to carry an autograph letter from the Emperor to Queen Victoria.

A letter from Vienna, in the *Brussels Indépendance*, states that the death of the young Princess Windischgratz was caused by an excessive use of chloroform, to which the unfortunate lady while suffering acutely from nervous headache had recourse.

DEATHS.—The Earl of Devon died on Saturday at Strivenham, in Berkshire, in his 82nd year. His lordship was the tenth Earl, and has been twice married. By his first wife he had three sons (of whom the eldest, the present earl, has for some years, as Lord Courtenay, fulfilled the duties of Secretary to the Poor-law Board). The late earl was called to the bar in 1799, and was for a short time a Master in Chancery.—Richard Trendergast, Esq., Q.C., Judge of the City Sheriffs' Court, died on Sunday. The learned gentleman was for many years Recorder of Norwich. He was called to the bar in November, 1820. His election as judge of the Sheriffs' Court took place some two years ago. The appointment rests in the Common Council; the salary is understood to be 1,500*l.* a year.—We regret to notice the death of Mr. William Ales Hankey, the banker.

INDIA AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA.

WE last week called attention to municipal institutions in India, and to the retrograde step of dismissing the honorary magistrates, which we considered calculated to weaken the cause of municipal advancement. Mr. Ewart, who has done so much for the practical benefit of India, has, we are glad to see, taken this subject of municipal institutions under his charge; and as, during the course of his long parliamentary career, he has never abandoned any measure until he has succeeded in its realisation, the friends of India will be gratified to find that this important one is now under his care. Proceeding in his usual course, by laying a basis of satisfactory information, Mr. Ewart, on Tuesday, moved for a return of the municipalities of India, and likewise of the honorary magistrates and justices of the peace.

As this subject is little understood in this country, even among old Indians, whose attention may have been chiefly directed to other questions—to them of more importance—we shall proceed to give a few details. Except in Bombay, where there are some relics of the original municipal institutions granted by Charles II., when Bombay was held of the manor of East Greenwich, the municipal institutions of the chief cities of India are quite recent, and are regulated by what is called the New Conservancy Act, which received the assent of the Governor-General on the 13th June, 1856. It is Act No. XIV. of 1856. This Act applies to the cities of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and the stations of Prince of Wales's Island, Singapore, and Malacca, and it gives extensive powers to the commissioners for carrying out public improvements. The Calcutta Act is further modified by Act No. XXVIII. of 1856, an Act for appointing Municipal Commissioners in Calcutta. We shall give the provisions of this Act, because, being applied to the metropolitan city of India, it will be seen what extent of liberty is likely to be provided for other cities of less importance.

This Act repeals the previous municipal Acts X. and XI. of 1852, and XXVIII. of 1854. It provides that there shall be three municipal commissioners. These commissioners are not all appointed by the English citizens of Calcutta, or by the ratepayers, neither have they any local qualification. They are strictly Government nominees, and are appointed by the local Government of Bengal, being named by the Lieutenant-Governor; and, in order fully to destroy any independent action, they are "removeable at his pleasure." Thus the city of Calcutta, one of the largest in the English empire and the world, ranking next to London in population, and before Dublin, Manchester, or Glasgow, having a large body of English residents, and many wealthy native merchants, landowners, and professional men, is deprived of independent municipal action, and is at the mercy of three Government nominees. As if in mockery, and to constitute a solemn farce, they are styled the Municipal Commissioners of the town of Calcutta, and are by such name "a body corporate, and have perpetual succession, and a common seal, and by such name shall sue and be sued." They have the attributes of what is commonly understood in England as a corporation, but they have not its soul.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has power to name one of the commissioners to be President of the Board of Commissioners, and to fix the allowances the commissioners are to receive. The commissioners are to meet at least once a week, two to form a quorum, and the president to have a casting vote. The commissioners have power to raise a rate of 7½ per cent. of the annual value of all houses, buildings, and lands in the town, that is to say, a rate of eighteenpence in the pound. The rates are payable by the owners of property. The town is all the jurisdiction under the Supreme Court of Calcutta, so that while English citizens and subjects are there guaranteed all the civil rights and privileges of English civil and criminal law, the right of a jury in civil and criminal causes, and the protection of the *habeas corpus*, they are

deprived of the most ancient of all rights—of self-government.

Public buildings, the Coolie bazaar, and places of worship, are exempt from rates; and the commissioners may exempt from assessment tenements of less yearly value than twenty-four shillings, if the same be the sole rateable property of the owner. This is for the purpose of protecting the small owners. Besides the house tax, the commissioners can levy a tax on all carriages, carts, hackeries, horses, ponies, and mules, within the town, and all carts and hackeries plying for hire. Government carriages and animals are, of course, exempt. There is, further, a lighting rate of 2 per cent, or about fivepence in the pound. The carriage tax includes the following rates:—Four-wheel carriage on springs, drawn by two horses, 1*l.* 1*s.* yearly; hackery or common cart, 6*s.*; horse, 18*s.*

The municipal commissioners have power to appoint subordinate officers. They are invested with full powers over the streets, paving, lighting, water supply, watering, scavenging, and sewage,—in the same way as the corporation of Manchester. The Calcutta commissioners were directed to carry out a general plan of main drainage, but they have done nothing for it yet. A very useful power is given to the commissioners to regulate new huts, and to prohibit the building of them. They have authority to name streets and number houses. Very differently from London, in consequence of the difference of climate, sun shades are allowed to project from the houses. A proper provision—here too much neglected—is authority to the commissioners to establish public necessaries and urinals. There is a curious proviso in the clause which gives power to the commissioners to enter any house for the purpose of rectifying the drains or cesspools, and that is, "Provided always, that nothing hereinbefore contained shall authorise an entry into the zenanas or private apartments appropriated to the females of Hindoo and Mussulman families for the purpose of such inspection, except by the agency of women." This is just one of the examples of the great tenderness for native prejudices of the old Government, without the least regard for any other considerations. A more equitable consideration would have provided that Englishwomen, at least, should not be annoyed by the black myrmidons of the commissioners, and the privilege might have been extended to the females of the families of other Europeans now increasing—of Armenians, Jews, Parsees; in fact, of females generally, without conferring an insidious prejudice and an insidious distinction. The result of this enactment, the propriety of which is questionable (for the practice might have been safely left to the officials), is to give a legislative privilege to Hindoo and Mussulman women, and to fortify the accusation that English and other white women are less endowed with feelings of modesty than native females.

In the cities of tropical climates bathing is an important practice, and accordingly the commissioners are empowered to set apart any public ghaut, or place, or the strand of the river, for the inhabitants to bathe in; also, to "set apart a sufficient number of tanks for the inhabitants to bathe in," and to set apart tanks for washing animals or clothes. They can also regulate the time and place of bathing for persons of each sex, "making due allowance for the habits and customs of the country." They have control over slaughter-houses, unwholesome trades, burial-grounds, and "burning-grounds." They have directions to provide a registry of deaths.

A rational regulation is, that all notifications shall be made in English, as well as in the vernacular language chiefly in use.

Proceedings under these Acts for appeals on rating, and in questions of damages, are to be brought before any two magistrates, but in Bombay by the Court of Petty Sessions.

This is exclusive of the police establishment, which, instead of being under the municipality, according to the custom throughout the empire, is placed under the Government, according to the exceptional practice of the metropolitan police.

The police magistrates are two stipendiaries, one with the enormous salary of 2,400*l.* a-year, and the other with 960*l.* a-year. This latter official, who was a native, was lately dismissed. There are a great number of subordinates, and some considerable salaries in the police department.

Our readers will not be surprised to learn that with the course of administration provided in Calcutta many departments are under military control; as, for instance, those of public works, and the civil architect. The chief engineer is a military officer, and so is the chief architect. The latter receives 840*l.* a-year, exclusive of his regimental pay and allowances. He has three assistants at 480*l.*, 360*l.*, and 134*l.* a-year, the latter a native. Instead of the architect being the chief, and the military officer being his subordinate, all rational arrangements are reversed. We believe in this department there is one young Englishman who has been trained as an architect, and one as a civil engineer, but we are not quite sure.

Under these acts the three commissioners lately acting were Mr. S. Wanhope, of the civil service; Major H. L. Thuillier, of the Artillery; and Mr. A. M. Dowleaus—not one merchant or independent person. Mr. Wanhope holds likewise the office of Commissioner of Police, with a large salary. As Municipal Commissioner he received 300*l.* a-year. Major Thuillier, who holds another office, received 300*l.* a-year. Mr. Dowleaus, holding no other office, received 1,000*l.* a-year. The other chief officials and salaries at a late date were—the Secretary to the Commissioners, 960*l.*; the Assessor, 480*l.*; the Surveyor, 840*l.*; the Accountant, 240*l.*; two Examiners of Empty Houses, 120*l.* each; six overseers, 168*l.* each; Superintendent of Steam-engine, 168*l.*; four Inspectors of Wheel and Horse Taxes, 168*l.* each.

Municipal Commissioners have been appointed at some of the up-country towns on a more liberal system, including natives as well Europeans, except at Simla, where all the chief inhabitants being English, the commissioners are exclusively English. At Simla the commissioners are chiefly officials. At all places where the official element is not strong the commissioners are kept under the strict control of the authorities, as at the large station of Dacca, a city with 45,000 inhabitants and great trade; but where, nevertheless, in one way or another, by the injudicious arrangements of the Government, the action of the municipality is much crippled. The number of commissioners at Dacca is seventeen—nine English, three Armenian, and the others Mahomedans and Hindoos. Mr. Forbes, who gave much valuable evidence before the Colonisation Committee on Indian subjects, can give some good information to Mr. Ewart on the Dacca municipality, as he was its honorary secretary. Another institution in the nature of a municipal one, is the Local Committee of Public Instruction, of which there was an example at Dacca. There were six official members, of whom one is a native, and seven elected members, of whom two are English, two Armenians, two Hindoos, and one Mahomedan.

LATEST INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

THE overland mail has arrived with intelligence from Bombay to the 25th ult. The campaign on the borders of Nepal, has not made any extraordinary progress. Brigadier Horsford defeated the advanced guard of the rebels, on the 10th Feb., in the neighbourhood of Bankee. The enemy's advanced position was attacked and captured without loss on our side, the rebels taking flight at our approach, and leaving in our hands 14 guns and a mortar. The main body of the insurgents was thirty miles to the eastward, on the northern declivity of the hills facing Brigadier Rowcroft's camp at Liswa. Last any attempt should be made by the rebels there, who are supposed to be under the immediate command of the Begum, Beni Mahdo, and Nana Sahib, a column was ordered to take up a position on the Gundak, at the foot of the hills, under the command of Colonel Kelly. Movements of a similar nature for the guard of the frontier west of Bankee were made from Pilibheet. Jung Bahadoor has behaved with great sincerity and cordiality throughout, and seems anxious that the misguided remnant of insurgents should surrender rather than allow themselves to be

cut to pieces, or driven into the jungles to perish with hunger. Lord Clyde remains at Lucknow, and it is now said purposes to remain in India for the remainder of this year. The disarmament of Oude continues. 400 pieces of cannon, besides those taken in action, have been brought in, with a corresponding number of muskets, swords, and matchlocks. The amnesty has produced remarkable results: 7,000 men have surrendered in Bareilly alone; 4,000 in Budaon, and 1,700 in Shahjehanpore, Moradabad, and Bijnoor. Meanwhile, the work of tranquillising and consolidating the province is steadily progressing. The people are resuming their old avocations, and the military police awe the idle and disaffected, and protect the peaceful and the industrious.

Tantia Topee is not yet taken, and, according to the latest intelligence, was within thirty-three miles of Deesa. He succeeded, while Feroze Shah was attempting to reach Bhawalpore, in bursting through all our columns and detachments, and is now rapidly advancing southwards. When we parted company with Feroze Shah and the Rao Sahib, those leaders seem to have got into all manner of difficulties. They are still at large, but they sustained a signal defeat at the hands of Brigadier Honner on the 11th inst., at a place called Koosana. Between two and three hundred of their followers were left dead on the field.

The Rohilla war in the Nizam's dominions has been brought to a satisfactory termination by Sir Hugh Rose and Brigadier Hill. The terror inspired by the fight at Chichumba had so frightened the Rohillas, that they made no effort to defend any of their strongholds. Colonel Davidson, the resident at the Nizam's court, left Hyderabad for Calcutta on the 1st inst., having been summoned by the Governor-General by telegram. It is rumoured that the Supreme Government purpose conferring upon the Nizam and his minister, Salar Jung, some appropriate recognition of their fidelity and loyalty during the late crisis; and that Colonel Davidson is to be consulted as to the best mode of carrying it out.

In Scinde and the Punjab all is quiet: the latter province having had the sod of its first railway cut by the hands of Sir John Lawrence.

There has been a military fracas at Ahmednuggur. The affray took place on the night of the 19th Feb., between the men of the 3rd Dragoon Guards and those of the depot 3rd European Regiment. The dragoons seem to have been the aggressors, and to have mercilessly attacked with their swords the men of the 3rd European Regiment, who were unarmed, and nearly all raw recruits just arrived from England. Four of the latter were wounded.

Her Majesty's steamer Punjab has returned from her hasty trip to Muscat. The object of her visit was to dissuade the Imam from making war upon Zanzibar, which was imminent. The cause which provoked these threatened hostilities has not transpired. The Punjab just arrived in time to urge the maintenance of peace, for she fell in with the Imam's fleet, well manned and armed, on the evening before her arrival, which was on the morning of the 16th; and it is said that his highness was reluctantly persuaded to return to Muscat.

THE NEW LOAN.

A Bombay correspondent writes:—"A new 5 per cent. loan has been opened, the provisions of which have astonished the whole commercial community. It first informs us that the wants of the Government for the year 1859-60 will be five crores of rupees, equal to five million sterling; and then states that on the 1st May next, a 5 per cent. loan will be opened, to which subscriptions will be received, half in cash and half in 5 per cent. paper; that the issue of Treasury Bills lately begun will cease on the 30th April, and that after that date a new issue will be commenced, bearing interest at the rate of 2½ pias per diem, or rupees 4-10-6 per cent., the sum which these may produce not being reckoned in the five crores already alluded to. It is not expected that the call will be responded to, and the appearance of a 6 per cent. loan is anticipated."

HEROES' GRAVES.

Mr. Russell writes from Lucknow:—"Neill's Gate" still stands outside the Residency, into which his lifeless body was brought, and where it lies under a becoming tomb. I wish I could say to the people of England, who lamented Havelock so deeply, that the grave of their chosen one is worthily marked, or that its present condition is worthy of the remains which lie there, or of the country. When I visited the Alumbagh, where Sir Henry Havelock was hurriedly interred in the march of the relieved garrison out of Lucknow, I saw, in the unclean garden-ground of the place, open to natives, cattle, and dogs, a shallow sinking in the ground the size of a grave—and it was a grave—and just over it, rudely carved by a soldier's hand on the trunk of a tree, could be traced the letter "H."

And this is the grave and the inscription of Sir Henry Havelock!"

NOTES ON INDIAN PROGRESS.

On Monday Mr. Paterson Saunders, formerly of Calcutta, was examined before the Colonisation Committee of the House of Commons, and gave some most important and practical information as to Assam, in which he had been largely engaged as a tea-planter. There has been no readiness on the part of the Assam Company to give information as to Assam, as they seem to entertain some of the monopolistic fancies which are apt to prepossess large companies. Mr. Saunders showed that the tea business is a practicable and a profitable one, but he was of opinion that present calculations would be materially altered by a reduction in the price of tea in more extensive cultivation, and a rise in the rates of labour; but that under all circumstances the tea business must be remunerative. The labour question in Assam he considered to be chiefly one of wages. Looking to the abundant supplies of labour obtained by the indigo planters, he could not consider there was any real difficulty in Assam, if adequate wages were given. He considered that 20s. and 24s. per month could be given.

Mr. Ewart, the chairman of the above committee, has given notice of an address to the Crown, praying returns of the amounts levied for transit duties by native States in India, of the municipal commissions or municipalities in India, and of the number and districts of honorary magistrates and justices of the peace. We think he ought to have included a return of the road and ferry fund boards, and of the paltry revenues under their control, and of the educational boards. Thus all the evidence as to the rudiments of municipal institutions will be gained. Next year this will make a good subject for a committee of inquiry.

At the Society of Arts on Wednesday, Dr. Forbes Watson, the successor of Dr. Royle at the India House, gave a most valuable paper on cotton in India. It showed a comprehensive grasp of the subject, and pointed out the true difficulty of the cotton question in Bombay, namely, transport; and he urged the completion of the cotton railways as early as possible. He vindicated the propriety of having well constructed railways, although he advocated the improvement of rivers, and the extension of canals, roads and irrigation.

According to Dr. Watson the production of cotton in India is 2,400,000 lbs., or twice that of the United States; but the quantity exported has never exceeded 250,000,000 lbs. Where means of transport are provided by nature, there the export has increased; but where the means of transport depended on the late honourable Company, the export of the richest districts in the world has remained stationary. Of this abundant confirmation was given by Mr. Price, a merchant, who opened up the large Dharwar cotton trade, now amounting to 80,000 bales yearly. His trade had been stopped by the want of roads, and the inability of the Government, for want of funds, to repair the roads! Colonel Sykes, who was present to vindicate the late Government, became very angry at the turn the discussion took, and charged Mr. J. B. Smith, M.P., the chairman, that the miserable state of the Indian cotton export was the fault of the cotton manufacturers of Manchester, who might have sent out to India, and bought as much as they liked! Mr. Smith did not answer the gallant colonel, but, the evening having far advanced, adjourned the smiling meeting, many persons in which were equally surprised at learning the state of India, and that the gallant gentleman was one of those who had been Chairmen of the Honourable East India Company.

Professor Wilson, of Edinburgh, director of the Industrial Museum there, is devoting much attention to Indian subjects, and has no less than six Indian officers among the pupils of his technological class, who are acquiring information for the purpose of improving the native processes.

A great sensation has been made by the successful issue of guaranteed debentures by the East Indian Railway Company, and which opens a new resource for public enterprise in India. So eagerly was the first issue of a million taken, that a squabble arose, in which the directors have been charged with giving undue preference to some of the claimants for the stock. We cannot see that there is any foundation for the charge, for the proceeding seems to have been conducted in the usual way of large financial undertakings, but some of those individuals who were not used to this course have found that they did not get all the stock they wanted.

The settlement of Hoop Town, in the Darjeeling country, according to the Calcutta papers and private advices, is making great progress. Mr. Frederick Brine had, at the latest advices, 1,300 men employed on his extensive tea plantations, a free supply of labour now pouring in from the

neighbouring hills. Mr. Rutter had 300 acres under tea, and was building for Mr. Brine, and other settlers, seven houses at the last advices. Mr. Rutter had likewise begun operations in another locality, for supplying sleepers and other railway timber on a large scale to the East India Railway Company. This had become a more important business in the Darjeeling country, now that timber cannot be so freely obtained from the Nepal country. In Oude the *terai* or forest jungle belongs to the Nepalese, but in Sikkim we possess it. Mr. Rutter is about to construct a saw mill at Puak-bacee.

Mr. Henry Keene, superintendent of the D. J. Dhoo, has had leave for a short time. During his absence, Mr. J. C. Robertson has officiated as superintendent. The value of this district for English settlement is beginning to attract attention. Mr. Paterson Saunders was examined on it before the Colonisation Committee. Many of the old Indians have a very high opinion of the Dhoo, particularly since the success of the tea plantations; but we think they are inclined to place too great a value on it, for the amount of land available is relatively very small, but the situation is a choice one in the neighbourhood of Landour and Mussoorie.

Captain H. Hayman, of the 15th Bombay Native Infantry, has had a short leave to Vingorla.

Mr. H. B. Lindsay, of the Bombay Civil Service, has proceeded on leave to Mount Abo and Deesa.

Mr. A. K. Forbes and Mr. C. H. Cameron, of the Bombay Civil Service, have been authorised to act as senior assistant-judge and sessions judge of Rutuagherry.

The Legislative Council of India has been very little noticed in England of late, and it is receiving little respect in India. It is evident that it is falling into a state of contempt, which will prepare the way for its reconstruction at the hands of Lord Stanley. The old civilians have shown themselves unable to work it, and the mode of doing business in the ancient style by paper succeeds as ill as the occasional discussions by word of mouth in the Council, where the one or two English judges and other antagonists of the old *regime* cause great irritation by their free remarks. One of the last of their performances is an Act for Small Cause Courts in the Mofussil.

The ground for this was, that the Mooniffs' Courts are distrusted, and their proceedings so slow as to amount to a denial of justice. In Calcutta the Small Cause Court pays three judges and a large establishment. Such was the state of facts, and what the Legislative Council do is this: they create Small Cause Courts, but they entrust the Mooniffs with them, and then, to take care of the Mooniffs, they provide complicated appeals. This is under the plea of economy, but it is justly observed that in very many subdivisions the receipts of such a court would pay for two judges—an Englishman and a native—and pension off the retiring Mooniff. The real truth is, the civilians prefer having Mooniffs and Amlah as subordinates, instead of finding near them uncovenanted English judges in an independent capacity.

This act is one among many specimens of the incompetency of the Legislative Council; and we are not surprised to find the *Friend of India* thus commenting upon it:—"Afraid of inertia, but incapable of reform—tenacious of independence, but crouching to the executive—ever promising improvement, and ever re-enacting the old abuse, this council must be drawing to its end. In its death it may have this one consolation, that at last it wanted the energy which develops any feeling stronger than contempt." Thus will fall one of the last strongholds of mandarin power in India, and a Legislative Council of an official oligarchy will meet the fate that has befallen it in all our other colonies. It is not difficult to perceive that two new elements will be introduced in the future council—representatives of the English settler and of the native aristocracy. The present council is a makeshift which has answered ill, and hardly one of its enactments will stand ten years hence.

Sir Macdonald Stephenson's progress with the international railway from London to Calcutta naturally excites the deepest interest in India, as they begin to see the period arrive for proceeding with the eastern portions.

RATHER INDEFINITE.—Colonel Waugh has written a letter to the *Times*, dated from "near Marseilles, March 10, 1859," declaring his intention to return to London for the purpose of prosecuting that journal. "In giving vent," he says, "to your vindictive feelings you have far outstepped the bounds of fair and legitimate criticism, and have again laid yourself open to legal proceedings, which I now pledge myself to adopt—as soon as my state of health will admit."

COMMERCIAL.

THE TRADE OF TWO MONTHS.

THE official trade returns for February, now published, are extremely favourable. In the imports generally, but notably in live animals, coffee, cotton, raw silk, wine, &c., there is an increase both as against February, 1858 and 1857. In corn and flour, from the abundance of our present supplies, and the low price of these articles here, there is naturally a falling-off in the quantities imported. In tallow, too, and timber we notice a decline; and a considerable decline in the quantity of tea imported, as against 1856, but not as against 1857. It may be mentioned, too, that though the quantity of coffee imported is in excess, the quantity exported is also in excess, and the quantity in bond at the end of February is less than last year. On the Continent the demand for coffee has latterly increased; and these circumstances explain the recent condition of the coffee market, and indicate a rise in the price. The same remark may be made of tea, with this difference, that the quantity imported is not, relatively, so much in excess as that of coffee, and the quantity in bond is proportionably less. In accordance with our enlarged imports, the shipping entered inwards from abroad, in the month, and the two months, and employed in the coasting trade, is considerably more than in the same periods in 1857 and in 1858; and of this increase British shipping has a full share. As new shipping companies are starting every day, we may presume that this great interest is now rapidly recovering from the depression which made it, a short time ago, so unexpectedly relapse into protectionism.

Though the clearances of shipping outwards in February, 1859, are not so numerous as in February, 1857, they are in excess of February, 1858; and the value of the exports in the month is in excess of both the previous years. The value of exports in February was—

1857.	1858.	1859.
£9,313,40	£7,288,416	£9,614,143.

And in the two months—

1857.	1858.	1859.
£18,371,145	£14,510,016	£19,207,566.

Thus, notwithstanding the disquietude occasioned by the warlike demonstrations of the sovereigns of the Continent, our trade has suffered very little. It is so extensive, and embraces so many countries out of Europe, that the little interruption with each European country amounts to an insignificant sum compared to the vast whole. Though speculation has not revived, our real substantial trade is greater than ever it was. We can state, too, that this is accompanied by many advantages to the great multitude; and the pauperism in England and Wales was, in the last week of February, nearly 11 per cent. less than in the corresponding week of 1857. Throughout the month it has been from 10 to 12 per cent. less than in 1858. It is probably from relying on the prosperity, and consequently the tranquillity of the people, that the political parties are more at their ease than is apparently justifiable, in dealing with the great question of Reform.

TRADE MORALITY.—TAYLOR'S PERSIAN THREAD.

Of late we have been quite inundated with just complaints of the immorality of traders. Amongst the class there may be many patriots, many church-goers, many good fathers and good husbands, many most respectable men, but there is also a great deal of fraud. All those who imagine that one trader cannot thrive but at the expense of some other trader—the principle for many years of national policy—agree with a mercantile friend of ours, who says that all trade is cheater. This is not our opinion. The men who remove goods from where they are not wanted to where they are wanted—the men who draw off pipes of wine into bottles, who sell a web of cloth by the yard, and so supply the wants of their neighbours, are as necessary to stimulate, continue, and adjust production and consumption, as the manufacturer, or the grape grower, or the gentleman who drinks

his bottle of wine, and covers his back with the cloth. At the same time it cannot be denied, useful as are the pursuits of traders, and honourable as is the conduct of the bulk of traders, that of late many glaring examples of dishonesty have come to light amongst them, and they have been subjected by the other classes, especially preachers and public writers, to severe rebukes. Bankers, discount brokers, merchants, quite princely for the extent of their dealings, manufacturers, wholesale and retail dealers, have all furnished examples of dealing most unscrupulously with the property of other people.

On Wednesday a case was brought before Sir W. Page Wood, Vice-Chancellor, which illustrates the depths to which the roots of this malady of the age have struck, and how widely they are spread. In almost every family of the middle classes "Taylor's Persian Thread" is preferred to every other, and is continually used. It is wound on reels, and every reel has a label on it, stating the quantity it contains. These reels are sold by millions, and similar reels being made by other manufacturers, hundreds of millions of reels are used by sempstresses and housewives in the year. Mr. W. Taylor, the surviving partner in the firm of J. and W. Taylor, of Leicester, the manufacturer of this kind of thread, moved for an injunction to restrain Henry Degetau and Henry Dalton, of Manchester, from infringing his trade-mark. In the pleadings it transpired that the firm of J. and W. Taylor had, at the request of Degetau, supplied the firm of Eller and Co., of Manchester, and others, with considerable quantities of these reels, 200 gross in consequence of one order, each reel marked to contain 300 yards of sewing cotton, while it actually contained only 250. Several such cases were brought under the cognizance of the Court, which refused the injunction, because it would be tantamount to "continuing a monopoly of fraud." But the plaintiff had been requested by Degetau and others to supply them with reels containing a less quantity than they were marked to contain. Not only the Taylor's, therefore, but the persons they dealt with, and their "clients" also, have all entered into this conspiracy to defraud housewives and sempstresses by selling them only 250 or 280 yards of sewing cotton for 300 yards. Other manufacturers of sewing cotton have done the same, and probably to a greater extent than the Taylors. They have been enabled to carry on their game in safety for years, because it is practicable only for a tradesman to unwind the cotton and measure the quantity. The sempstress cannot spoil the reel and waste her time by ascertaining yard by yard the length of its contents. This case, however, general as to sewing cotton, is only an illustration—and as such we dwell on it—of practices which are common in many trades. There are other articles, such as matches made of cotton, steel-pens, hooks and eyes, &c., &c., sold in boxes, said to contain 1,000, or a gross, or some other number, in which they are very often deficient; and in such cases the manufacturers, the wholesale and the retail dealers, are all generally aware of the fraud practised on the consumer, and all conspire to perpetrate it. However great a knave a showy banker or a speculative merchant may be, he has few or no accomplices; but this case reveals to us whole classes of men unblushingly conspiring to defraud, giving orders in writing to execute fraudulent schemes, as matters of course, and deliberately planning their operations to cheat vast masses of consumers of all classes and conditions. Such clear evidence of a fraudulent disposition generally prevalent, and of general disregard of the right of property in others, we have not before met with, and, therefore, we think this case is especially worthy of public attention.

We should induct our readers into error, however, if we led them to suppose that this disregard of the right of property is something peculiar to traders. The competition amongst them to get customers by selling cheap may stimulate dishonesty, but, at the same time, it diminishes the profit, and, therefore, weakens the motive to be

guilty of it. One rogue may obtain a temporary advantage, but when dishonesty is so widely spread it ends simply in general loss. It is quite an axiom of political economy that there cannot be two rates of profit in a community—except as different occupations are hazardous, or otherwise—and, therefore, the effect of this general dishonesty is to keep down the general rate of profit, and lessen the advantages of all these fraudulent dealers. It checks, too, the free use of the commodities they make or sell, and ultimately injures themselves. In them, dishonesty, great as it is, is continually found out and continually checked; but there is a similar species of dishonesty in other classes which is neither continually found out nor continually checked. Only by some accident—such as the extreme roguery of one defaulter—is the corruption which pervades the public service exposed, as by the Weedon inquiry. Till the deficiency of 5,000,000*l.*, which Lord Clarence Paget has made known, be explained in detail, the public can but believe that not a little of it has somehow or other been very dishonestly appropriated by those who have disposed of it. Nor can any one run his eye over the details of the estimates for the public service for any one year without feeling a moral conviction at every page that much of the money of the public is obtained on false pretences. The immense promises of the Government—to fulfil which it demands such vast sums of money—and its really inefficient performances, are gigantic discrepancies compared to the selling of 250 yards of sewing cotton for 300. We believe, too, that the different parties of politicians are just as well aware as the manufacturers and sellers of sewing cotton, that they sell the public, for 66,000,000*l.* a year, services that are not worth half the money, and leave it no option. The dishonesty, now so conspicuous, is not confined to trade, nor to one country. It is as rife in the United States as in England, and as rife amongst the governing as the trading classes. Its essence is the appropriation, by false representations, of the property of others, which is a characteristic of the age and of many classes in all countries.

MONEY MARKET & STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday Evening.

THE great feature of the money market this day was the announcement of a Russian loan for £12,000,000, which has been negotiated by Messrs. Thompson, Bevan, and Co. at 67 for 3 per cent. Other parties, it is said, were candidates for it, and there appears at present no doubt that it will be a success. The credit of Russia is very good, especially on the Continent, and it is supposed there will be no difficulty in disposing of the stock. It had the effect, when announced, of depressing the funds, which have been rather better in the week $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Consols opened at 96 $\frac{1}{2}$, and were afterwards done at 96 $\frac{1}{2}$, at which they closed. Railway and other shares are all firm, and, with stocks, are all likely to improve, now that there is a cessation of alarm in Europe. At present the source of uneasiness is the change in the Government which seems impending; not that the Derby Ministry will be regretted, but every change seems to increase the difficulties of carrying on the affairs of the State successfully.

The Money market is unaltered. Money is to be had in abundance at Bank rates, and not below them. Some bills, but not many, are carried to the Bank for discount. To-day the Exchanges generally were more favourable to this country, which serves to allay the little apprehension some persons feel from the large exportation of silver to the East. For these apprehensions there is no good ground whatever, for gold is continually coming in. The Bank has a large stock, and no less than £1,000,000 is known to be on its way, and likely to arrive before the end of May. A further rise, however, has taken place in the price of silver, caused by the demand for the East. This is rather a proof of the appreciation of silver than the depreciation of gold. It is immediately caused by the financial difficulties of the East India Government, which requires a great deal more to carry on its affairs, wind up the expenses of the war, &c., and is precluded by its own regulations from employing anything but silver for the purpose. Hence there is a great temporary demand for it in India, which raises its price in relation to gold and

other things. The disciples of M. Chevalier will find in this fact an argument for the depreciation of gold, but it is entirely the consequence of the act of the Government.

A fortnight ago we directed attention to the attempt now making by the Great Western Railway Company to raise their fares. Yesterday the *Times* referred to the subject and gave this additional explanation:—

"The bill is entitled 'A bill for authorising the construction of a railway for carrying the West London Railway over the Great Western Railway, by means of a bridge, in substitution for the present level crossing; for revising the tolls of the Great Western Railway Company, and for other purposes;' and it was in this manner, by putting forth the change of a crossing into a bridge as the prominent object, that it was hoped to gain the means to tax to an almost indefinite degree the entire traffic of the west of England. A more unworthy contrivance has perhaps hardly been recorded in the annals of a respectable English company, and it has awakened, as it deserves, active hostility and reprobation. At a meeting of the wholesale houses of London, on the 18th inst., a series of resolutions were passed for a strenuous opposition, and a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps. In a statement of the case submitted by Mr. Robert Slater, of the firm of Morrison, Dillon, and Co., it is pointed out that the existing tolls of the Company were actually proposed by themselves, in order to obtain from Parliament the power of trenching upon ground already occupied by the London and North Western line; and, this power having been secured, the aim now is, not only to repeal the conditions, but to make the public pay—as was always predicted would be the case—for the ruin the Company have brought upon their own heads by misapplications of capital for reckless extensions, unjustifiable competition, and extravagant expenditure."

The debate in the House of Lords yesterday, on limited liability, illustrates the erroneous conduct of the Legislature in dealing with this question, rather than the incorrectness of the principle. There cannot be a doubt about the propriety of leaving every man at liberty to decide for himself the extent of the obligations he will enter into, or limit his liability as a member of a company, as well as in other capacities. That the Legislature, in deciding how a man shall act in contracting this liability, settling all the conditions of such contracts before they can possibly be known, has done extremely wrong, we can readily admit; and while Lord Overstone may be right in opposing our legislation on the subject, he is hopelessly wrong in condemning the great principle of limited liability. His lordship fails in this instance, as in others, to distinguish the errors of the august assembly of which he is now a member, and the principles of trade with which he was formerly more familiar than with legislation.

GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

London, Friday-Evening.

The extraordinary feature in our trade transactions this week is the exportation of wheat from Liverpool, and we believe from some ports of France, to the United States and Canada. Trade has taken such a course before. The Americans sold more than they could well spare, and were obliged to buy some back. By the last American papers arrived, we learn that in some parts of Western Canada there was much distress for want of food, and in parts of the United States food is much wanted. A hope is expressed that the American Government will allow the re-importation of wheat and flour without the payment of duty, but that Government is so much in want of money, that we are afraid this hope will be disappointed. We see, however, that its customs revenue is rapidly increasing. Till next harvest it is probable that the flow of grain will be not from, but to, the American continent. The coffee market has assumed a very firm character; for good sorts of coffee the demand is great, and it is expected that the price of coffee at the approaching sales in Holland will be high. The tea market, too, is very firm. A much greater quantity has been sold lately than has arrived, which is tantamount to an inroad on our stock, and shows a demand superior to the supply. The corn market is also firm, and things look generally more cheerful than for some time past. As the improvement accompanies the report of a Congress to assemble, it will, by some persons, be attributed to this circumstance, but it is rather the consequence of consumption having overtaken the supply, than of any political action. At the same time the political disputes have interfered with trade, and prevented the improvement from manifesting itself at an earlier period. The details of the several markets follow.

The general trade of the manufacturing districts has shown an improvement this week. The war manifestations have not been quite so alarming, and

the prospect of the Congress of the Great Powers of Europe has given confidence to exporting merchants, the result of which is shown, in a considerable issue of orders for the Continental markets.

LIVERPOOL.—The last advices from New York report a falling off in the cotton receipts, and as this is interpreted to mean a short supply of the raw material, the holders in Liverpool have taken the hint, and have established an advance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. This has tended to repress sales; but latterly, manufacturers and speculators have bought freely.

MANCHESTER.—Last week the Continental orders were very limited. But this week, the merchants appear to be in better heart, and the result is, that German and Italian customers have made their appearance, and have given out orders pretty freely. From this circumstance, spinners have regained that firmness which they partially lost last week; and have refused to submit to lower prices. The last telegram from Bombay shows that the markets are overstocked, or, if not overstocked, that the late financial operations in India have so alarmed capitalists that they have reduced their business in every direction. This determination has checked that buoyancy in the Indian markets, which has proved such a boon to our manufacturers. For yarns, for the German markets, there has been a good demand. The home trade has also been active. Altogether, a disposition to do business for the Continental markets more freely has been evinced.

LEEDS.—The attendance in hall has been generally good. The improvement in business appeared to be general. Prices, however, exhibited no material variation. The warehouse trade is not very good, and buyers have only made limited purchases. We believe the clothiers are busily occupied at this time; so much so, that in some districts there is a positive scarcity of hands.

LEICESTER.—The demand for worsted goods, as might be expected, is pretty near a close, but still makers are well employed in preparing cotton goods for the season. The operatives have been fully employed, and in some instances at advanced wages.

NOTTINGHAM.—The lace trade, hitherto so slack, has been brisker, particularly in plain goods. We are sorry to have to notice several failures, which have tended to shake confidence. The general feeling in the trade is, that trade is improving. Operatives appear to be fully employed.

HUDDERSFIELD.—A fair attendance of buyers from Glasgow and London houses took place this week. Light goods, mixtures, and other goods for the summer trade found a full demand.

BRADFORD.—The wool trade is quiet. For bright-haired sorts there is a demand at easier prices. The Continental buyers do not make their appearance in our markets. The advices from Halifax, Rochdale, and other districts, are similar in character.

THE IRON TRADE.—There is a fair trade doing in hardware goods. The iron districts in Staffordshire and Wales are well employed on railway orders. We regret to have to notice the increase of strikes. The cotton districts are threatened with this piece of folly, but we hope the operatives will have good sense enough and feeling enough for their families to resist the suggestions of the designing. We hope the operatives of Padilham will not listen to the foolish representations of the clique calling itself "The East Lancashire Amalgamated Association."

HOME, COLONIAL AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS.

THE SUGAR MARKETS have shown an upward tendency, but the advance has not been so well maintained as at the beginning of the week.

COFFEE.—The inquiry is steady. Holders, however, insist on their prices, and this restricts business. Some sales of Ceylon and Plantation have been effected at the prices of last week.

COCOA.—A small business only was done in this article.

TEA.—The public sales finished on Wednesday; prices were with difficulty supported. Common Congou, in the private contract market, sold at 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. cash. The exports from London for the week ending the 17th March are reported to be 30,778 lbs.

RUM.—A fair business was done at old prices, Leeward Island, common, 1s. 7d.; fair, Demerara, 2s. 1d., 2s. 2d., 2s. 3d. proof.

ROSE.—There has been no transaction of importance to report.

PEPPER.—At the public sales, Penang went off steadily at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Singapore, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; first-class, damaged, 4d. White Pepper.—Penang, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 8d.; Singapore, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

In **GINGER, MACIS, CLOVES, CINNAMON**, there is no variation. **NUTMEGS** are about 1d. lower.

SALTPETRE.—The business done was limited. Fine Crystal, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., realised 41s.

JUTE.—A reduction of about 20s. to 30s. per ton is reported in some instances.

HEMP.—Fine Manila with difficulty fetched 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5s. per ton.

OILS.—Rape, without activity. In Olive, a large business was done at rather lower prices. Palm, steady at 45 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cocoa Nut has experienced a better demand; Ceylon, 41 $\frac{1}{2}$; Cochin, 43 $\frac{1}{2}$; Linseed, market flat and tendency towards lower prices.

CORN.—The supply of both English and Foreign wheat was limited; no variation occurred in prices worth noticing. Flour steady; Oats quiet; Malting Barley, firm, and Peas and Beans dull at last week's rates.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION. The twenty-first annual meeting of the contributors to this Society was held on the 16th of February.

John Hunter, Esq., Auditor of the Court of Sessions, in the chair.

The Chairman, after adverting to the details of the year's business, said—"It was stated to you at last annual meeting that a careful and minute investigation had been made into the whole of the securities on which the funds of the institution have been from time to time invested, and that the result had been in the highest degree satisfactory. There is no department of the administration of the society's affairs that is more important than this; and, without recurring to the details given by Mr. Binny last year, I shall merely, as having had the honour to act as chairman of the Loan Committee during the past year, add my assurances to his, that all your funds are safely and surely invested, that no greater care or caution could have been exercised than has hitherto been shown in the selection and examination of the investments, and that we are all of us fully and continually alive to the importance, or rather absolute necessity, of avoiding the slightest relaxation of diligence in this fundamental department of our duties."

The Directors' Report stated that 562 new policies had been opened in the year, assuring 269,610 $\frac{1}{2}$. The claims by death—63 in number—amounted to 39,910 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13s. The gross amount of premiums received in 1858 was 94,139 $\frac{1}{2}$. The income of the Society at 31st of December last was 112,990 $\frac{1}{2}$. The realised fund arising from accumulated premiums was 562,559 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Mr. Edmund Baxter, W.S., in submitting the Report, referred to the position of the Society on the completion of its 21st year. Comparing this with the two leading institutions—the London Equitable and the Scottish Widows' Fund—he showed that, at the corresponding period of their attaining their majority, these great offices had—the former only 720,000 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the latter "upwards of two millions" of assurances; while the subsisting assurances in the Scottish Provident exceeded three millions and a quarter.

Mr. Baxter then addressed the meeting on the distinctive principles of the Institution—as, premiums on the lowest scale consistent with perfect safety to insurers, and reservation of surplus for those by whose continued contributions it has been created, members being at once secured in the full sum to which their premiums are commensurate—generally from a fifth to a fourth more than in other participating offices—while their interest in the profits is preserved. These, however, are not given to the contributor who dies early, to the loss of the society, but become available to a member whenever surplus arises on his individual assurance.

The report was, on the motion of Thomas Stevenson, Esq., civil engineer, unanimously approved of; and the management was constituted for the ensuing year.

Full reports of the meeting, containing statement of the principles of the society, forms of proposal, and every information, may be had at the Head Office, or at the London Branch, 66, Gracechurch-street. JAMES WATSON, Manager; J. Muir Leitch, London Agent and Secretary.

THE LIVERPOOL BOROUGH BANK.—A private meeting of the shareholders was held at the offices of the Bank, in Water-street, on Monday, to receive a report from some of the shareholders who had succeeded in obtaining an order from the Master of the Rolls for an inspection of the books and accounts of the bank by a professional accountant. It was also resolved that Mr. Dickson, of Edinburgh, who has been engaged in winding up the affairs of the Western Bank of Scotland, should be appointed accountant, and that another meeting of the shareholders should be called to receive his report, and then to decide upon taking any further steps which may be deemed necessary.

MANUFACTURES IN THE HEBRIDES.—Sir James Matheson is about to erect extensive chemical works for the manufacture of paraffine, &c., from peat moss, at Garrabost, near the town of Stornoway. Experiments have been already made with a satisfactory result.

The *New York Times* speaks of an item of secret history never before divulged. "President Jefferson's gunboat navy, which was the subject of much ridicule, was ostensibly built for the protection of our sea-coast; 180 of these boats were sent southward, These boats were built for the special purpose of taking possession of Cuba, but before the plans of Mr. Jefferson were perfected relations with England became threatening, and the project was postponed and never afterwards revived."

THE TREATY OF TIEN-SING.—It is stated that the French Government have received intimation from China that the Emperor refuses to ratify that clause of the Treaty of Tien-Sing which refers to facilities for the extension of the opium trade.

SHARES AND STOCKS.

Main table listing various companies and their shares, including sections for English Stocks, Foreign Stocks, and Joint-Stock Banks.

Table listing English Stocks, Foreign Stocks, and Joint-Stock Banks with columns for No. of Shares, Dividends per annum, Names, Shares, Paid, and Price per Share.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

Table listing Joint-Stock Banks with columns for No. of Shares, Dividends per annum, Names, Shares, Paid, and Price per Share.

* Ex. Dividend, or ex. New.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the London and North Western Railway Company is called for the 1st of April to approve a number of important bills pending in Parliament.

The Great Southern of India Railway Company invite tenders for the supply of a quantity of railway materials.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the East Suffolk Railway was held on Tuesday, for the purpose of taking into consideration the bill now before Parliament, empowering the company to construct a branch line from Leiston to Aldborough. The proposed bill received the sanction and approval of the proprietors.

A deputation of railway shareholders—consisting of Sir John Hall, and Messrs. Vance, Abel, Tegg, Puncher, and Tewart—had an interview to-day with Lord Donoughmore, the President of the Board of Trade, with reference to the unsatisfactory state of railway legislation.

BELGIAN RAILWAY.—The Chamber of Commerce of Antwerp have resolved that there shall be a great festival on the 1st of May, to celebrate on that day the twenty-fifth anniversary of the promulgation of the law for the establishment of railways throughout the kingdom.

SUEZ RAILWAY.—From Alexandria we learn that the railway now complete to Suez is an immense boon to travellers, and the Arabs (who travel at the rate of 20,000 a month) are clamorous for the extension of the system, offering to raise the embankments and make the bridges, on condition the Government supplies rails and rolling stock. The result may be looked for as one of the most beneficial kind, both in respect to the material and social welfare of the people.

RAILWAY ACROSS THE THAMES.—A committee of the House of Commons has taken evidence on the scheme for constructing a railway across the river near Hungerford-bridge, with a station in Hungerford Market. Mr. Ingham, who presided, having consulted with the other members of the committee, said they had come to the conclusion that the proposed Charing-cross or Hungerford Railway station would be a great public convenience, and they would not require more evidence upon that point.

SARDINIAN LINES.—The shareholders of the Cunco Railway have been summoned to attend a general meeting in order to deliberate upon the advisability of surrendering the line to the State. This fact strengthens the rumour that the Government wishes to obtain all the railways in the hands of private persons, in order to dispose of them in a mass to an English company, with those already belonging to the Crown.

HONDURAS RAILWAY.—A deputation on the subject of the Honduras Interoceanic Railway had an interview with the Postmaster-General, on Wednesday. The deputation represented the fact that the harbours on both sides were in all respects suited to the wants of commerce; that the route of the railway, as reported to the Government by Lieut. Colonel Stanton, R.E., was perfectly practicable throughout, and that the company had a tender to put a sufficient road for the carriage of the mails within twelve months from this time, pending the construction of the railway. The deputation dwelt especially on the facilities of this route as affording the most speedy and safe communication with British Columbia and Australia.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the Calcutta and Burmah Steam Navigation Company is called for the 29th instant, when a dividend is to be declared.

On Monday the second annual meeting of the County and General Gas Consumers' Company was held, when the report was adopted and a dividend of 5 per cent. declared.

At the meeting of the Ottoman Bank, the report showed a profit of 58,236l. 17s. 4d., from which the directors recommended a dividend for the half-year, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 12s. per share, leaving a balance of 3,236l. 7s. 4d., to be carried to the next account. The reserve fund is now 35,000l. The total liabilities were 1,874,590l. 15s. 3d., and the assets 1,869,590l. 15s. 3d., leaving 5,000l. the balance of preliminary expenses. The report was adopted.

At a meeting of the East India Coal Company on Wednesday, several alterations were agreed to in the deed of settlement, in conformity with the new Joint Stock Companies' Act.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, a petition has been presented to wind up the European and American Steam Shipping Company (limited), under the Joint-stock Companies' Acts, 1856 and 1857. The date fixed for hearing is the 5th of April, at two o'clock.

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