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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. 505.]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1859.

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THE LONDON AND MEDITERRANEAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY (LIMITED).

Incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Acts, and liability limited to amount of subscription.
Capital £50,000, in 5,000 shares of £10 each, with power to increase to £250,000.
Deposit, 10s. per share, to be paid on application. First call £2 per share, payable on allotment.

DIRECTORS.

Col. Sykes, F.R.S., M.P. (Chairman of the Hon. the East India Company), Chairman.
J. C. Alexander, Esq. (Messrs. Sichel, Alexander, and Co.), Manchester and London.

Capt. Francis Stewart, Surbiton-hill, Surrey, late of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's service.
G. H. Whalley, Esq., M.P., Reform Club.
Charles Whetham, Esq., 52, Gordon-square (Messrs. Whetham and Sons, Gracechurch-street, London).

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT—Captain John Vine Hall (late of the steamship Golden Fleece).

SHIPPING AGENTS AND BROKERS—Messrs. Alfred Laming and Co., 70, Cornhill, and Lloyd's.

AUDITOR—John Ball, Esq., of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, Jay, and Co.

BANKERS—Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths, Lombard-street.

SOLICITORS—Messrs. Hamber and Corsellis, 20, King's Arms-yard.

SHAREBROKERS—Messrs. Huggins and Rowsell, 1 Threadneedle-street; Messrs. A. L. Cawthorn and Scott, 75, Old Broad-street.

SECRETARY—George Grant, Esq.

TEMPORARY OFFICES—16, BISHOPSGATE-STREET
WITHIN, LONDON, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

THE object of this Company is to establish a regular and efficient line of steamers between London and the large commercial cities of Italy and Sicily—viz., Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Messina, Palermo, &c., the traffic having been hitherto carried on by a small and inferior class of vessels, inadequate to the requirements of the trade.

The rapidly increasing trade between this country and the Italian States is proved by reference to the Custom House Returns for 1848, which state that the aggregate value of the exports for that year were £2,212,357, while those for 1858 were £4,089,720. The imports were in the same proportion.

The promoters, having been impressed with the importance of the trade, commenced operations on this line in October, 1857, as agents for the owners of several steamers which have since continued to run, at various intervals, with great success, as may be seen by reference to the Appendix (Table I.), in which the returns are collected to the end of last year; but in order more fully to develop it, and with a view to meet the numerous complaints made to them of the want of punctuality in sailing, and of the inferiority of many of the vessels (necessarily occasioned by their having to charter with separate owners, and also with vessels of various sizes and speed), the expediency of substituting an independent and efficient line of steamers has been strongly urged upon the Directors, and the promoters, as the shipping agents of this Company, are prepared, unconditionally, to carry over in its favour their established agencies abroad, so that, in fact, its operations can be commenced without delay.

The Directors, in resolving to establish this Company, are further encouraged by the facts that a most successful line of screw steamers has for some years been engaged in the trade between Liverpool and the Italian ports; that the leading merchants in London, interested in the Italian trade, have some time since urged by requisition in writing the organisation of the line now proposed; and the Directors have also been informed that many of the merchants in Italy and Sicily, to show their confidence in the success of the enterprise, have offered to contribute towards the capital required, and otherwise to support the Company in every possible way.

The intrinsic merits of the line now proposed will, the Directors believe, fully justify them in anticipating a favourable return upon the capital.

The Directors calculate that steamers of about 700 tons register and 120-horse power would be required for the working of the Italian line, and propose them to be fitted with Rowan's patent engine, the builders of which guarantee a consumption of fuel not to exceed six tons per diem, and to give a speed of ten knots per hour, advantages hitherto unknown in the annals of steam navigation; in the meantime the Directors intend chartering the necessary steamers, so that the operations of the Company need not be delayed until their own vessels are built.

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

Two months' notice will be given of the time fixed for the payment of any future call.

Full copies of the Prospectus, with Appendix, forms of application for shares, and all necessary information may be had at the sharebrokers', and of the Secretary, at the temporary offices of the Company, 16, Bishopsgate-street within, London, E.C.

The London and Mediterranean Steam Navigation Company (Limited).

The Directors of this Company beg to announce that in allotting the Shares, a *pro rata* distribution will be made amongst all responsible applicants.

I am Sir, yours very obediently,

GEO. GRANT, Secretary.

16, Bishopsgate-street, within.

Extract from Letter of "Times" Correspondent, dated Paris, Nov. 20.

(From Times of 22nd Nov., 1859.)

"The announcement of the proposal to establish an English Steamship Company in the Mediterranean has been favourably received, as it will supply a want long felt, and which French traders and travellers are the first to recognize. The Messageries Impériales have virtually the whole Mediterranean coasting trade in their hands, with the exception of the Marseilles, Malta, and Alexandria line and, as is generally the case where there is no competition, the accommodation is of the worst description, and the charges are most exorbitant. The boats are small, very slow steamers, with the cabins so arranged as to be a source of great annoyance to the passengers, especially to ladies. The conductors have a very disagreeable and dangerous habit of crowding their ships, and no care is taken to prevent the uncleanly, and occasionally filthy, passengers from intruding upon those who have paid high fares to be protected from such annoyance. If to these disagreeables be added the fact, that the officers and crews are rarely civil, and often impertinent to English and American ladies, it will be readily understood how all who have any occasion to travel in the Mediterranean are disposed to welcome an English company, which will insure moderate charges, punctuality, civility, and cleanliness."

THE TALYSARN SLATE COMPANY (LIMITED), CARNARVONSHIRE.

Incorporated under the Joint-stock Companies' Act, the liability of shareholders being limited to the amount they each subscribe for.

Capital £50,000, in 5,000 shares of £10 each. £2 10s. per share to be paid on allotment.

DIRECTORS.

John A. L. Barnard, Esq., 52 Gracechurch-street, E.C.

James Clifford Hodges, Esq., 81, Great Tower-street, E.C.

The Rev. M. W. Lusignan, M.A., All Hallows, Thames-street.

Mark John Tomkins, Esq., Green-bank Sawmills, St. George's east, and Mistow, Essex.

BANKERS.—the Bank of London, Threadneedle-street.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Brady, Son, and Scott, 50, King William-street, City.

BROKER.—Roger Mortimer, Esq., 77, Old Broad-street.

SECRETARY (pro tem).—Thomas Ingledew, Esq.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Farries and Whitehead, Accountants.

OFFICES.—14, CHATHAM-PLACE, BLACKFRIARS.

PROSPECTUS.

THE Talsarn Estate was purchased in 1827 by the celebrated goldsmiths, Messrs. Rundell, Bridge, and Co., who expended thereon, in machinery and the partial development of the quarries, upwards of £50,000. From that eminent firm the late proprietor purchased the entirety, and has since expended several thousand pounds in restoring the quarries to their present profitable condition.

The property purchased by the Company comprises upwards of 70 acres of freehold land, the whole of which is slate rock on the celebrated Bangor veins. The quarries thereon have been extensively worked for many years, and have realised large profits. The machinery and plant, which are in complete order and regular course of working, consist of two steam engines, one of which has been recently erected; four water-wheels, with pumping and forcing apparatus connected therewith; sawing machine; two lifting frames for raising 600 tons a-day each; two water-balances of vast power; four inclined planes, with drums, chains, and tramways complete; four weighing machines; iron pumps, pipes, waggons; nearly two miles of tramway; 25 cottages; workshops, implements, and machinery of every description necessary for carrying on a large trade.

The entire estate is slate rock, the quality of which cannot be excelled, and the quarries may be deemed practically inexhaustible. The Nantlle Railway passes through the property, by which the slates are now delivered at the port of Carnarvon at 2s. 8½d. per ton, but by a projected railway from the quarries to the sea, the cost of transit will be reduced at least one-half, while, at the same time, facilities will be afforded for the removal of all the waste rock, the

effect of which upon the future working of the quarries will be extremely beneficial, and largely enhance the permanent value of the property.

The celebrated quarries of Colonel Pennant and the late Mr. Assheton Smith, on the same veins of slate, are said to realise profits amounting to upwards of £100,000 and £200,000 per annum respectively; and the Cilgwyn and Dorothea Quarries, contiguous to Talsarn, are now yielding very large profits, although paying a heavy royalty of 3s. per ton, from which these quarries, being freehold, are exempt. The £25 shares in the Dorothea quarry are now saleable at £300 each.

Reports from agents of the Bangor and other quarries, together with estimates appended thereto, show, with a small expenditure of capital, a profit within two years of upwards of £10,000 per annum, or 20 per cent. The capital of the company is £50,000, of which £10,000 will be considered the working capital.

The freehold of the entire estate, with all the quarries thereon, and the plant and machinery, have been conveyed to the Company for £40,000, half of which the proprietor takes in paid-up shares; a further sum of £15,000 remains on mortgage, and £5,000 only is to be paid in cash. The proprietor reserves to himself the house and premises now occupied by him on a lease for 21 years, at a nominal rent.

The accounts will be audited every month, and the balance sheet can be seen at the offices of the Company by any of the shareholders.

A report on the Talsarn Slate Quarries, by Mr. William Jones, of the firm of Jones Brothers, of Wharf-road, City-road, and Pimlico, on an inspection made by him during the month of October, 1859:—

"After a careful inspection of the Talsarn Quarries, I am of opinion that with a capital of, say £10,000, under proper management, the said Quarries would become a very profitable and safe investment; the extent of the slate rock belonging to the estate being larger than any other in that neighbourhood; and the quality superior to most, and inferior to none, of the far-famed Carnarvonshire slate veins.

"The rock has been sufficiently tested both as to quality and extent, so that with me the question reduces itself into one of capital and management. Then, as regards capital, the present Company has a very great advantage, seeing that they will literally reap the benefit of former capitalists' outlay; and, as regards management, it ought certainly to be in the hands of a person practically acquainted with the working of slate veins.

"I form these opinions after a life-long experience, formerly in the practical capacity of a quarryman, and now for many years as a slate merchant in London.

"If the Directors as a body, or any one of them, wish to consult me in reference to the above quarries, I am always at their service. WILLIAM JONES.

"Enamelled Slate and Marble Works, 13, Wharf-road City-road, and at Pimlico, London.—October 21, 1859."

Applications for prospectuses and for shares to be made to the broker, Roger Mortimer, Esq., 77, Old Broad-street, to the solicitors, or to the secretary, at the office of the Company.

A deposit of £1 per share must be paid to the bankers at or before the time of making such application.

BANK OF DEPOSIT, ESTABLISHED A.D. 1844.

3, PALL MALL EAST, LONDON.

CAPITAL STOCK, £100,000.

PARTIES DESIROUS OF INVESTING

MONEY are requested to examine the Plan of the Bank of Deposit, by which a high rate of interest may be obtained with ample security.

Deposits made by Special Agreement may be withdrawn without notice.

The interest is payable in January and July.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Forms for opening Accounts sent free on application.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE—UNION AND

PEACE.

FIFTY GUINEAS WILL BE GIVEN

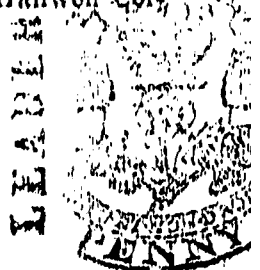
for the best ENGLISH ESSAY on the immense importance of a close

UNION OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE,

both for their own interest and welfare, and for the peace and happiness of mankind, with suggestions on the best means of making this union perpetual.

ANNUATIONS.—Lord Brougham and Vaux, P.C., F.R.S.; the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., G.C.B., P.C.; the Earl of Shaftesbury, P.C., &c.

A Programme, with a detailed pamphlet in English and French, may be obtained on application, enclosing six postage stamps, to the Rev. Dr. EMERYSON, Hanwell College, Middlesex.



ARGUS**LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**

39, THROGMORTON STREET, BANK.
Chairman—WILLIAM LEAF, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—JOHN HUMPHREY, Esq., Alderman.
Richard E. Arden, Esq. Rupert Ingleby, Esq.
Edward Bates, Esq. Saffery Wm. Johnson, Esq.
Thos. Farncomb, Esq., Ald. Jeremiah Pilcher, Esq.
Professor Hall, M.A. Lewis Pocock, Esq.
Physician—Dr. Jeaffreson, 2, Finsbury-square.
Surgeon—W. Coulson, Esq., 2, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.
Actuary—George Clark, Esq.

Advantages of Assuring with this Company.

The Premiums are on the lowest scale consistent with security.
The assured are protected by an ample subscribed capital—an assurance fund of £480,000, invested on mortgage and in the Government stocks—and an income of £85,000 a-year.

Age	Premiums to Assure £100.		Whole Term.	
	One Year.	Seven Years.	With Profits.	Without Profits.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
20	0 17 8	0 19 9	1 15 10	1 11 10
30	1 1 3	1 2 7	2 5 5	2 0 7
40	1 5 0	1 6 9	3 0 7	2 14 10
50	1 14 1	1 19 10	4 6 8	4 0 11
60	3 2 4	3 17 0	6 12 9	6 0 10

Mutual Branch.

ASSURERS on the Bonus system are entitled, after five years, to participate in nine-tenths, or 90 per cent. of the profits.

The profit assigned to each Policy can be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be received in cash.

At the first division, a return of 20 per cent. in cash on the premiums paid was declared; this will allow a reversionary increase, varying, according to age, from 66 to 28 per cent. on the premiums, or from 5 to 15 per cent. on the sum assured.

One-half of the Whole Term Premium may remain on credit for seven years, or one-third of the premium may remain for life as a debt upon the policy at 5 per cent., or may be paid off at any time without notice.

Claims paid in one month after proofs have been approved.

Loans upon approved security.

No charge for Policy Stamps.

Medical attendants paid for their reports.

Persons may in time of peace proceed to or reside in any part of Europe or British North America without extra charge.

No extra charge for the Militia, Volunteer Rifle, or Artillery Corps on Home Service.

The medical officers attend every day at a quarter before two o'clock.

E. BATES, Resident Director.

PELICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Established in 1797.

70, LOMBARD STREET, CITY, AND 57, CHARING CROSS, WESTMINSTER.

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.

For Prospectuses and forms of Proposal apply at the Offices as above, or to any of the Company's Agents.

IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

1, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.—Instituted 1820

DIRECTORS.

GEORGE WILLIAM COTAM, Esq., CHAIRMAN.
FREDERICK PATTISON, Esq., DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.
Thomas G. Barclay, Esq. George Hibbert, Esq.
James C. C. Bell, Esq. Samuel Hibbert, Esq.
James Brand, Esq. Thos. Newman Hunt, Esq.
Charles Cave, Esq. J. Gordon Murdoch, Esq.
George Henry Cutler, Esq. William R. Robinson, Esq.
Henry Davidson, Esq. Martin T. Smith, Esq., M.P.
George Field, Esq. Newman Smith, Esq.

SECURITY.—The assured are protected by a guarantee fund of upwards of a million and a half sterling from the liabilities attaching to mutual assurance.

PROFITS.—Four-fifths, or eighty per cent. of the profits are assigned to Policies every fifth year. The assured are entitled to participate after payment of one premium.

CLAIMS.—The Company has disbursed in payment of claims and additions upwards of £1,600,000.

Proposals for insurances may be made at the Chief Office, as above; at the Branch Office, 16, Pall-mall, London; or to any of the agents throughout the Kingdom.

SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

INCORPORATED 1847.

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

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

Annual income, £58,388.
Accumulated Fund £151,807 12s.
The profits declared have amounted to £63,418, yielding a Bonus of 27 1/2 per cent. on the premiums, returnable in CASH to the members.

Since the commencement of the Company the amount paid to the widows and other representatives of deceased members is £70,142 3s. 9d.

Persons insuring this year will share in the Bonus to be declared up to December, 1863.

JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

DEPOSIT AND DISCOUNT BANK.

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

G. H. LAW, Manager.

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

INVENTORS' ASSISTANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Capital, £25,000, in shares of £1 each (with power to increase it to £100,000).
Deposit 5s. per share.

Incorporated under Joint Stock Companies' Acts, 1856-57-58.

Under the direction of a Council and Managing Committee appointed by the Shareholders.

5s. per share to be paid on application, and 5s. per share at one month after allotment. With two calls, if required, of 5s. each share, at intervals of not less than three months, and with sixty days' notice in each case.

DIRECTORS.

Samuel Hall, Esq., 19, King's Arms Yard, City (ex-Director and Chairman of the Midland Counties Railway).
Adam Stoker Mather, Esq., 22, Hollingworth-street, Barnsbury.
Stephen Henry Crosswell, Esq., 86, St. James's-street, Piccadilly.

BANKERS—Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., Pall Mall East.
SOLICITORS—Granc, Son, and Fesenmeyer, 23, Bedford Row, W.C.

SECRETARY—Sitwell Harris.

OFFICES AND MANUFACTORY.

Nos. 1, 2, and 3, GOUGH STREET NORTH, Gray's Inn Road, W.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

THE leading feature of this Company is, that it investigates the merit of any invention submitted to it, by the aid of scientific and practical men, selected with special regard to their qualifications, as impartial judges. Such inventions as are approved are patented or registered, and manufactured by the Company, for sale, on a scale sufficient to establish their value, without cost to the inventor, who will share, under agreement, in all profits arising therefrom.

As an earnest of these intentions, the Managing Committee have secured a long lease, on most advantageous terms, of extensive premises, containing a spacious manufactory, provided with suitable plant, where models can be made and tried, and patented articles manufactured for sale.

Valuable patents, already arranged for, are now being so manufactured, at a net profit of 300 per cent.; while several very promising inventions are under consideration.

The advantages thus enumerated justify the Directors in recommending the undertaking to the notice of small capitalists, as an investment well worthy their special consideration.

That the large mass of inventors are unable to carry out their designs, is a fact patent to most practical observers. It is equally true that a great number of cases only require the judgment and kindly assistance of scientific and practical men to render them productive of immense public benefit. It is incontrovertible that our national importance and wealth have been more promoted by inventors than by any other class of men. Arkwright, Watt, Cort, Stephenson, and others scarcely less eminent, have produced an amount of wealth almost beyond calculation, though their inventions were received at first with coolness and incredulity. In short, all the improvements for our convenience and comfort, dating from a state of barbarity to one of high civilisation, are but the cumulative results of inventive ingenuity.

It must not be overlooked by the Shareholder that a patent gives an exclusive trade with the customers of the world, and that this Company will possess in no common degree such advantages as will, on the average, be immensely productive, and ensure a dividend that may surprise, and must satisfy all investors.

Applications for Shares, and full Prospectuses giving the fullest information, to be made personally, or by letter, to the Secretary, at the Offices, as above.

Instituted in the Reign of Queen Anne, A.D. 1714.

UNION ASSURANCE OFFICE,

81, CORNHILL, E.C., AND 70, BAKER STREET, W.

All kinds of Fire and Life business transacted. Life Policies are granted, whereby the sum secured may be received on the life attaining a given age, or at death, if this happen previously.

Loans are granted on policies when the value of the premiums paid in amounts to £50.

The Directors will purchase their Life Policies, if in existence for one year or more.

Premiums may be paid half-yearly or quarterly.

A Bonus hitherto averaging from £45 to £60 per cent. on premiums paid at ages between 25 and 40, is declared semi-annually, which may be either added to the sum insured, applied in reduction of premiums, or its value may be received in cash.

The invested capital exceeds £1,000,000 sterling.

The annual income is upwards of £100,000.

Gentlemen in Government Offices, or other large establishments, are invited to send for a Prospectus, which, with a proposal sheet, will be forwarded by post, and any information given which may be required.

W. B. LEWIS, Secretary.

THE LAST ANNUAL REPORT, CASH

ACCOUNT, and BALANCE SHEET of the

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

(A.D. 1834), may be had on a written or personal application to the Actuary, or to any of the Society's Country Agents. To the Report and Accounts is appended a List of Bonuses paid on the claims of the year 1858.

No extra charge for joining Volunteer Rifle or Artillery Corps.

CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.

The Mutual Life Assurance Office, 39, King-street, Cheapside, E.C., London

ESTABLISHED 1838.

VICTORIA AND LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

18, KING WILLIAM STREET, CITY.

THE Business of the Company embraces every description of risk connected with Life Assurance.

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

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

WILLIAM RATTRAY, Actuary.

THE MINERVA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

HEAD OFFICE—No. 1, CANNON STREET WEST, LONDON, E.C.

EDWARD S. CODD, Esq., CHAIRMAN.

WM. CHIPPINDALE, Esq., DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.

The Assurances in force on 31st December, 1858, amounted to £1,771,898.

The accumulated funds amounted to £362,045.

The annual income exceeded £77,000.

A fixed surrender value for whole-term policies.

This Company has always permitted the assured to serve in Volunteer Corps or Local Militia without extra charge.

Policies effected on or before 31st December next will acquire an additional year's standing, if then in force, at the fifth division of profits in 1862.

W. T. ROBINSON, Actuary and Secretary.

THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

(Established A.D. 1834.)

39, KING STREET, CHEAPSIDE, E.C., LONDON.

This is a purely Mutual Life Assurance Society, with a capital of 350,000l. invested in Government and real securities, created entirely by the steady accumulation of the premiums, and all belonging to the members. The assurances in force are 1,400,000l., and the income upwards of 60,000l. per annum.

No extra charge to Assurers joining Volunteer Rifle or Artillery Corps.

CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.

N.B.—All Policies taken out on or before the 31st December, 1859, will have the advantage of one year in every Annual Bonus.

THE DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK, (LIMITED).

67, FLEET-STREET, LONDON, E.C.

THE experience which has attended the operations of savings banks and loan societies is such as to make it evident that an extension of their principles, upon a liberal yet sound basis, will prove highly advantageous both to the proprietary and the public.

The District Savings Bank receives deposits (paid in at one time) from One Penny to Ten Pounds, the aggregate amount to be unlimited, and subject to the usual arrangements, on withdrawal, of ordinary savings banks.

JOHN SHERIDAN, Actuary.

THE EIGHTH YEAR.**THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY.**

THE OFFICES, No. 33, NORFOLK STREET, STRAND, W.C., are Open from Ten to Five o'clock, except on Saturdays, and then up to Two p.m., for the receipt of payments either in the Share or Deposit Departments. Five per Cent. Interest per annum on the former, and Four per Cent. ditto on the latter, being payable half-yearly. Plans of the Plots for Sale on the various Estates can be seen. The taking of land is optional.

CHARLES LEWIS GRUNEISEN, 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 £6 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.

AMUSEMENT FOR WINTER EVENINGS

IS abundantly afforded to all purchasers of one of MECHI and BAZIN'S famous Mahogany FOLDING BAGATELLE TABLES. Prices.—Complete with balls, bridge, cues, and mace, and directions for playing (6 feet long), £3 15s.; 7 feet long, £4 15s.; 8 feet long, £5 15s.; 9 feet long, £6 15s.; 10 feet long, £7 15s.; 11 feet long, £8 15s.; 12 feet long, £9 15s.; stands for ditto, with adjusting screw legs, 4s. to 70s. The stand is not absolutely necessary for playing the game, although its use facilitates (by ensuring an exact level) the interest of the play.—112, Regent-street, W., and 4, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

ENLARGEMENT OF PREMISES.**BENNETT'S WATCH MANUFACTORY,**

64 AND 65, CHEAPSIDE.

J. BENNETT, finding that the whole of his premises are required for his WATCH AND CLOCK BUSINESS, has secured the adjoining house, 64, CHEAPSIDE, for the JEWELLERY DEPARTMENT of his Establishment, which will be opened as soon as the fittings are completed, with an entirely new Stock of every description of Jewellery. The whole of the present Stock of CHAINS, BROOCHES, BRACELETS, &c., is now offered for sale at such a reduced price as will ensure its clearance before the opening of the New PREMISES at Christmas.

BENNETT'S WATCH MANUFACTORY,

64 & 65, CHEAPSIDE.

CARDS FOR THE MILLION.

A Copper Plate Engraved in any style, 1s. 60 Best Cards (any kind) Printed for 1s., post free.

ARTHUR GRANGER, Stationer, 308, High Holborn.

THE LEADER.

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Review of the Week.

THE arrival of Lord Cowley in London this week to consult with his Government has naturally given rise to the most various speculations as to the topics which will come under discussion. The French journals are instructed to inform the world that the British Ambassador bears a proposition from Napoleon to the Sovereign of these realms to commence with him a mutual disarmament, which is to be extended to the whole of Europe. Lord Cowley may well have other matters of importance at this crisis in European affairs to arrange, and upon which to receive confidential instructions; and as to the question of disarmament, Louis Napoleon knows that the surrounding States, who are compelled by his gigantic preparations, to involve themselves in the expense of a corresponding increase in their own land and sea forces—would be gladly released from this enormous burden—but he must first set the example. His peaceful declarations have, as yet, been constantly followed by the addition of new battalions and ships to his already overgrown forces; and his mere word, without a satisfactory corroboration, will hardly go for much with the statesmen with whom he has to deal.

The English Ambassador to the French Court, it is very possible, has been summoned to receive instructions as to the policy to be announced by him on the subject of the Congress, to which France and Austria are about to invite their fellow sovereigns, and which we learn is not yet convoked. England, it is reported, demands an understanding that the decision of the Congress shall not be enforced, contrary to the will of the Italians, and also that the constitutional form under which the Grand Dukes are to reign (if restored) shall be laid down beforehand. Both of these stipulations are in agreement with the policy expressed by Lord John Russell in his Aberdeen speech, and seem to point to a decided course on the part of the British Ministry which will meet with the approbation of their countrymen, and give some faint hopes for the salvation of the sinking Italian cause.

The prospect of affairs in the Peninsula is not by any means assuring to the friends of progress and liberty. The mighty French autocrat has, it is true, withdrawn his veto against the regency of the Central Italian provinces, but only upon the condition that the viceroy appointed should be Buoncompagni, who is known to be devoted to the policy of Louis Napoleon; indeed the French journals are ordered clearly to intimate that the appointment of this governor is not to be taken as a recognition of the sovereignty of Victor Emmanuel, but only as a necessary temporary measure for the preservation of order. It can hardly be doubted that the master of France is determined to preserve in his own hands the rule of Italy, and that the proposed Confederation will supply the machinery by which his authority is to be made predominant; the Pope, the nominal head, being a mere puppet in the hands of the French Emperor, who will continue to occupy his dominions; and the restored princes, or, in their stead, substituted lieutenants chosen from his own family, maintaining his influence in each of the amalgamated duchies. Piedmont, between France

and Austria, is supposed helpless to resist; while the latter State, making the best of its bad bargain, pockets the cash for its surrendered fiefs, and, having no other ally left, is fain to become a humble friend of the "modern Charlemagne," as he has been styled, half in earnest, by a contemporary.

We are not yet in possession of the whole truth as to the resignation of his command in the army of Central Italy by Giuseppe Garibaldi; nor can we tell whether it has arisen from indignation or deep policy. Perhaps both causes are combined, and this would seem probable from the language of his published declarations this week. Hampered by "vain pretences," he says, he has been compelled to resign; but when Victor Emmanuel really means fighting for the right which has been confirmed to him by the universal voice of the people of Italy, he shall place his services again at the King's disposal. He plainly perceives the evil influence which is at work in the councils of the Piedmontese sovereign, which he designates "a miserable and tortuous policy." Perhaps there is some truth in the surmise that his retirement is but a temporary one, and intended to disembarass his friend and sovereign at the coming Congress. That he does not despair is certain—indeed that would be impossible in a man of his stamp. His parting words have a true Cromwellian smack in the charge which he lays upon his compatriots, to "lay up stores of gold and steel," and not to lay down their arms while a rood of Italian ground remains under foreign oppression.

The last French broil has shared the disastrous fate which the Iron Duke prognosticated for all "little wars." Whatever the French may have gained in glory on the territory of Morocco will hardly compensate for the frightful loss which has been suffered by the division of General Martimprey, now on its way home, having closed the campaign in Africa, with the submission of the hostile tribes. The satisfactory part of this news appears to be that there is no truth in the story of a combined French and Spanish enterprise, to appropriate the territory opposite to Gibraltar. Marshal O'Donnell still holds back the dogs of war, and detained by adverse weather has not yet departed on this new crusade against the infidel. Perhaps something more than winds and waves has stopped this modern Paladin. Rumour speaks of strong remonstrances addressed by Lord John Russell to the Spanish Government—indeed it is a serious question to this country how Gibraltar is to be supplied, as well as our Mediterranean fleet, when all the ports, whence stores are obtained, shall be occupied or blockaded by a hostile force. The Spanish journals deny that such a remonstrance has taken place, but their denial is just as worthy of credit as of disbelief; at any rate it is clear that our soldiers and sailors must have fresh beef and vegetables; and, with all due respect, the Dons must stand out of the way while our provision boats are loading.

The news which arrived from the United States yesterday is of a cheerful character, as far as the threatened embroilment with this country is concerned. We learn that both Governments have expressed an earnest desire to settle the dispute; and, more satisfactory still, that there appears no apprehension of any "difficulty."

The Indian mail has brought intelligence which is not all of a rose-colour tinge. The attack upon the island of Beyt appears to have cost us an unnecessary expenditure of brave men's blood and to have been followed by plunder of the sacred shrines, which has given deep offence to some of the best affected of our Indian fellow-subjects.

At home, this week, opportunities have been rare for the enunciation of the wise and witty sayings of our "representative men," and the few speeches which have been published have been all from the Conservative side. Still it is but fair to say that their peculiar politics have not been unnecessarily obtruded; and the patriotic sentiment has been the leading idea throughout. At Glasgow, Sir Archibald Alison—in the presence of an enthusiastic multitude assembled to answer the call for more volunteers—descanted upon a congenial subject, since he had to speak of fifty years since, by way of illustrating our shortcomings at the present day. The learned baronet truly said that our measures of defence could not fairly be taken as a menace by any foreign power; and after giving some excellent reasons for the difficulty in manning the navy and in finding recruits for the army and militia, demonstrated, for the edification of the Manchester school, the commercial side of the question, and from the antecedents of French conquest showed that wisdom must lie on the side of preparation—immediate and sufficient. To the volunteer enterprise Mr. Newdegate, also at Bury, gave his approval and adhesion, adding thereto words of wise caution, which he said had been addressed to our young Queen long ago by the French Ulysses, Louis Philippe; incidentally this hon. gentleman spoke of his Protestant achievements in the House, and grieved over the downfall of Church-rates. Mr. Adderley's discourse on a similar occasion turned more particularly upon home politics. Every true Conservative, he said, was anxious to see Parliamentary reform keep pace with the growing intelligence of the people, but he complained of those who monopolise the credit of initiating all measures for the public good; and, above all, in this respect, he considered John Bright the greatest offender, who condemns all rich men (according to Mr. Adderley) whose wealth consists in land. As for the Reform Bill of Lord Palmerston, he had no doubt that it would be very similar to the one introduced by Lord Derby; and at any rate, a measure of Parliamentary reform or of extension of suffrage would strengthen instead of weakening the Conservative phalanx. Another orator, Captain Vernon, took for his subject, the relation of England with France; he said (and not a few agree with him), that it would be far better were we to enter upon our new Chinese campaign single-handed. As for the old threat of avenging Waterloo—he sensibly remarked that if the French came over, here to try the experiment it would most likely result in a similar disaster.

The Volunteer battalions are increasing day by day in numbers and in skill, and the vigorous development of these armed bands shows that the nation has lost nothing of its martial spirit, and that Englishmen are ready, as of yore, to keep their native soil sacred from the pollution of a foeman's tread.

Home News.

POLITICAL FORESHADOWINGS.

A GREAT meeting was held at Glasgow on Wednesday evening at which Sir ARCHIBALD ALISON was present and made a characteristic, that is to say a voluminous speech. In the course of his remarks he said:—No defensive preparations can ever give a foreign nation a pretext to say that we are actuated by aggressive motives, that we are disposed to invade or disturb other countries. We are essentially a pacific people. There is no war can be waged in any part of the world which does not strike at some British industry, and there is no war can be waged by ourselves that would not bring upon us, if it were with a great Power, an amount of distress and suffering which it is painful to contemplate. Therefore, we are a pacific people. And if we now show a warlike attitude, if we now show that we are determined to maintain the independence of the country and its honour, and the honour and reputation of the State, it is not because we are a free and aggressive people, but because we are a free and independent people, and that while we will do no injury to any man we will allow no man to injure us. Whereas at the end of the late war we had 240 sail of the line in royal yards, and 107 at sea bearing the royal flag, we now have only 65 sail of the line in the dockyards, and 37 bearing the royal flag at sea. Besides this, we cannot bring forward more than 50,000 regular troops to defend the nation from invasion. It is because I know the bravery of France, because I know the power of France, and because I know the spirit and the ability of the Emperor—it is for this reason that I say the volunteer movement is indispensably called for by Great Britain. This is not a case of dispute—it is not a quarrel or temporary necessity. It is necessary that we should be armed. The French are brave and patriotic, and they are determined to rival us in every way they can; but I say we are patriotic, and we are brave, and we are as much determined to maintain the power which we possess. It is often said by people in this country that we need not be afraid of the French, for we have a great mercantile navy of 220,000 sailors, who at any time can be added to our regular navy, and therefore we are perfectly secure. In the present state of matters I pray you to observe this—the great mercantile navy of England, so far from being a refuge or support, is—people say that it can easily be made otherwise—but as matters stand it is the most serious weakness that we have. The wages of the seamen in the mercantile navy are 50s a month, while the wages of seamen in the royal navy are only 31s a month. It has been often said, how does it happen that there are so many English sailors in the American navy? And in the late strife with that country we were really often fighting our own navy. The answer to that question simply is, that there is a wonderful strength in half a dollar a-day. That is the way that matters stand as regards our mercantile navy. How can we expect that men, many of them having families, are to join the royal navy at so great a loss? Do not, therefore, let us lay our heads upon our pillows and say we are perfectly safe because we have a great mercantile navy. Our mercantile navy is just a huge competitor, which drains men from the royal navy. After alluding to our insufficient military force, the speaker continued:—“The first step I would take in this matter would be at one blow, and without the least delay, to raise the pay of the soldiers and sailors and the militia from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 8d. or 2s. a day. If you do this for the militia, and do the same for the royal navy, you will find that the ships of the line will be filled with sailors, and you will find that the ranks of the regular army will be filled with able and valiant men.” Proceeding to notice the effect of a successful invasion, Sir Archibald observed that, in addition to its other horrors and insults, “In the matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, it would affect the pockets of every human being in the country. In 1808, Napoleon went to Portugal, and he said he came as a liberator, to free the Portuguese from their yoke. The first thing he did when he got into Lisbon was to lay a contribution of £4,000,000 sterling of Portuguese money, equal to at least £10,000,000 in Scotland. Napoleon went in 1796 to Milan as a liberator, and the first thing he did was to impose £800,000 upon the liberated city. He next went to Venice, and he imposed there £2,500,000. In 1806 he went to Prussia and levied upon Prussia—containing only about 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 of inhabitants—a contribution to the amount of £24,000,000 sterling, and he actually squeezed the money out of the country in the five years by military occupation. In 1812, he said, in a letter to Davoust, when that General was in Hamburg, ‘If you had shot six of the principal merchants of Hamburg on the day you entered, it would have

been well; but as you have not done that you must just make them pay for it, and therefore I require you to lay hold of 200 of the principal merchants, and keep them as hostages for the payment of 50,000,000 of francs,’ and he actually levied that sum, equal to about £2,000,000 sterling, upon Hamburg, which at that time only contained about 80,000 inhabitants, and the imposition would be equal to £10,000,000 in this city. You see at what price the peace-at-any-price gentlemen would purchase their salvation.” Sir Archibald then advocated the establishment of a volunteer force which should prove an efficient support to the regulars; he impressed upon his hearers the necessity of training and discipline, remarking that in the contrast between the loss of the Royal Charter and the perfect safety of her Majesty’s ships in the same gale was to be seen the superiority of the same men disciplined over their equally brave but untutored countrymen.

At Rugby, on Thursday, Mr. NEWDEGATE made a speech upon public affairs, in the course of which he spoke of the importance to the safety of the constitution of a full representation of the agricultural interest; then congratulated his constituents upon the defeat of the attempt to legalise the appointment of Catholics to the Irish Chancellorship; and condoled with them upon the downfall of church-rates. Referring to the Duke of Wellington’s celebrated letter to Sir John Burgoyne, Mr. Newdegate said that he read that letter in the House of Commons in 1852, during the discussion upon the Militia Bill, and to the honour of Lord Derby’s Government, and the patriotic spirit of Lord Palmerston they, with much difficulty, passed that measure. But remember this, 150,000 well-organized militia was the *minimum* that the Duke of Wellington said was necessary, and we have never had 85,000. We have, in point of fact, never had half. Looking to the state of the navy, it has been observed that it is scarcely superior to the navy of France alone, and totally unable to resist any combination. Such was the length which the apathy of the country, and the economical mania of some, actuated by the designing policy of others, have gone, that it has rendered us exposed to the aggressions of France for years. Even Louis Philippe warned her Majesty that, though he would be the last man to break the alliance, it was dangerous to leave the country in such a defenceless condition before the people of France, who in some evil hour might be incited to impel their Government, in remembrance of former victories of ours, to make an inroad on our shores. It is, therefore, a subject of congratulation to find such a manly spirit aroused throughout the country as is manifested in the formation of volunteer corps. On our foreign policy he also made some observations. He said:—“The question now remains, shall England be represented in the Congress that is proposed to be held? I should be sorry that England should damage her position in Europe by failing to take part in any great settlement of affairs, but England has had nothing to do with the disturbances that have rendered this Congress necessary, and therefore she cannot speak with the strength and power of a State which not only has formed a decided opinion upon the matter, but is ready to enforce that opinion. I myself cannot help thinking that it is far better that England should abstain from entering into the Congress at all.

At Hanley, on Tuesday, Mr. ADDERLEY, M.P., after bestowing his commendation upon the volunteer corps, said, of the home politics of England at the present moment there was only one subject which could occupy their minds, and that was Parliamentary reform. He was only speaking the sentiment of every gentleman in that room when he said they were not only ready but anxious to carry out—not only now, but always—from time to time, that system of reform which shall keep the institutions of this country on a level with the advancing intelligence and political progress of the people. But when they found that there were men who put this question forward as having the monopoly of reform, and indulging in the grossest misrepresentations in order to keep that position of monopoly, and who put themselves forward as leaders in this question, to which they had so little claim, it was high time they (the Conservatives) should understand these men, and what they were about. Foremost of these men was Mr. Bright, who he (Mr. Adderley) did not hesitate to say, as he had frequently said in his presence, prostituted the highest abilities for the simple purpose of personal aggrandisement. But what did Mr. Bright say? He said that this constitution of ours must be changed altogether; it was a mere sham and pretence to talk of adapting it to circumstances; it must be revolutionised. Mr. Bright said the House of Commons did not represent the country; but to his (Mr. Adderley’s) mind the House of Commons had always represented the country, and had always altered itself to suit the feelings of the country. Mr. Bright expresses his hostility to rich men; but as he was pretty well off himself, and had relations rich enough to bribe constituencies, he had restricted his animad-

versions to those rich men who had the misfortune to invest their money in land, and he said these horrible men, who filled the House of Commons, had no interest in economy; they only take an interest in extravagance. He (Mr. Adderley) felt sure that if a Reform Bill were introduced, and he believed that the Reform Bill which will be introduced will be very much like that introduced by Lord Derby’s government, whatever might be the shuffling of the political cards, it would only end in strengthening the Conservative party.

At Abingdon, Capt. VERNON, M.P., presided at an agricultural dinner, and made some sensible remarks upon our relations with France. He said:—“He was very sorry that we had not undertaken the expedition to China single-handed. If he could have a voice in the matter, he would not allow a single Frenchman to pull a trigger in our quarrel. We were strong enough to vindicate our cause by our own strong arm, and we had at present a large number of troops in India who were not Sepoys, who would have answered every purpose. It tended greatly to diminish our *prestige* abroad to find that we were always participating with France in our wars, and the Continental nations were bound to believe that we were not able to make war without the assistance of France. Was the present Emperor then greater than his uncle? History replied, no! Was the French soldiers who fought the other day on the plains of Italy, better than the soldiers of the Great Napoleon, 30,000 of whom overran the whole of Italy in a fortnight, beat 80,000, fought six pitched battles and gained them, destroying 25,000 of the Austrian and Sardinian troops—Magenta and Solferino would reply, no! Were the British soldiers of the present day inferior to the troops, half regulars and half militia, who fought and conquered the troops of Napoleon at Waterloo? The Crimea and India answer, no! For argument sake, he would suppose that the French soldiers of the present day were equal to the heroes of Marengo and Austerlitz. We need not value them a rush; our soldiers beat them in those days, and they would beat them at any time. In addition to that there was a military spirit growing up in England which was so widely diffused that there was scarcely a man capable of bearing arms who was not anxious, in the defence of his country, to cast in his lot with his brethren whose sole business was war. The rifle movement was a great and unmistakeable fact; and it was a great physical power in England, and it indicated a new and effective mode of defence. That made it a great moral power on the Continent; for this was the first time within the memory of man that they had seen England bristling with bayonets from one end to the other, and the hardest and sturdiest race in the world were seen standing shoulder to shoulder prepared to repel and beat back an invading army. The French say that they have the disgrace of Waterloo to avenge. We had no debts of that kind, for in all our encounters with France, from Cressy down to Waterloo, we could regard the conduct of our army with considerable complacency. It did not require the gift of prophecy to reason on events that were passed; but he ventured to predict that if the present generation of Frenchmen sought to revenge Waterloo by the invasion of England, they would bequeath to after generations a still greater defeat—a defeat that would be as decisive as disastrous.

In reference to the statement in the leader of Saturday’s *Times*, that “the ballot has been shelved,” we are requested by the Committee of the Ballot Society to announce that Mr. Berkeley has made no communication to them of any intention on his part to “shelve” the ballot, and that they have no reason to believe that the hon. member for Bristol has the intention imputed to him by the *Times*; but should the *Times* be correct, the Ballot Society will take care that the ballot is not shelved, in or out of Parliament.

A very crowded meeting of members and friends of the King’s College Debating Society was held in the great hall of King’s College, on Wednesday evening. The question discussed was, “Is the present Ministry worthy of the confidence of the country?” The Whig-Radical party was led by Mr. T. P. Langmead, and the Conservatives by Mr. G. F. Chambers. At the close of the debate a division took place with the following result:—For the Government, 51; against, 60—majority against the Government, 9. The majority against the Government would have been very much larger (there were between 300 and 400 persons present) had it not been for a speech made by the Rev. P. H. Plumptre, the chaplain of the College.

MR. JAMES’S BRIBERY BILL.

THE hon. and learned member for Marylebone has put in circulation the following document, which it is his intention to introduce next session.

Proposed Bill.—An Act to require from Members returned to serve in Parliament a Declaration

against Bribery, Treating, and undue Influence.

Whereas, notwithstanding the laws now in force for preventing corrupt practices in the election of members to serve in Parliament, such practices having been proved to be extensively resorted to by candidates, their agents, and other persons in their interest at such elections; and whereas it is expedient that more stringent and effectual provision should be made by Parliament for the prevention of such corrupt practices, and for better securing the freedom of election: be it therefore enacted, by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by authority of the same, as follows:—

Section I. That every person who shall in future be elected and returned a member of the House of Commons, shall, before he shall sit and vote after the choice of a Speaker by the House of Commons, make and subscribe at the table of the House the following declaration:—

"I (A.B.) do solemnly and sincerely declare that I, neither before, during, nor since my election for (the county, division of a county, borough, university, cinque-port, as the case may be), have directly or indirectly, by myself, or any other person on my behalf, given, lent, or agreed to give or lend, or offered, or promised to procure, or to endeavour to procure, any money, or valuable consideration, or any office, place, or employment, to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote for me, or refrain from voting against me, at my said election; nor have I paid, nor will I repay by myself, or by or through any other person, any sums of money corruptly given or promised by any agent or other person in respect of my election; nor have I corruptly, by myself, or by, or with, or through any person on my behalf, or by any other ways or means, at any time, either before, during, or since my election, directly or indirectly given, or provided, or caused to be given or provided, nor have I been accessory to the giving or providing, nor have I paid, nor will I pay, wholly or in part, any expenses incurred for any meat, drink, or entertainment or provision to or for any voter in order to be elected, or for being elected, or for the purpose of corruptly influencing any voter to give or refrain from giving his vote at such election. Nor have I, directly or indirectly, by myself, or by any other person on my behalf, made use of, or threatened to make use of, any force, violence, or restraint, or inflicted, or threatened the infliction, by myself or by any other person, of any injury, damage, harm, or loss, or in any other manner practised intimidation upon or against any person in order to induce or compel such person to vote for me, or refrain from voting against me, or on account of such person having voted at my said election; nor have I impeded or otherwise interfered with the free exercise of the franchise of any voter at my said election. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true. And by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the 23rd and 24th years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled 'An Act to require from Members returned to serve in Parliament a Declaration against Bribery, Treating, and undue Influence.'" And such declaration and subscription herebefore directed to be made, shall be entered on a parchment roll, to be provided for that purpose, by the Clerk of the House, and shall be filed and kept by him.

Section II. And be it further enacted that any person who shall make and subscribe to any such declaration as aforesaid, knowing the same to be untrue in any material particular, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and, upon conviction, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, and be incapable of serving as a member in Parliament for ever after.

Section III. And be it further enacted that if any person who shall in future be elected and returned a member of the House of Commons shall sit or vote as a member of such House before he shall have made and subscribed such declaration as aforesaid, his election shall be void, and a new writ shall be issued to elect another member in his room.

IRELAND.

LORD CARLISLE was present on Tuesday at the presentation of a medal and gratuity bestowed upon a head constable of the Cork constabulary on the occasion of his retirement from the service. The constable having been called to the front, his Excellency said, in the course of his speech, "There are some who think that we have sharp trials in store for us; others have no such fears. Come what may, we are in the hands of a Higher Power, which, perhaps, we do not all enough remember. What I now have to say is, that I feel such faith in the spirit, in-

telligence and loyalty of the constabulary force of Ireland, that I would ask no better in the hour of trial than to cast my lot with them. I have now only to give you, head-constable Crowley, your well-earned medal, and to wish you health, strength and happiness to wear it long." His Excellency then fastened the medal on the breast of the recipient, and shook him warmly by the hand. The constabulary force having defiled, passed the Lord Lieutenant, marched back to their barracks, and the ceremony terminated.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

Her Majesty's ship *Devastation*, Capt. Baird, from the West Indies and North America, was last Saturday paid off at Woolwich. The men all mustered clean and happy, and expressed their readiness, if the opportunity offered, of again taking service under their gallant captain. The paying off the *Devastation* was notified in strong contrast to that of the *Trident* on the preceding Saturday, in a far less orderly condition, and subject to the censure of the examining officers.

The Royal Commissioners have again visited the steam floating battery, *Trusty*, 14, for the purpose of examining the effects of the shots on the iron-plated sides of that vessel on the occasion of the experiments made with the new description of shot fired from the Armstrong guns. The general opinion appears to be that, considering the severe effects of the shot on the sides of the battery, that description of vessel would be of comparatively little use when exposed to the fire of the Armstrong guns. It is understood that no more floating batteries will be constructed.

The *New Bombay Times* says that Major-General Sir J. Inglis, K.C.B., has been appointed to a command in the Madras Presidency, and Colonel Somerset, 72nd regiment, Adjutant-General in the Bombay Presidency. Another journal adds—"We are told, on authority which we hardly feel at liberty to doubt, that instructions were received from home by the last mail to commence the immediate absorption of the local army, by attaching the European regiments forthwith, as second battalions, to the Queen's. The news is so startling and wholly unexpected, in view of the determination with which the Parliament broke up, that we find it as difficult to believe the fact as to doubt the sufficiency of the source from which it comes to us. We are told further that the native army is to pass forthwith under the immediate control of the Horse Guards, with a view, as is supposed, to its being eventually incorporated with the royal army also."

Private letters, dated Shanghai, Sept. 19, state that Admiral Hope was so far recovered from his wounds as to be able to walk, and that he had arrived at Shanghai on a visit to Mr. Bruce. Officers have been employed in surveying the coast in the vicinity of the mouth of the Peiho, and a favourable position for the landing of troops, by which the forts might be taken in the rear, and obviate the necessity of forcing the river's mouth. A report was also prevalent in Shanghai at the time the letter was written, that the Chinese were engaged in raising some of the forts at the entrance to the Peiho.

The new screw steam frigate *Immortalité*, 50, recently launched at Pembroke, is described by a naval officer as being the most beautiful model ever seen. She left early on Sunday afternoon, and unfortunately touched the mud off Wear Point, in Milford Haven, but got off again almost immediately.

The *Ariadne*, 26, screw frigate, just commissioned at Chatham, by Captain E. W. Vansittart, is very nearly completed in the shipwright department, but it will be some time before she will be out of the hands of the engineers. Several of the officers have already joined, and, notwithstanding that she has only been commissioned a few days, men are entering very fast, this fine frigate appearing to be a favourite with the blue-jackets and the captain very popular. There is no doubt that her requisite complement of 400 men will all be obtained in a short time.

Her Majesty has conferred the Victoria Cross on Lieutenant (now Brevet Major) Samuel Hill Lawrence, Corporal William Oxenham, 32nd Regiment, and Private William Dowling, 32nd Regiment, for acts of bravery performed at Lucknow during the late rebellion.

We have already mentioned, says the *Moniteur de l'Armée*, the mission of Captain Bourgois, of the French navy, to England, and we now learn that he has purchased there, for the French Government, two splendid steam transports, the *European* and the *Racer*, each of 2,500 tons burden. The twenty-four iron gunboats now building expressly for operating in the Chinese rivers will be embarked on board these two vessels, which will sail for the Peiho in the beginning of January.

The *Pays* thus qualifies the news that Fécamp is to be made a war port:—"Several provincial

journals pretend that Fécamp is to become a war port, and that surveys have been ordered with that view. We do not believe that there is any intention to create at Fécamp a great maritime establishment similar to Brest or Cherbourg, but only a harbour of refuge capable of receiving men of war in case of need."

The iron-plated steam frigate *Normandie* is progressing rapidly at Cherbourg, and is expected to be launched next March. The dockyard authorities have also received orders to lay down the keels of two large transports for the conveyance of horses. They will have screws, and are to be large enough to accommodate 300 horses and as many men.

A redoubt has been erected by the Emperor's orders, and under his direction, at Poissy, within a Sunday trip of the Paris *bataillon*, and the gunboats from Toulon and Cherbourg are about to be brought up the Seine in order to practice under the Emperor's eye.

Mr. Sidney Herbert has issued a circular, expressing the determination of the War-office authorities to supply the disembodied regiments of militia with Enfield rifles.

The Irish constabulary present a very valuable source whence additional strength may be drawn for the defence of the country. One of their own body says:—"They consist of about 12,000 fighting men, pronounced by the highest military authorities to be the finest body in the world. In stature they rival the household troops, and in strength, the power of enduring fatigue, and every other quality that constitutes the soldier, they equal, if not excel them. And yet, as a military body to be used on a sudden emergency, they are utterly worthless. This deplorable inefficiency arises from the fact that while 'invasion' is on every tongue, the Government still suffers this force to be armed with a miserable popgun, incapable of projecting a bullet with any precision to a distance of more than twenty yards. The loyalty and courage of the Irish police are unquestioned, and their geographical knowledge of the counties in which they are located would be of the last importance in case of a hostile invasion. Why, then, are they not armed with rifles. Were efficient arms once in the hands of the men, there are throughout the country several military stations where the young, active, and intelligent constables of the force could be trained to a knowledge and use of the rifle, and be thus fitted in a few weeks to become instructors to the force at large; and then, before the spring of the ensuing year would have passed away, the 12,000 men comprising the Irish police, with constitutions unshattered by intemperance or excess, would be the most unerring marksmen in Europe, as well as the most loyal and the best soldiers under the Crown."

The first batch of European soldiers in India who accepted their discharge have arrived at home. Many of them have already re-enlisted.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Most gratifying accounts are received from all parts of the country of the increase of numbers, and efficiency of the various corps. There can be little doubt that long before the spring there will be half a million at least of active marksmen, ready for any emergency, and the utmost care should now be taken by Government to make the institution a permanent one. Every patriotic Englishman must see the national advantages to be derived from fostering a taste for athletic and military exercises; and we therefore trust that, with the cessation of alarms from without, our state of preparation may not the less remain complete.

An excellent suggestion is made by a correspondent of the *Times* for the formation of volunteer cavalry from the English foxhunters. These gentlemen with their high spirit, strength, and courage, and admirable chargers, would form a body of horse such as the world has never surpassed, and would be of inestimable service in conjunction with riflemen.

The infantry battalion of the Hon. Artillery Company were this week inspected in the Armoury Ground, City-road, by Colonel Lord F. W. Paulett, C.B., in the absence, through indisposition, of Major-General Lord Rokeby. The corps were put through a variety of evolutions, all of which they appear to have performed with admirable precision. At the close of the inspection Lord F. Paulett addressed a few observations to the regiment, in which he complimented them upon their soldier-like bearing and the high state of discipline to which they had attained. The day being remarkably fine the public attended in great numbers, and the whole affair went off with the utmost éclat.

The London Rifle Brigade, we hear, have reached the number of 700. The "Council" are going to muddle away £800 in erecting an armoury at the Crystal Palace, instead of using the money to equip some fine young men who cannot pay for themselves. On Tuesday a public meeting of the parishioners

of St. Mary-le-Strand was held in the Hall of King's College, for the purpose of co-operating with the other parishes of the city of Westminster in raising a corps of volunteers. A gentleman opened the proceedings by observing that the meeting was one of the parishioners of St. Mary-le-Strand, and not of the students of King's College, who were, he understood, about to "raise a corpse" for themselves. (Great laughter among the medical students, owing to the speaker mispronouncing the word corps.) If the parishioners were considered intruders, they would most willingly adjourn to their vestry-hall, and he begged leave to move a resolution to that effect. The resolution fell to the ground, and eventually it was resolved to form two distinct corps, one for the parish, the other composed of the students, who will contribute at least 300 men. Subscription lists were opened, and Robert Low, Esq., of the Strand, was appointed treasurer.

LAW, POLICE, AND CASUALTIES.

In the Court of Exchequer the case of "Swynfen v. Chelmsford," on the question of misdirection of trial, is again in process of argument, and is not yet concluded.

An action for breach of promise of marriage—"Harris v. Thomas"—has been tried in the Court of Exchequer on Wednesday. The plaintiff was the widow of an innkeeper in Wales, and the defendant was the son of a large landed proprietor, and on his father's death came into £2,000 a-year. Wealthy as he was he could neither read nor write. Soon after his father's death he married his cousin, and thus rendered impossible the fulfilment of the promise he had made to the prepossessing widow. Hence the present action. The jury gave £1,000 damages.

At the Court of Bankruptcy yesterday, Mr. Ernest Charles Jones, the celebrated Chartist, political writer and speaker, has passed his final examination.

The Rev. Robert Maguire, a celebrity among the ultraevangelical Protestant Association section of the London "serious" class, has been accused of indecent behaviour in a railway carriage. The "young lady" who was insulted, about whom a good deal was said in a mysterious manner in the beginning of the week, turns out to be a discharged lady's maid; but it is right to say that, though severely cross-examined, nothing appeared to disparage her character. The alleged assault took place in the presence of other passengers; and this and some other circumstances induced the magistrate to look in the best light upon the clergyman's conduct, and to dismiss the charge as untenable. The offer of the defendant to compromise the matter, which was sworn to, was taken as the natural impulse of a nervous man; and great stress was laid upon the young woman's crinoline as the cause of this unfortunate mistake, by the counsel for Mr. Maguire; the latter was accompanied to the court by a body of his admirers.

Mr. Day, the lithographer, appeared before Mr. Hall, at Bow-street Police-court, to defend a summons taken out against his firm, at the instance of the British Museum, involving a question of infringement of the Copyright Act. It was stated that a certain orthographic projection of the world, published by Messrs. Day, came under the description of a map in terms of the Act, and as such a copy ought to have been deposited in the Museum. The magistrate overruled the defence of Mr. Day that it was a "bird's-eye view," and not a map, and inflicted a penalty of £3.

Dr. Smethurst has been removed from Horse-monger-lane to Newgate, to await his trial at the Central Criminal Court for bigamy. His health has much improved since the announcement of his free pardon. The trial will probably take place next Wednesday, the 30th, and rumour assigns Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., and Mr. Sleight as counsel for the defence.

A carpenter, named Billington, has been charged before Mr. Jardine, at Bow-street Police-court, with mobbing a witness who had been giving evidence at the sessions in a case arising out of the strike. The man was remanded and bail refused.

A "gentleman" was fined £4, at Westminster Police-court, for smashing windows with stones, at one o'clock in the morning, in Belgravia.

A ratepayer of the parish of St. Stephen's, Coleman-street, was summoned before the magistrate, at Guildhall, for refusing to pay the church rate levied by the vestry. As the defendant objected that the rate was applied to other purposes than church repairs, the summons was dismissed.

At the Middlesex Sessions on Tuesday the appeal of William Perham, a mason, was heard against a conviction and sentence of two months' imprisonment for intimidation. The evidence formerly given before Mr. Corrie, at Clerkenwell, was recapitulated; and the case ably argued on both sides. In the end the conviction was unanimously confirmed by a full bench, and the applicant was accordingly

committed to the House of Correction for two months. Mr. Edwin James afterwards applied to the Court of Queen's Bench for a writ of *habeas corpus*, that the defendant might be brought up and discharged on the ground that the commitment was bad; but that Court also on Wednesday delivered an adverse judgment on the motion. Mr. Justice Hill having reviewed the evidence in connexion with the Act in question, said the Court was of opinion that the conviction was right, and refused the rule. Perham will therefore remain in the House of Correction for the term of the sentence passed on him—viz., two months.

The Sheriffs of London and Middlesex have received a further respite, until the 26th day of December next, for the convict Annois, under sentence of death in Newgate.

Thomas Brooks, who has been examined at the Mansion-house on a charge of forging an order for a cheque book from the London Joint-stock Bank, by means of which he is said to have defrauded many tradesmen, has been committed for trial.

A seaman, named Francis Boland, was committed for trial on a charge of wilful murder, by Mr. Selfe, at Thames Police-court. The crime was committed at Lagos, on the west coast of Africa, in the month of July, the victim being Edward Hyland, another seaman.

A very important and influential deputation met the Premier and the Attorney-General on Tuesday, with a view to press upon Government the necessity of introducing a Bankruptcy Reform measure, based upon the same principles as the bill of Lord John Russell of last session. Lord Palmerston, while concurring in the general reform contemplated, remarked that those who read the newspapers would see that Lord John Russell had his hands full of the business of his own department, arising from the present position, of affairs in every quarter of the globe. The Attorney-General then proceeded to explain the principles of Bankruptcy Reform in a way that was acceptable to the deputation. The Premier also gives his word that the next session shall not be allowed to pass without some satisfactory arrangement for disposing of it. Sir Richard Bethell speaks of repealing all existing statutes, and replacing them by a single comprehensive Act. He recognises the important principle for which the mercantile community has so long contended, that while the legal relations of the debtor and creditor are things for the legal court to care for, the realisation and distribution of the bankrupt's estate can best be carried out by the creditors themselves. Of course, the Attorney-General was compelled to speak with much reserve of the features of his proposed measure, but if he gives effect to the cardinal doctrine just noticed, and provides creditors in bankruptcy with every facility for administering the estates of bankrupts on strictly business principles out of court, he will have accomplished an important measure of legal reform.

A telegram received at Lloyd's states that the divers engaged at the wreck of the Royal Charter, recovered on Tuesday about 1,200 sovereigns. No bars were found. The weather being bad the diving operations were afterwards suspended.

A number of the young thieves who infest Covent-garden Market have committed a robbery which has brought with it a condign and alarming punishment. It appears that a hamper containing two jars of syrup of belladonna became an object of plunder, and, under the impression that the stuff was liquorice, they helped themselves freely to it, upwards of eighteen boys having shared in the booty. The consequence is that a number of them are seriously ill, and there is little doubt but that several deaths will be the result.

The inquest on the body of William Eaton, said to have died from eating poisonous sausages, was resumed this week, and Dr. Letheby, in reporting on his analysis, said he found the intestines to be in a state of high inflammation, caused by some powerful irritant, and sufficient to account for death. Another adjournment till Monday was ordered.

At an inquest held by Mr. Humphreys, on Saturday, on the body of an old lady who met her death at the Bow station of the North London Railway in getting out of a carriage, the jury expressed an opinion that there was blame attributable to the company's servants.

An accident of an alarming character, and attended with fatal consequences, has occurred at an extensive iron rolling-mill, near Wolverhampton. In the course of some alterations it appears that the driving wheel, of several tons' weight, flew in pieces, killing one man and injuring many others, and reducing the place to ruins.

Another crinoline suicide has taken place at Huddersfield. The unfortunate victim of finery, named Sarah Steel, was dressing her hair before the fire when her distended garments by an unlucky turn were set in a blaze. A man in the house burst into the room to aid her, but he only suc-

ceeded in burning his hands frightfully with the steel wires which served as flame conductors. The deceased was a strong woman, and rushed by his son and himself, although he tried to get a rug round her. She ran into the street, where in a few moments all her clothing was burnt off her person but her stays, and those a man cut loose. She was then dragged in again, where she died within sixteen hours.

A disastrous boiler explosion occurred on Wednesday at the works of Messrs. Glydon and Shorthouse, metal rollers, Eyre-street, Springhill, by which six or seven persons received serious injuries, and much valuable property was destroyed.

The fog on Wednesday is supposed to have been the cause of an accident which occurred on the South-Western Railway, at the Fleetpond station. The driver of the express down train could not see the signals, nor were the parties at the station aware of the approach of that train; for without any warning the express rushed past the station at a rapid rate, and ran into the back portion of a goods train. The collision was fearful, and it is surprising that the lives of a large number of persons were not sacrificed. The locomotive belonging to the express train was broken to pieces. The tender and guard's van of the express train were also destroyed, as were likewise a number of the trucks belonging to the goods train. It was found that although the passengers had received a terrible shaking, several were more or less bruised, no loss of life had occurred. Some of the trucks of the goods train were heavily laden with timber, the weight of which materially assisted to check the impetus of the express train and thus prevented much further mischief.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.

THE COURT.—The birthday of the Princess Royal was celebrated at Windsor on Monday by a grand dinner and evening party, to which the Queen had invited a large number of guests. The Prince of Wales came from Oxford on Saturday to greet his sister, and returned to his studies on Tuesday morning. On Wednesday evening the first of the Castle theatrical representations took place, employing the abilities of the best actors of the Haymarket and the Olympic. There were about seventy guests of the Queen present as spectators; there have also been a great many visitors stopping at the Castle this week. It is announced that, on the 5th proximo, her Majesty and the Prince Consort, accompanied by the Prince and Princess Frederick William, and their other children, will leave the Castle for Osborne. The Court will remain there until the 24th, when her Majesty will return to Windsor for the Christmas holidays.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—His Royal Highness has been present at the debate on universal suffrage by the Union Society at Oxford. The Prince, in addition to his being a member of the Oxford University Boat Club, has also become a member of the Christ Church Boat Club and the Christ Church Cricket Club. During the past week he visited Russell's Tennis Court and Tolley's Racquet Court, and played in each.

LORD COWLEY.—The British minister at Paris has arrived in England, and has visited the Queen, at Windsor, besides holding several consultations with the heads of the Government. It is thought in many quarters that Lord Cowley visits England to confer with his Government on the subject of the naval and military preparations in both countries—some go so far as to add that a simultaneous disarmament has been proposed.

THE GLOUCESTER ELECTION COMMITTEE.—This body has resumed its sittings, not in the corrupt city itself, but in a Committee-room of the House of Commons. Such witnesses as Sir R. W. Carden and Sir W. G. Hayter were recalled and subjected to severe, but not unjustifiable examination. These two individuals still persist in denying any acquaintance with corrupt courses, and the great advances which Sir R. Carden gave were to have been, in his estimation, applied to purposes purely and entirely legitimate. Yet the defeated alderman acknowledges that his ignorance was acquired, or was rather, to speak more perfectly, the result of being determined not to have knowledge communicated to his mind. It was, therefore, a cunning and convincing ignorance on the part of this honourable and upright gentleman.

THE STRIKE.—The *Building News* says:—"The master builders, although, as is asserted, they have held two meetings since our last, have not yet returned a definite answer as to the withdrawal of the declaration, either to the masons, in reply to their fresh propositions, or to the Conference, in reference to the intimation that the strike at the establishment of the Messrs. Trollope's had been withdrawn. It is stated, however, that a special general meeting of the members of the Central Association of Master Builders will be held this (Friday) afternoon, when

it is expected that measures will be adopted in order to bring the existing struggle to a close.

OUR GAS DESPOTS.—The delegates appointed by the various metropolitan districts to consider the question of the gas supply of the metropolis, and the best means of counteracting the monopoly, met on Wednesday in the Marylebone Court-house, when the draft of a bill to obtain legislative power to regulate, economise and improve the gas service of London was considered and approved of. A very able and interesting report was read by Mr. Samuel Hughes, C.E. Mr. James Beal, the hon. secretary, and promoter of this important public meeting, submitted a petition to Parliament, which he stated was intended for signature and circulation among all the gas consumers of London, announcing at the same time that on the 30th inst. an influential deputation on the subject would wait on the Right Hon. Milner Gibson, at the Board of Trade.

BISHOPRIC OF SIERRA LEONE.—This office, after being vacant nearly six months, has been conferred upon the Rev. E. H. Beckles, who has been for many years past rector of St. Peter's, St. Christopher's, in the diocese of Antigua, and who is at present on a visit to London. Mr. Beckles is the fourth Bishop of Sierra Leone, his three predecessors having fallen victims to the dreadful climate. The bishop designate will be consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury as soon as the formal preliminaries can be settled. He will have jurisdiction, as his predecessors have had, over the coast between twenty degrees north and twenty degrees south latitude, and more especially the colonies of Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and their dependencies. The gross income of the see is £900 a year, being £500 a year as the bishop's allowance as Colonial Chaplain, and £400 a year from the Colonial Bishops' fund. Mr. Beckles' "views" are what are called Evangelical, and in matters of ecclesiastical discipline he is said to incline to the "Low" Church party.

ST. PAUL'S.—The dean and chapter have decided that the organ, which has been recently taken down for enlargement, shall not again be erected over the entrance to the choir. It is proposed to take away the present screen, and on the removal of the monuments of Lord Nelson and Lord Collingwood to some other part of the cathedral, to throw the whole space, to the verge of the dome area, open to the choir. The organ is to be retained in its present case, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and it will be removed to the gallery under the centre arch on the canons', or north side. The oak screen, with its beautiful marble columns, will be placed as an entrance to the dome area in the south transept. The rails of the whispering gallery and the heavy cornice under it have been recently gilded.

ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST.—The disgraceful riots in this church were resumed on Sunday with increased determination for mischief by the ruffianly mob that has been complimented with the title of "Protestant." The result was another case brought before the Thames Police-court, with Mr. Selfe presiding. A gentleman, who gave his name as Cornwallis, and his place of abode as Calais, in France, was charged with promoting disturbance. The seats which the choristers have taken from the parishioners were occupied on Sunday morning by strangers, and Mr. Cornwallis, if such be his name, stood up, and in the name of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, demanded that the occupants should quit them, and allow the choristers to get to their position. This was a disturbance, of course, on the Puseyite side, and as the violent gentleman would not behave himself, Mr. Churchwarden Thompson placed him in the hands of the police. Mr. Selfe heard the case as far as was necessary, but decided that it scarcely came within the meaning of the Act of Parliament, and so the over-zealous Cornwallis was discharged on making an apology for conduct which, we need not add, had no connexion whatever with the Secretary of State. Next came the case of a man who had gone to the evening service drunk, no doubt under a hope that his excitement would be heightened by what he saw and heard. He was fined five shillings.

THE ARSENAL AT WOOLWICH.—The *Observer* is our authority for the following:—"The insufficiency of this establishment has long been felt. Woolwich arsenal is an old establishment, and it required constant alterations and additions to enable the work required to be carried on. Lately it has become evident that a new establishment altogether would be necessary, and the question of security was naturally considered in connexion with the contemplated alteration. Weeden, from its central situation in the heart of the country, as well as its facility of communication with all the ports, by railway and telegraph, offers obvious advantages for the purpose. Its position, in the heart of the iron and coal districts, also recommends it as a proper site for a manufacturing establishment. It is, therefore, not improbable that Weeden will be the place selected. We need not point out how necessary it is for the sake

of security to separate or decentralise the Woolwich establishment; any disaster there might involve the destruction of all the manufacturing plant of our ordnance and naval and military munitions, as well as the enormous stores contained there, and occasion an irreparable loss at a moment of the greatest emergency."

THE NORWICH SCANDAL.—The magistrates have again met to go into the charge of bribery made against Mr. Collins and others, affecting the offer of £500 to a town councillor in consideration of receiving his vote for Conservative aldermen. The proceedings of last week in this case were brought to an abrupt termination because a banker of the city and his cashier refused to give evidence, and that the question therefore arose as to whether they should not be committed. On the application of counsel for the defence, the magistrates agreed to postpone the case until the 8th of December, the day assigned for the hearing of other charges of a similar kind, but which have reference to the election of the members for the City. This will afford time to compromise the matter quietly.

Foreign News.

NAPOLEON AND THE ITALIANS.

The *Moniteur* of Wednesday publishes the following statement:—The French Government, believing that the delegation of the Regency of Central Italy to M. Buoncompagni would prejudice the questions which will be submitted to the approaching Congress, had looked upon the adoption of the above measures with regret. This impression is now modified by the explanations given by the Government of Sardinia, which declares that the maintenance of public order was the sole object and only aim of the above delegation to M. Buoncompagni, and that the concentration in his hands of the Governments of Central Italy had in no manner the character of a virtual Regency. The article concludes by reminding the public that the *Moniteur* is the only political organ of the Government.

The *Constitutionnel*, in an article signed by its chief editor, M. Grandguillot, says that the declarations of the Cabinet of Turin, on the subject of the Regency of M. Buoncompagni, are of a nature to make those arrangements possible which have generally been considered as very difficult of execution. It is understood that if M. Buoncompagni exercises the Regency, it is only for the maintenance of order in Central Italy.

THE CONGRESS.

The *Pays* repeats the announcement that the circulars of the French Government proposing the convocation of a Congress have "not yet been dispatched."

The *Opinion Nationale* learns at the moment of going to press that the delay in convoking the Congress is occasioned by "new exigencies" on the part of England. According to the *Opinion*, England requires—1. That the decisions of the Congress shall not be necessarily executory. 2. That the form of government of Italy, in case of the non-restoration of the Dukes, shall be defined beforehand.

The Marquis de Banneville arrived in Paris on Thursday from Zurich with the ratified treaties. On the day when the ratifications were exchanged, M. Armand delivered to the Austrian Plenipotentiary a draught at sight for 20,000,000 florins (two millions sterling). The remaining 80,000,000 florins (eight millions sterling) will be paid by four instalments, at short intervals.

It is believed that Count Rechberg, assisted by Prince Metternich, will represent Austria at the Congress.

GARIBALDI.

The "Bayard of Italy" on his arrival at Nice published in the *Avenir* the following address to the Italians:—

"Finding that by cunning devices and vain pretences the freedom of action inherent in my rank in the army of Central Italy is continually hampered—a freedom which I have ever used for the object which every good Italian must wish to attain—I leave the military service."

"On the day when Victor Emmanuel shall again call upon his soldiers to fight for the deliverance of our country, I shall find an arm of some kind or another, and a post by the side of my brave companions in arms."

"The miserable and tortuous policy which for the moment troubles the domestic march of our affairs should engage us more than ever to rally round the brave and loyal soldier of our independence, who is incapable of repudiating the sublime and generous design which he conceived. More than ever we must lay up stores of gold and steel to prepare a good reception for whoever may at-

tempt to throw us back into our former miserable state."

He left Nice, on Tuesday, for Genoa. Before his departure he addressed the inhabitants of Nice, and said,—"I shall be ready to resume my command when necessary. Let us be united under Victor Emmanuel; let us continue under arms as long as an inch of Italian soil remains oppressed." Now that he is gone the King of Sardinia is expected at Nice, to pay a visit to the Dowager-Empress of Russia.

THE FRENCH AND SPANIARDS IN AFRICA.

The French war in Morocco is completely over, and this sudden termination of the campaign is, to all seeming, a practical and satisfactory answer to the apprehensions that were entertained of a joint action in Morocco by France and Spain. A despatch from Algiers of November 17th, announces the arrival there of Generals Martimprey and Yusuf, who were about to be followed by the whole expeditionary army. The city was preparing a *fete* for them. The expeditionary troops have been awfully weakened by malady. This is an experience which the Spaniards, the first division of whose expedition has just set sail, have yet to make. It is well known that, should the people of Morocco forget their own dissensions, they may bring up from 300,000 to 400,000 of the most courageous, fanatic, frugal, and enduring combatants on earth.

The *Correspondencia Autografa*, of Madrid, contradicts the rumour that the Spanish Government had received a diplomatic note from England, relative to the expedition to Morocco. The departure of the Spanish troops to Morocco has been delayed, as Marshal O'Donnell will not consent to their leaving before the collection of the war material has been completed, which will be very shortly.

INDIA, AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

RAILWAYS IN BOMBAY.

We are informed that there is every prospect of the extension of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway to Sholapoor, about the middle of next year. In November, it is said, the Deccan line will be opened from Deeksal to Barsee Road. The viaduct over the Seena River is rapidly progressing, and great energy is shown in completing the details of the work.

The progress of our railways is closely connected with every scheme that has in view the welfare of the people and the advancement of the most important interests of the country. The introduction of the railway into Bombay at once gave a value to landed property in the island never before possessed, and gave employment to unskilled labour heretofore dependent on fugitive circumstances. The further the railway has been pushed into the Mofussil, incalculable advantages have been derived by the poor of the country; they who had hitherto lived by the tillage of the soil, or the management of cattle—now suffering from drought and by pestilence, and by any and every accident of time, place, and circumstances, but who had never realised a farthing in any other way—at once found a market for their labour, left their lands and flocks to women and children, and delighted in the work of the Indian navy; resulting in a drain upon the decimal silver coinage, which must soon call for fresh work for the Mint to supply the untold amount withdrawn by this means from circulation. At this moment, it is said, the different lines of railway under construction in this part of the Presidency give employment to sixty thousand labourers, earning on an average from five to ten rupees a month. What were their previous compared with present means?—what the result of the latter?—and into what channel diverted?—are questions of no little importance in their bearing on the social condition of these labourers.

Let us take a glance at the Company's works, as they are familiarly called, in this island. Entering in by Nesbit Lane, Byculla, the first object that arrests attention is the stores, with everything arranged with the nicety and precision maintained in an apothecary's shop, and where may be found, in nautical phraseology, "anything, from a needle to a sheet-anchor." Around are scattered the Plutonic upheavings of the factories of Leeds, Sheffield, and Birmingham—monster engines and monster pipes; monster rails, bolts, and nuts, such as will be found nowhere else through the length and breadth of the island. Further on we enter upon the Locomotive department, and pass through one vast smithing-

and coach-building establishment, showing labour in every possible form, and a thousand men so engaged; here, too, where machinery endeavours to supersede manual labour. As a training school to the native it must induce important consequences; but supposing this were not within the pale of possibility for various reasons, still the profitable employment thus afforded to large bodies of workmen is due to the railway. And here, more than anywhere else, the value of artisans is being duly experienced and improved upon.

It were needless, in this cursory notice, to enter into elaborate detail, to show how extensively native agency finds employment in different departments of the railway. On the opened line between Bombay, Wassind, and Campolee, we see natives chiefly employed as station-masters, and wholly so in all menial capacities. With the extension of these lines the demand for labour has increased, new depots and stores throwing open a wider field of work.

These are not the only arguments that might be brought forward to show how abundantly the railway has blessed the Indian community, and how much cause there is for thankfulness on their part for its introduction into the country. Doubtless there are sections of that community who will carp and deny the value of the railway for anything at all; but the sober and the sensible, as well as those who have interests at stake, will think otherwise. Will it be said that the railway will do nothing for those vast tracts of country now only partially cultivated by cotton, indigo, sugar, and other produce, and where quantities of that cultivation rot for want of carriage? Will it be nothing for the poor of the interior to get their salt from the coast for an almost fabulous price compared to what they now pay?

The advantages of railway communication, everywhere abundant, are emphatically so in respect of India. A railway station soon becomes a centre of life and movement. Within its immediate radii pulses go quicker, time beats more regularly,—there, if anywhere, are action, vitality, and progress. As a builder of towns, the railway is a most beneficent as well as a most fertile power. In England its social influences are widely and intensely felt; of what it can do for the arts, and especially for architecture, we may seek illustration in such places as Ghent, Heidelberg, Milan, Leghorn, and other towns on the Continent.—*Bombay Gazette.*

SALT IN OUDE.

WHILST the confiscation policy has been so successful in Oude that the Commissioner who carried it into effect lauds the wisdom which had placed despotic power in his hands, annihilating all previous claims and tenures, another great measure is in progress, of which we hear nothing in the Legislative Council. The people of Oude have been prohibited manufacturing salt. The earth in many parts of that province teems with this mineral, and a large population obtained employment in its manufacture and preparation for market. The produce of the salt fields supplied all Oude, and was, moreover, carried into some of our older provinces. All this has been put an end to by the same fiat which confiscated the lands. This is another great fiscal measure, to lay a tax on salt, and to collect it easily and cheaply. Oude, because it is difficult to tax the numerous small salt works within its own territory, must import salt from the foreign territories of Bhurtpoor, and the States west and south of the Jumna. Salt must not only come burdened with the duty to Government, but it must come with the enormous charge of carriage over many hundred miles added to it. This is considered a politic measure, while an income-tax is declared to be the contrary. At the same time we must admit that if the whole population of Oude is compelled to pay four times the price for their salt which they have hitherto done, it is necessary to be cautious before any more taxes are imposed upon them; of this immense addition to the price of salt one-half is probably taxation, and one-quarter the value of the produce of its own soil. The financial wisdom which has resolved on carrying out this measure in Oude is quite equal to that which has elaborated the licence and income-tax. This measure is copied from that which gave so much offence in the old provinces of the Doab. There was, however, some good reasons for prohibiting the manufacture of salt in those districts; a small portion of them only was distant from the salt producing lands, and as there were no large deposits nor extensive salt works in existence within them, the hardship involved in the system was not great, whilst the advantage to the revenue was undoubted. Smuggling was nearly annihilated, and the preventive lines were made efficient. But because this policy was so successful in the provinces which skirt the countries from whence the salt is exported, compelling the whole salt consumed in them to pass the revenue cordon, it certainly does not follow

that the same policy should be extended to distant provinces whose circumstances are far from being the same. This is one of the serious cases where that anxiety to treat all India as one country, to be governed by the same rules and the same laws, becomes a great political blunder. The people of Oude will be irritated more by this step than by the disarming Act. It will render the British Government more unpopular, whilst the Act cannot be defended on any other grounds than that it is easier and more convenient to prohibit the production of salt in Oude than to prevent its manufacture under Excise laws. The precedent of the Rohilcund districts will be quoted, that they have suffered the hardship of paying the heavy carriage hire, as well as the taxation of the salt they consume. This is true; but in Rohilcund there are no salt-fields, or there are so few as to be of no weight in the consideration of the case. Rohilcund has always been dependent on Oude or the districts west and south of the Jumna for its supply of salt. So the injustice that we believe is now inflicted on Oude was never suffered by the people of Rohilcund from Government regulations regarding salt. Here is another example of a great fiscal measure being carried out without the slightest reference to council. Oude is despotically governed by the Governor-General of India; and as far as we can judge, the result of that government is very much like that of the Governor-General in Council for all India, backed by a Legislative Council of delegates from the services of the three presidencies.—*Calcutta Englishman.*

LATEST INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The overland mail which arrived on Monday last, brought intelligence from Bombay to the 26th October.

The news of the capture of the Fort of Beyt is confirmed, though it appears that the storming-party was at first repulsed, and that the place was subsequently evacuated by the enemy. No intelligence had been received of the operations against Dwarka, regarded by the Waghers as impregnable.

A serious question has arisen out of the demolition of Beyt. It contains celebrated temples, rich temples, and grandly bejewelled gods. This treasure was looked upon as fair loot, and both private and public plunder was acquired by the sackful. Moreover, when the walls were blown up the temples were unavoidably blown down. The consequence has been a great outcry from the Hindoo community, all over Western India. "You have desecrated and destroyed our temples and stolen our gods," say they. The great festival of the Dewali took place at the departure of the mail, and the Hindoos would not observe it. They have applied to Lord Elphinstone, and he has told them that all the public plunder shall be returned, but that what the soldiers pocketed is gone beyond recall.

On the 11th October a great native meeting was held, at which the petition to Parliament from the native community, sent home by last mail, was signed by some 2,500 persons, and by as many more on the day of the mail's leaving. One of the chief points in the petition is the offer to raise £6,000,000 sterling for the relief of Government, only stipulating that they should be allowed to raise the sum in their own way. We are assured that if Government were to accede the amount would be forthcoming within a year. It is a continuous tax which the natives dread.

The Governor-General arrived in Allahabad on the 14th of October, and proposed to proceed on the 17th to Cawnpore, where his lordship expected to meet the Commander-in-Chief. Great preparations were being made at Lucknow and Futtelghur, to give due *salut* to the forthcoming durbars. The object of the journey is said to be "the recognition of many of the new tenures in Oude, the reception of native princes of the Punjab and others, his direct intercourse with those who loyally lent their aid to uphold the British power, and the personal acknowledgment of these services, and for inspecting Delhi and Oude." Every chief of note is commanded to appear before the two representatives of England's power—the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief. It will be a grand occasion, and for the conquered powers sufficiently humiliating.

The ex-King of Oude is said to have accepted a pension of twelve lacs (£120,000), and relinquished all claims on Oude.

Our hypocritical ally, Sir Jung Bahadoor, G.C.B., has at length been bribed to act contrary to his conscience, and it is believed that he will take effective measures to expel the Oude fugitives from the Nepalese territories. Rumours of the Nana's death had been industriously circulated at Lucknow, evidently with the intention of misleading the authorities. Major Thuillier has gone to settle the boundary of the Terai, which is to be restored to Nepal. The people who are to be thus turned over, by no means relish the proposed transfer from

the frying-pan to the fire. If the English rule, they say, be bad, the Nepalese is worse.

FINANCE.

A financial despatch has been published at Calcutta, which is important. An estimated improvement in our finances has appeared to the extent of 77½ lacs (£775,000), reducing the deficit to 650 lacs (6,500,000). The improvement is owing to reductions in military and public works' expenditure, increased receipts from the new tariff, and the stamp, salt, and license taxes (the latter is, therefore, expected to come into operation). The revenue for 1860-61 is estimated at 3,890 lacs (£38,900,000), the charges at 4,225 lacs (£42,250,000), the estimated deficit thus being 335 lacs (£3,350,000). The question has been asked, has this statement been put forth to show that we can do without Mr. Wilson?

THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The Calcutta correspondent of *Allen's India Mail* makes the following pungent observations:—"The English papers, led by the *Times*, have, for some time past, condemned the policy of Lord Canning, regarding the old company's European troops, in terms as unmeasured as the press of India. It was universally believed that the ministry disapproved of the acts of Lord Canning, by which a most valuable army has been lost to the public service, together with a million sterling, and that they hesitated to recall him only because of his political opinions and his friendly relations with some of the leading members of the Cabinet. To the astonishment of the Indian public, Lord Canning, on the eve of his departure to the provinces, has published a despatch from the Secretary of State for India, dated 31st August, 1859, entirely approving of the course he has pursued in the whole matter. What becomes of the angry diatribes of the *Times* and the English press regarding the blunders of Lord Canning, and the incapacity of those around him, when ministers themselves approve, in the most marked manner, the worst of all his acts? As a curious corollary to this published approval, an order arrived by telegraph from Bombay desiring Lord Canning to endeavour to detain the men by offering them a bounty of £5 each, and a free kit to re-enlist, for China, although he had refused the small bounty of £2 a-head previously to the very same men. Two vessels, with one thousand of the discharged men on board, were on the point of sailing from this port, and were stopped by order of the Governor-General. An officer was sent on board to offer the bounty, and try to induce the men to enlist for China; but so exasperated were they at the treatment they had received, that only *fifty men out of the thousand* offered to remain. The hostility shown to them by Lord Canning has been more worthy of a shrewish virago than of the viceroy of a great empire. Some of the men asked to be allowed to go to Australia, thus saving the Government the cost of their passage to England. It was refused. One soldier showed that he had obtained a situation in India of £15 a-month, and begged to be allowed to remain, as it would save his passage money, and the loss of six months' salary. No! he must go to England or remain with his regiment. Many of the old soldiers told the officer who was appointed to register their names for discharge that they would enlist for the Artillery without bounty. They were told they must go to England or remain with their regiments. It is in a case like this that Lord Canning displays what he considers vigour. All India is full of irritation at the new measures of taxation proposed by him, and we have no hope of any improvement from the advent of Mr. Wilson. He will be quite a cipher in the Supreme Council, and for months will not even see Lord Canning. There is but one hope for India, and that is the recall of the present Viceroy, and we see no chance of that so long as ministers approve of the worst and most mischievous of his acts."

NAPOLÉONIC MILLINERY.—A Paris letter in the *Literary Gazette* informs us that "there is a system of crinolinism established, for the proper fulfilment of which four toilettes a day are about the general requirement, though there are days when only three are necessary; the invitations are for eight days, and no lady is expected over to be seen twice wearing the same gown. Count this up, and you will find an average of thirty or thirty-two toilettes to be carried down to the court. Suppose a female *invitee* not to be alone, but to have a daughter (or two daughters) with her—you come at once to ninety or ninety-six dresses! Now the average of these gowns will be 250 francs (£10), because, whilst the finer ones cost 300, 400, or 500 francs each, there may be some which cost only 120 or 150 francs; put them all at 250 francs, you reach, for each person, the figure of £300 or £320; and if two persons, £600, or £640; if three, £900, or £960."

LITERATURE.

LITERARY NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MR. W. M. THACKERAY will deliver a lecture to members of the Bury Athenæum, Suffolk, on "Humour and Charity," early in the ensuing year.

Several public bodies and societies connected with the Highlands have memorialised the Scotch Universities commissioners to take the necessary steps for instituting and endowing Celtic professorships in some or all of the Scotch Universities.

Literature in Paris is quite as much influenced by "fashion" as are ladies' dresses. Since the success of "Fanny" a variety of romances have been published, which go under the general title of "Une étude de femme." M. E. Gourdon has just presented a volume of this class, called "Louise." The grave historian of the "History of the Congress of Paris" has written a book, which is attracting much attention.

The new organisation of the Theatre Francais is said to be decided on. The author's portion of the gross receipts is to be fifteen per cent. If one piece occupy the whole evening, as is frequently the case, the dramatist has that per centage to himself; when more than one is played, the authors divide the amount among them. Writers of two plays of equal length will get seven and a-half per cent. each, and so on, according to the number of acts in each production. The lowest portion is three per cent. Thus, when three pieces are played—one of four or five, another of three, and a third of one act—the author of the first will take seven per cent., of the second five, and of the third three per cent.

The *Lincoln Times* says: "It is not improbable that Newstead Abbey, the seat of the late Colonel Wildman, and formerly the residence of Lord Byron, with its magnificent domain, will shortly pass into the hands of Mr. Charles Seely, of Heighington Hall, who, we are informed, is in treaty for this interesting property." The price paid for the property by the late owner is said to have been £100,000.

The *Critic* announces that Mr. Josiah Parkes, the father of Miss Parkes, whose strenuous advocacy of the rights and wants of her sex has attracted general attention, is about to publish a volume on the authorship of Junius. Mr. Parkes is the first of the Junius commentators who has managed to get something out of the Francis family, and that the new facts and documents which his book will contain will add much additional strength to the case in favour of Sir Philip. The same journal says that the Messrs. Longman are preparing for immediate publication, in shilling parts, the well-known Family Shakespeare, edited by Thomas Bowdler; the first part will appear next week. The work will be illustrated with thirty-six vignettes, engraved on wood, from original designs by G. Cooke, R.A., R. Cooke, H. Howard, R.A., H. Singleton, R. Smirke, R.A., T. Stothard, R.A., H. Thomson, R.A., R. Westall, R.A., R. Wordforde, R.A.

THE EPIDEMICS OF THE MIDDLE AGES. From the German of J. F. C. Hecker, M.D. Translated by B. G. Babington, M.D.—Trübner and Co.

THIS is the third edition of a most valuable and curious work, to which is now added the author's treatise on Child-Pilgrimages. The translation was originally published by the Sydenham Society, but it has been properly thought expedient to render it more generally accessible. Professor Hecker is the most learned medical historian of Germany; and he has here accumulated the fearful particulars of three deadly plagues—the Black Death, the Dancing Mania, and the Sweating Sickness. His example proved beneficently contagious; for Dr. Simpson of Edinburgh, in imitation of the German physician, has lately collected materials for a similar history of the Leprosy, as it existed in Great Britain during the Middle Ages. The account of the Child-Pilgrimages is at the present time, when religious revivals are in fashion, particularly seasonable. In the words of our author we may truly state that "Demonomanias, convulsions, somnambulism, catalepsy, motional disorders of every kind, are manifested at the present day in all places where fanatical sects pursue their practices, with quite as much importance as at any other time, only in more limited circles."

Of the Child-Pilgrimages in the Middle Ages little is known. Historians have dismissed the subject in a line or two. Of this class was the Boy-Crusade of the year 1212. The Holy Land had then been again reduced under the sway of the

Saracens. The idea of its re-conquest took hold of men's minds. Children sympathised with the general feeling.

"The first impulse was given by a shepherd boy, Etienne, of the village of Cloies in Vendôme, of whom wonderful narratives spread through France with inconceivable rapidity. He held himself for an ambassador of the Lord, who had appeared to him in the guise of an unknown foreigner, received some bread from him, and given him a letter to the king. His sheep were said to have knelt before him to worship him, a miracle which perhaps was hardly required to invest him with the nimbus of sanctity. The shepherd boys of the neighbourhood gathered about him, and soon there streamed together more than thirty thousand souls to partake of his revelations, and to be thrown into ecstasies by his discourses. In St. Denys he performed miracles, he was the saint of the day, the messenger of God, before whom the people bent the knee; and when the king, concerned at this intoxication of a multitude that could not be disregarded, but not without having asked the opinion of the University of Paris, forbade the assemblies, no one regarding the temporal power. Every day there arose new eight or ten year old prophets, who preached, worked miracles, animated whole armies of children, and led them full of transport to the Holy Stephen. When any asked these children in pilgrims' coats whither they were going, they answered as from one mouth, 'To God.' Their orderly processions were headed by oriflams, many carried wax candles, crosses, and censers, and they sang incessantly hymns of fervid devotion and to new melodies: the words, 'Lord, raise up Christendom,' and 'Give us back the true Cross,' were often repeated in them. It is to be regretted that the witnesses of a movement which snatched the whole child-world as if into a whirlpool, have not committed to writing either the songs or the melodies to which they were sung; for it cannot be doubted that with them some of the fairest flowers of popular poetry have been lost, however overwrought and morbid may have been the excitement which gave occasion to them."

"The consternation of the parents at this event was boundless. No persuasion, nor even the despair and tears of the mothers, could keep back the boys. Were they hindered, they wept day and night, pined with sorrow, and fell ill with trembling of the limbs, so that at last of necessity they were let go. Others made light of locks and bolts, found means to elude the most vigilant attendants, to join the representatives of the shepherd boy, Stephen, and at last even to behold this holy crusade-preacher. And there was no distinction of rank: the children of counts and barons ran away, as well as the sons of citizens and the poorest peasant boys, only the rich parents, when they could not keep their children back, sent guides to accompany them, who quietly may have rescued many. Many parents summoned their children to take the cross, others yielded to what they were unable to prevent, not venturing to oppose the eulogists of the little crusade-preachers. Only a few intelligent men, among whom were even some of the clergy, shook their heads, but it was in vain that they sought to restrain the multitude from their giddy infatuation, which must soon enough carry them to an abyss. No one of them ventured to utter his mind aloud, fearful of being charged with heresy, warned also by the disregard given to even the king's command.

"The movement did not last long before there was assembled at Vendôme an innumerable army of boys, armed and unarmed, many on horseback, the most on foot, and among them not a few girls in male clothing. Their number is estimated at more than thirty thousand."

The reader must pursue the story for himself in the book before us, which he will find as interesting as a psychological romance.

THE RECREATIONS OF A COUNTRY PARSON.—John W. Parker and Son.

THE life of a Protestant clergyman has a human interest. He is not cut off, like the Roman priest, from domestic relations. Well, says the Country Parson, who now addresses us, that the Church of Rome, with all its boasted infallibility, was far mistaken when it thought to make a man a better parish priest by cutting him off from such ties, and quite emancipating him from all the little worries of domestic life. He tells us that his sermons were all the better for them. "That might be the way," he ventures to add, "to get men who would preach an unpractical religion, not human in interest, not able to comfort, direct, sustain through

* One of these hymns, with its melody, has been discovered since this was written. See "Evangelical Christendom," 1850.—[TRANSLATOR.]

daily cares, temptations, and sorrows. But for preaching which will come home to men's business and bosoms—which will not appear to ignore those things which must of necessity occupy the greatest part of an ordinary mortal's thoughts—commend me to the preacher who has learned by experience what are human ties, and what is human worry."

So much for the spirit of the book before us, which shines benignantly through the words we have just quoted.

The author has a talent for description, and paints pastoral life admirably. As to sermon-writing, much of late has been written; and our rustic preacher gives his account of it pleasantly enough. He much, and rightly, insists on the preacher's duty to suit his sermon to his congregation. If, says he, it put the congregation to sleep, it is an abominably bad sermon.

The essays in this interesting volume are various in subject, and desultory in treatment. They consist of a mixture of reflection and description. One blends into the other gracefully enough. Generally, too, the essayist contrives to illustrate his own theory of "the art of putting things;" and so states his propositions as to excite a preliminary interest.

Take the following:—

"One of the latest instances of skill in putting things which I remember to have struck me I came upon—where abundance of such skill may be found—in a leading article in the *Times*. The writer of that article was endeavouring to show that the work of the country clergy is extremely light. Of course he is sadly mistaken; but this by the way. As to sermons, said the lively writer (I don't pretend to give his exact words), what work is there in a sermon? Just fancy that you are writing half-a-dozen letters of four pages each, and crossed! The thing was cleverly put; and it really came on me with the force of a fact, a new and surprising fact. Many sermons has this thin right hand written; but my impression of a sermon, drawn from some years' experience, is of a composition very different from a letter—something demanding that brain and heart should be worked to the top of their bent for more hours than need be mentioned here; something implying as hard and as exhausting labour as man can well go through. Surely, I thought, I have been working under a sad delusion! Only half-a-dozen light letters of gossip to a friend: that is the amount of work implied in a sermon! Have I been all these years making a bugbear of such a simple and easy matter as that? Here is a new and cheerful way of putting the thing! But unhappily, though the clever representation would no doubt convey to some thousands of readers the impression that to write a sermon was a very simple affair after all, it broke down, it crumpled up, it went to pieces when brought to the test of fact. When next morning I had written my text, I thought to myself, now here I have just to do the same amount of work which it would cost me to write half-a-dozen letters to half-a-dozen friends, giving them our little news. Ah, it would not do! In a little, I was again in the struggle of mapping out my subject, and cutting a straight track through the jungle of the world of mind; looking about for illustrations, seeking words to put my meaning with clearness and interest before the simple country folk I preach to. It was not the least like letter-writing. The clever writer's way of putting things was wrong; and though I acquit him of any crime beyond speaking with authority of a thing which he knew nothing about, I must declare that his representation was a misrepresentation. If you have sufficient skill, you may put what is painful so that it shall sound pleasant; you may put a wearisome journey by railway in such a connexion with cozy cushions, warm rugs, a review or a new book, storm sweeping the fields without, and warmth and ease within, that it shall seem a delightful thing. You may put work, in short, so that it shall look like play. But actual experiment breaks down the representation. You cannot change the essential nature of things. You cannot make black white, though a clever man may make it seem so."

This one extract is enough to prove to our readers that the book before us is an exceedingly clever specimen of light and intelligible writing.

VIEWS OF LABOUR AND GOLD. By William Barnes, B.D.—John Russell Smith.

THE author of this small volume is already favourably known by his *Ilwensly Rhymes*, in the Dorset dialect, and his various poems on rural life. Other works also of an historical and biographical value have proceeded from his pen. It is, therefore,

with much respect that we examine into his opinions on the important subjects named in his title page. We regret that these are stated in so desultory a manner, that we find it difficult to form them into a system. Perhaps Mr. Barnes intended no system, but was contented to register his observations under each particular head, without attempting to gather them into a regular scheme of doctrines. Yet such is the task that must be accomplished if these data are to be applied to purposes of practical value.

We can perceive readily enough that the author is the stern advocate of the interests of labour; nay, so much of an advocate, that he seems almost blind to the advantages of machinery, whether to the individual or to society. Labour is the basis of capital with him, and the happy use of gold, not gold itself, the true wealth of a state. For example, he found that in 1852 three hundred pounds a year in Australia would only go as far as sixty pounds in England. But now the state of things in Melbourne has improved, more labour being spent in the winning of true life-gear, and less in that of the hard metal. His meaning he illustrates by the following fable:—

"If in an island, as, for instance, in Pitcairn Island, the people were all working for life-gear, and suddenly one-fifth of them left their winning of food for the winning of fossils, it is clear enough that with an increase of fossils they would find a decrease of life-gear, unless, indeed, the four-fifths should increase their labour by one-fourth, which, if they had heretofore done the fair work of their bodily strength, would be a physical evil. If, however, the one-fifth that began to dig for fossils had therefore been wholly inactive, then their labours would make the community richer by their fossils, and so no community can be the more wealthy by the digging of gold, unless it is dug by hands hitherto unworking, or unless the finding of it stirs working hands to greater labour. Spain is none the more wealthy for the silver and gold she drew from America, and the wealth of England in all kinds of life-gear and handywork might be no less with less bullion than is the store we now hold.

"The Manchester and Salford water company have allowed a hogshead of water a day to a head, but water was at one time 3s. a hogshead in Melbourne, so that the Manchester allowance of water would have cost a guinea a week. If the Israelites had found a gold-yielding creek in the wilderness, and a thousand of them had left the picking of manna for the digging of it, they would most likely have starved; and more welcome to Robinson Crusoe would have been potatoes than nuggets of gold only a spit deep.

"It is true that men may win in Australia a fulness of good life-gear and the elements of true wealth and happiness, if they seek them, rather than worse elements of wealth and vicious pleasure; but it was not fair or good that newspapers often misled so many working men by stating Australian wages in weight of gold, without the truth of its commercial value. The question for a working man migrating to another town or another land, is not what weight of gold, but what life-gear his week's work will win him. Labour in England may earn more gold than in Switzerland, and yet we may have among us as great a share of half-starved bodies as have the Swiss; and we may have as great a share of underfed bodies as could have been found by Captain Cook in the Tonga Islands, where there was no money."

So far is clear enough. Nor are we disinclined to allow to the author his three elements of wealth:—1. The spiritual one of *righteousness*; 2. The bodily one of *health*; and, 3. The social one of *good government*. Great inequality of wealth renders states insecure. It is not well that "one class may be over rich to wanton luxury, while another is poor to naked hunger." We likewise agree with him in the frequent evil reaction of wealth upon the mind, as instanced in some tales from the diggings, where its sudden acquisition not seldom results in the maddest freaks. We know not how some of our political economists will take many of Mr. Barnes' propositions. He holds with the cynics, that little more than food and raiment is worthy of our careful yearning. "The love of money," he adds, "undermines probity and freedom, as it breeds a subserviency in vice, and a readiness to sell the good of one's fatherland for gain." Such are some of Mr. Barnes' notions, and they may serve to give our readers one as to the nature of his volume.

THE BOOKE OF THE PYLGREIMAGE OF THE SOWLE. Translated from the French of Guillaume de Guileville. Edited by Katherine Isabella Cust. —Basil Montagu Pickering.

THIS "booke," was printed by William Caxton, anno 1483, and is here reprinted, with illuminations taken from the MS. copy in the British Museum. It is one of the numerous allegories on the progress of the soul which preceded Bunyan's extraordinary work. Some persons have sought, on this account, to question Bunyan's originality. But such an attempt can only demonstrate an ignorance of the real state of the question. The Bunyans, the Dantes, and the Spensers, who showed such a fondness for illustrating allegorically this favourite subject, and thus endeavoured to make "A Sunshine in the Shady Place," wrote in the spirit of the age in which they flourished, and followed the current of the general mind. The present work follows the dogmas of the Church of Rome in its argument, and is supposed to have been translated by Lydgate, from the French, in 1413, who seems to have added to it some poetry in seven-lined stanzas, and to have repeated in the thirty-fourth chapter a portion of his metrical life of the Virgin Mary. The complete work is not here reprinted, but the publishers have omitted whatever relates to Mariolatry, and purgatory, and also some metaphysical dogmas which have been deemed too abstruse or otherwise objectionable. It is preceded by a preface written by the Rev. Edward Polehampton, M.A., and the Rev. Thomas S. Polehampton, M.A., Fellows of Pembroke College, Oxford.

These preface writers have done their work reverentially, if not in an altogether and absolutely satisfactory manner. They appear to think that allegories like these proceed from our curiosity to learn something of the world after death. Surely this is an error. The attempt is clearly to interpret the mystery of our present life, and the growth of religion in the soul.

One of the motives stated for this publication is the fact that John Bunyan's works have acquired more notice lately than formerly—are indeed growing, not only in popularity, but in that fame which lives in the opinion of the wise and good from age to age. He is taking high rank among the intelligences of the world—those "who rule our spirits from their urns."

Let us trace, with the aid of the Messrs. Polehampton, the course of De Guileville's pilgrimage. The Pilgrim inquires his way to the Celestial City; the lady *Grace-Dieu* undertakes to be his guide, and leads him, by the way of baptism, to the church. The official of the house of *Grace-Dieu* receives him, and shows him many wonders. He is then led through many dangers, trials, and sorrows, until he meets with *Old Age*, *Infirmity*, and *Death*. Satan then claims the soul as his own; and complains that the fair *Dame Grace-Dieu* has unfairly deprived him of his bargain. Its guardian angel remonstrates with Satan; and the case is finally laid before Michael. The poor soul having no merit to plead, throws itself wholly on the judge's mercy, and appeals to *Jesu*. *Justice* refuses to listen to either repentance or prayer; *Conscience* likewise testifies against the soul, and *Reason* concludes the argument. Its merits and its sins are then weighed in the balance, and the result is against the soul. Then *Mercy* flies to heaven, and brings down a charter of pardon, sealed with the Redeemer's blood. Whereupon the soul is permitted to go into Purgatory, in order finally to be admitted to Eternal Bliss. After Purgatory the soul is led by its guardian angel to heaven. Amidst all this allegorising, we sometimes have a pleasing touch of the natural. Reference is made to larks who sing in the air, "Nothing else saying but ever, 'Jesu, Jesu!'" These, it is added, "be the birds that God Almighty made to that intent, that mortal folk should take their example. These be called larks, which in Latin have the name of praising and worshipping, and be called 'alaude,' not without cause. For why? They rise and mount far from the earth, and spread their wings, praising God with their merry song, and all their disport and play is to sing 'Jesu!'"

Such passages as these are, however, rare; and if we were to leave the reader to suppose that many such abound, or that De Guileville's Pilgrimage has anything that can compare with the poetic spirit, the dramatic character, and the moral sentiments of Bunyan's Pilgrim, we should be misleading the public, and doing great injustice to

honest John. We see no traces of genius, whether literary or religious in the earlier work, but merely conventional piety, and a technical dealing with authorised dogmas. In the latter we are enabled to appreciate the thinking man, the mind struggling for light, and making the most of that already granted. Bunyan's originality shines out in beautiful contrast with the timid copyings of De Guileville.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD. By Alison Reid. 3 vols.—Hurst and Blackett.

"THE Way of the World" is a good novel, and one that gives great promise for the writer's future works. As a novelist he gives evidence of great talents, talents that only require cultivation to ensure great success for the writer in the branch of literature in which he has made his *début* in the world of letters. We, who have passed through the better half of the "seven stages" allotted by the immortal "Bard of Avon" to man, looked upon life in much the same manner as Mr. Reid's hero, until like him we found out the difference between the shady and the sunny side of the road, and were able to judge for ourselves what was good and what was bad in this work-a-day world of ours. Experience teaches some people much more than others. When a person is well-to-do, or he is supposed to be doing well, which is the same thing, all the world smiles on him, and life is, to the successful, pleasant enough; but when reverses come, what a difference there is in those friends who have smiled on us in our prosperity.

Mr. Reid has worked out his plot and developed his characters in such a manner as would do credit to the most experienced novelist. He has not attempted to paint the world, or the people in it, perfection: he takes them under his consideration as they are, and delineates them most truthfully, showing how people do, think, talk, and act, and in such a manner that leads us to predict for him great success as a novelist. On the whole, we are inclined to Mr. Reid's descriptions of the ways of the world. His work might have been improved with a little curtailing, but, as it is, it falls little short of being a first-rate novel.

THE HABITS OF GOOD SOCIETY: A HANDBOOK OF ETIQUETTE FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

—James Hogg and Sons.

THE "Man in the Club Window," who writes the preface to this book, is a weaver of sentences, a coiner of saws, and an utterer of instances, that group themselves in picturesque confusion, and serve to perplex the reader sufficiently to induce him to take an interest in the book that follows. There is a second preface also, ostensibly written by a lady, but evidently masculine in style. At length we come to the book, and detect a different hand altogether. Let us, however, do justice to the writer. This book of etiquette is not one of those silly productions fit for the meridian of China, that give positive rules concerning proper behaviour. On the contrary, the remarks are remarkably sensible, and deal rather with the spirit than with the forms of good manners. We doubt, indeed, whether it should not rather be regarded as a treatise on morals.

In treating of the composition and manners of Good Society, the writer relates the rise and present position of the middle class, as having a considerable bearing both on its elements and its external arrangements. The circle, as he truly states, widens daily. Men who have risen from the cottage and the workshop, without training for, and without experience of, fashionable life, are now repeatedly admitted. It is difficult, under such circumstances, to construct a code of manners. Scope must be left for the play of individuality and the manifestation of character, hardly permissible in the old times of strict etiquette. Nor will the writer admit the old motives—a desire to shine, or an ambition to rise in the world. Exclusive society, he warns us, is not often agreeable society, and not necessarily good. These conditions of the subject will, we fear, be rather disappointing to some who may resort to this book for instruction in the art of pushing their way, and making a good appearance in ranks to which they are not accustomed.

Should the work before us not exactly square with the notions of the self-interested, it will, however, proportionately please a better class of readers. They will not learn from it either to be snobs or flunkies. Neither Beau Brummell nor

Count d'Orsay is the author's exemplar of a gentleman; George the Fourth, even, is not admitted to the title: he requires the perfect Christian, before he will grant him the privilege of assuming the "highest style of man." All this, of course, is in the best taste, and ought to commend this useful manual to every family where true politeness is recognised as the spontaneous product of good-will, not as an acquired habit superinduced on a selfish nature for the sake of personal advancement.

DISCOURSES. By William Anderson, LL.D. Second Series.—Glasgow: Peter Bertram.

THERE has been much periodical writing lately on the art of sermon-composition. The discourses before us are those of a Scotch preacher, who has gained great celebrity as a logical orator. From what we have perused of this volume, we believe him to be held in just estimation. To us he appears more of a logician than a divine. He deals, manifestly by preference, with the truths of Natural Religion, and rather analyses the notions of which it is composed than argues from Scriptural authority. His citations from the text of the Bible are few, but his elucidation of principle is frequent. He is always rational—sometimes rhetorical—and occasionally poetic. His plan, generally, is to conceive an idea from his text, state its terms, define them, corroborate them slightly by Scriptural reference, and then to apply the argument involved or evolved, as the case may be, to the presumed conditions of his hearers. In sermon-building he is no great adept, and has no strong enthusiastic appeals to the devotional sentiments. But his discourses are sensible moral essays, avoiding conventional phrases, and showing a certain ruggedness and originality both of thought and style.

Mr. Punch's Pocket Book for 1860. Illustrated by Leech and Tenniel.

AT the head of the ephemeral productions destined for the amusement of the merry Christmas time coming, marches our old complacent friend, Mr. Punch, with his still welcome "Pocket Book," which, we believe, does not at all decrease in popularity, if it is not distinguished by any increase in vigour or in wit. The extraordinary ability and admirable humour which characterised the productions of most of the original writers in *Punch* have created a prestige which we fear will hardly continue to be sustained by its present contributors in the opinion of readers of taste and discrimination. The buyers of pseudo-amusing books in our metropolis, however, cannot be charged, as a body, with hyper-criticism, and an established reputation with a large proportion of the cheap book buyers goes far to supply deficiencies of wit, wisdom, or originality. This being the case, we are not so much surprised at the extreme poverty of ideas, and the adoption of so large a number of conventional platitudes, which are but too conspicuous in this year's issue of the world-famed "Pocket Book." In the place of the racy fun with which our old friend used to greet us, we are treated to a selection of genteel drawing-room jokes, and the latest fashionable satire for young ladies, the smallest possible amount of attic salt being employed to give zest to the inanity of the pleasantries. Still we must allow that, like accomplished artists in confectionery, Mr. Punch's authors produce a certain amount of food, which, if it does not contain any nourishment, is, at least, pleasantly flavoured. In the observations which we have just made, however, we by no means include the illustrations, which (especially Mr. Tenniel's) are amply sufficient to recompense the buyer for the outlay of his half-crown. Among the happiest of these grotesques, we could specify Mr. Tenniel's delineation of the ogre of law despatching one of his myrmidons upon an errand of evil, and Mr. Leech's conception of the philosopher, Socrates, and his ideal of a popular songstress, whose printed ballad, by the way, is the best hit in the mild irony of the letter-press. The "business" part of this pocket-book is extremely well arranged, as usual, and is a really useful compendium.

A New Introduction to Geography in a Series of Lessons for Youth. The Eighteenth Edition. With an Appendix, containing Problems on the Globes, and Questions as Exercises for each Lesson. Edited by John Olding Butler.—William Walker, Strand.

Very little need be said of this useful little book. The fact of its having passed through seventeen editions is its best recommendation. We may remark, however, that the public are wise in patronising thus largely one of the best Geographies for the use of schools.

The London Homœopathic Hospital; its History, Constitution, and Policy. By Dr. Wilson, Member of the British Homœopathic Society, &c. &c.—London: Baillière, 1859.

THE institution which forms the subject of Dr. Wilson's pamphlet was commenced in 1850. The author took an active part, in co-operation with the most prominent professors of his school of medicine, in its establishment. A rule having been adopted by a majority of the managers, to the effect that none should be eligible to be chosen medical officers who did not belong to the British Homœopathic Society, Dr. Wilson, though himself a member of the society, withdrew his name, upon the ground that it was impolitic and unjust to narrow the field of selection by any arbitrary regulation of the kind. The greater number of the profession practising homœopathy are said to have disapproved of the rule in question, as calculated to retard the attainment, by the hospital, of that general confidence, which rests mainly on the conviction that the greatest benefit to the poorest patients is sought to be obtained disinterestedly by its directors. "The British Homœopathic Society does not, by any means" (according to the writer), "represent the cream of the profession; it is a mere private society, comprising in its members no professional superiority whatever. A number of good men have seceded from it, and there are others who think that it has many objectionable laws, to which they are unwilling to subscribe; they therefore will not belong to it. As a matter of course, they are excluded from offering their services to the hospital, however desirous they may be of furthering the cause of homœopathy, and relieving the afflicted person."

The author of the present appeal, or rather protest, against what he deems an ill-advised system of exclusion, contends with much force that an institution supported by the contributions of the public ought not to be limited in its scientific resources by the capricious rulers of an association private in its character and destitute of any guarantee of permanency. There seems to be, indeed, but too great reason to apprehend that this discord, long prevailing amongst the members, may, sooner or later, lead to the absolute disruption of their present bond of union. We do not feel called upon to enter into the merits of the disputes whose history is given at great length in the pamphlet before us; neither is it our intention to express any opinion on the theoretical dogmas, adhesion to which separates the promoters of the hospital in Great Ormond-street from allopathic believers. It is obvious that the former ought to provide for the poor and dependent, whom they profess to guide and aid in sickness, adequate means of care and tending when they stand in need of it; and that if they are sincere in their own medical faith they cannot feel satisfied to let such persons go to the ordinary hospitals. Humanity, then, points out, as it appears to us, the duty of rendering the new hospital as efficient as possible. This can only be done by embracing all the professional and pecuniary aid that may be honourably obtained. Dr. Wilson reasons convincingly with regard to the former; and Mr. Henry Edmund Gurney's offer to subscribe £500, in case the good old principle of free competition be adopted, is said to be backed by similar intimations from other quarters to the extent of £1,000.

We can hardly imagine the possibility of Dr. Quin and his friends holding out obstinately on a mere punctilio. Lord Ebury appears to have influence with the society: he would do well to exert it in favour of peace and reform.

Jesuitism; being a Review of The Comte de Montalembert's Treatise, "L'Avenir Politique de L'Angleterre." By William Brewer, 1859.—Ward and Lock.

THE author of this work is dissatisfied with the manner in which the press has treated Montalembert's treatise on "The Political Future of England," and has therefore undertaken the review of it himself. It is, however, rather a review of the Papacy than of the Comte. As such, it is an elaborate exposure of the horrors that Roman orthodoxy has inflicted on nations and individuals. He has, also, some hard hits at the Tractarians. Altogether, he is a skilful controversialist.

Handbook of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science. By Mrs. William Fison.—Longman, Green, Longman and Roberts.

A USEFUL remembrance of laudable doings and sayings; and a witness to the value of the Associative Principle which in England is now in such active operation. The authoress shows, like many of her sex, a masculine understanding, and justifies the increasing influence of female opinion on public policy. She is, besides, a thorough advocate for Education, and is impatient of the idle difficulties thrown in its way. This little work cannot be too extensively read.

On the Comparative Value of certain Salts for rendering Fabrics Non-Inflammable. By Fred. Versmann, F.C.S., and Alphons Oppenheim, Ph. D., A.C.S.—Trübner and Co.

THIS is the substance of a paper read before the British Association in Aberdeen last September. The topic is one of obvious utility. The leading idea of the author's is the introduction of nitrogen into the vegetable fibre of cotton and linen. The analysis of the different salts mentioned is pursued at far too great a length for us to follow. Out of all, as the cheapest and best, the sulphate of ammonia is recommended; to which is added that of tungstate of soda. A specimen of muslin is given with the pamphlet, and stands the test of trial.

Notable Women. Stories of their Lives and Characteristics. A Book for Young Ladies. By Ellen C. Clayton.—Dean and Son.

"THE SOLDIER'S FRIEND" is the title of the leading tale, which, indeed, consists of a memoir of Florence Nightingale, whose christian name is derived from the fact of her having been born in Florence, in 1820. The career of this estimable woman is traced with eloquence and accuracy, and the brief biography will be welcome to most as a "household word."

A Class Book of English Prose. By Robert Demans, M.A.

THIS publication consists of well-selected examples of English prose style, dating from the period of Chaucer, and extending to the present time. Intermediate essays are also introduced, and biographical notices, with occasional critical remarks, are added, which go far to make the volume an epitome of the history of English literature. For the use of schools the entire work is admirably adapted.

Third Annual Report of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, July 28, 1859.

THE committee have realised the expectations they had formed from the establishment of an Intercolonial and Provincial Steam Service. An uninterrupted intercourse by steam with the Australian Colonies, and the several provinces in New Zealand will now be sustained. In other respects also the report is satisfactory.

The Lawyer's Companion for 1860. Edited by W. F. Finlason, Esq.

THIS law calendar for the ensuing year contains a large amount of relative matter, a table of stamp duties, a London and provincial law directory, and a diary. It is well got up, most distinctly printed, and firmly bound, and cannot fail of being exceedingly useful to the legal profession.

Newspaper Gazetteer and Guide to Advertisers. By R. D'A. Newton.

THE amount of information conveyed in this large quarto volume is something astonishing; its accuracy also is wonderful. To the intending advertiser, this publication is indispensable. Much of its contents is derived from authorised official communication; and its topographical statements are given from the best authorities. The original writing is both speculative and practical; but in either case of great excellence. A more meritorious serial does not exist. The maps and tables appended are most laboriously constructed and of the greatest utility.

The Weather Almanach for 1860. By Orlando Whistlercraft.

BESIDES the predictions of the weather, which are stated to have proved tolerably correct for the past year, there is a large amount of general information, profitable for many.

Literary and Scientific Register and Almanach for 1860. By J. W. Gutch.—Kent and Co.

In all respects valuable, with tabular information on most subjects, conveniently arranged.

HOW THE YANKEES MEAN TO WHIP THE GREAT EASTERN.—The new ocean steamship, which it is proposed to build at Buffalo, to travel a hundred miles an hour, is to be of the following dimensions:—Length (three-quarters of a mile), 4,000 feet; width, 73½ feet; depth, 62 feet. Each end is to be constructed alike, in the form of a wedge. This wedge form is 1,250 feet long, leaving the parallel portion 1,500 feet in length. To steady the vessel fins are attached 500 feet long to each of the ends. These fins impart strength, possess great buoyancy, and are used for the purpose of surface condensation. Each fin has a vacuum equal to a room 20 feet wide, 10 feet deep, and 3,300 feet long. The walls are double. The outer one is 1½ inch in thickness, the inner one but ¼ inch thick, and each part of those walls is to reach from the bottom to the top of the vessel. The space between the outer and inner wall is divided into air-tight sections three feet square, so if the outside wall be broken there can but little water enter. The entire ship is built in air-tight sections, and if broken in two no lives will be endangered. There are six wheels on each side, placed 300 feet apart.

Postscript.

"THE LEADER" OFFICE, Friday Evening, Nov. 25th.

FRANCE AND AUSTRIA.

THE *Moniteur* of to-day (Friday) announces the appointment of the Marquis de Moustier to the post of Ambassador to the Emperor of Austria. The Marquis de Bourqueney has received from the Emperor of Austria the Grand Cross of the order of St. Stephen, the insignia of which were accompanied by a letter of the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, regretting, in the name of his sovereign, the definite retirement of the Marquis de Bourqueney from the post of French ambassador at the Court of Vienna. M. de Banneville has received at the same time, from the Emperor of Austria, the grand cordon of the order of the Iron Crown of Lombardy. The other members of the Austrian and French missions have also received decorations according to their rank. Baron Meysenberg and Chevalier Joleau have been raised to the dignity of grand officers of the Legion of Honour. Count Caroly and Chevalier Desambrois have received from the Emperor of the French gold snuff-boxes with the portrait of his Majesty set in diamonds.

LORD COWLEY.

It was asserted in Paris, yesterday, that the object of Lord Cowley's recent journey to London was to make the English Government acquainted with the views of Napoleon III. on the subject of a general disarmament. In a lithographed correspondence to all the departments for the inspiration of the provincial papers, appears the following paragraph:—

The Emperor is said to have charged Lord Cowley to assure her Britannic Majesty that his fidelity to the alliance remains intact; that he has proved his sentiments by his acts; and that if England is willing he is ready to promote a general disarmament in Europe. We are assured that in the course of the conversation which preceded Lord Cowley's departure for London, the Emperor said to him, "France has need of England to settle the Italian question; and England has need of France to bring the Chinese affair to an end."

THE AMERICAN DISPUTE.

A DISPATCH of the 11th, from Washington, received at Southampton this day (Friday), says that the Government had received important dispatches from the English Government relative to the San Juan difficulty, expressing an earnest desire to settle the question; the details proposed had not then been made known, but it was believed that there was no longer any danger of any serious difficulty between the two countries.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

The health of the King of Prussia, says a telegram from Berlin, dated this day (Friday), has so far improved that his medical attendants have advised his Majesty to remove to the Isle of Wight. It is believed that this advice will be followed.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)

Mrs. and Mrs. Charles Mathews every evening. Revival of the Comedy of "A Bold Stroke for a Wife."

Monday, Nov. 28th, and during the week, to commence at 7, with A BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE. Colonel Feignwell, Mr. Charles Mathews; Periwinkle, Mr. Chippendale; Obadiah Prim, Mr. Compton; Sir Philip Madelove, Mr. Clark; Madelove, Mr. Rogers; Simon Pure, Mr. Buckstone; Mrs. Prim, Mrs. Poynter; and Miss Lovely, Mrs. Charles Mathews.

After which, THE BACHELOR OF ARTS. Jasper, (his original character), Mr. Charles Mathews. Concluding with the Ballet of HALLOWE'EEN, by the Leclercqs.

NOTICE.—In consequence of the severe indisposition of Miss Reynolds, the Comedietta of "The Late Lamented" will not be repeated till her recovery.

Stage-manager, Mr. Chippendale.

THEATRE ROYAL OLYMPIC.

Lessees, Messrs. F. Robson and W. S. Emden. On Monday, and during the week, will be performed the new Comedietta, from "Le Moulin à Paroles," entitled THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY. Characters by Messrs. H. Wigan, W. Gordon, and H. Rivers; Miss Cottrell and Mrs. Stirling.

After which, a new Farce, from the French "La Contre Basse," to be called A BASE IMPOSTER; by Mr. Horace Wigan. Characters by Messrs. G. Cooke, H. Cooper, H. Wigan, Messdames Cottrell and Stephens.

To be followed by the classic extravaganza of MEDRA. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson and Addison; Miss Eliza Nelson, Mrs. Stephens, and Miss Cottrell.

To conclude with the petite comedy, entitled WHY DID YOU DIE? Characters by Messrs. Addison, G. Vining, and H. Wigan; Messdames Leigh Murray, Cottrell, and W. S. Emden.

Doors open at 7. Commence at half-past 7.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. A. HARRIS.

Monday and during the week the successful petite Comedy entitled, GOSSIP. Messrs. Ryder, H. Bland, Meadows, Shore, Garden; Miss Wadham and Mrs. Charles Young.

After which, the laughable Farce (by Thomas J. Williams) NURSERY CHICKWED. Mr. H. Widdicombe and Miss Louise Keeley.

To conclude, on Monday and Tuesday, with THE MASTER PASSION; OR, THE OUTLAWS OF THE ADIATIC.

On Wednesday (first time, a new domestic drama entitled, HOME TRUTHS. Messrs. G. Melville, Shore, Frank Matthews; Miss Carlotta Leclercq, and Mrs. Charles Young.

THEATRE ROYAL LYCEUM.

Sole Lessee and Directress, Madame Celeste. 6, Sackville street, Piccadilly.

MADAME CELESTE, in announcing the Opening of this Theatre for the Winter Season, begs to inform the Public that—in an earnest desire to promote the comfort of her Patrons—she has effected several alterations and improvements, which she trusts will meet their approval. Among the new arrangements, Backs have been added to each Row of the Pit Seats, and both Backs and Seats are stuffed, and covered with Leather. The Seats in the Dress Circle have been entirely re-arranged, giving to each occupant a considerably increased space, and the whole rendered more comfortable and convenient. The Upper Circle has received the same amount of attention, and it is hoped will be found more commodious, in every respect, than it has hitherto been.

Previous to the commencement of the Performances

will be spoken by Madame Celeste.

Monday, Nov. 28, 1859, after the Address will be produced a New Drama Fantastique, or Tale of Diablerie, in Four Acts, by CHARLES SELBY, entitled

PARIS AND PLEASURE; OR, HOME AND

HAPPINESS.

Founded upon, with many alterations and original scenes, a Drama in Two Acts, by Messrs. Roger de Beauvoir and Lambert Thiboust, called "Les Enfers de Paris." The new Scenery by Mr. W. Calcott. The costumes by Mr. May. The properties by Mr. E. Bradwell. The original music by Messrs. Nargot and Pelati, adapted by Mr. G. Loder. The *mise en scene* and action invented and superintended by Mdme. Celeste.

George Kerven } Young (Mr. F. Villiers (from the
Jolicœur Desge- } Gentlemen (Thtr. Royal, Liverpool, his
nais } Farmers } first appearance in London);
Mr. Walter Lacy (his first
appearance at this theatre).

Jacques Champi (a Brittany Farmer), Mr. James Johnstone (from the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane; his first appearance at the Lyceum.)

Victor de Veauroti } Young Men of { Mr. Forrester
Henri de La Chaumiere } Fortune { Mr. H. Butler
Baron Chikoff } Chevaliers d'Industrie { Mr. Morton
Count Filou } Mr. T. Lyon
Jacobus (an old Usurer) Mr. James Vining (his first appearance at this theatre.)

Grimpart } Usurers { Mr. Naylor
Mignuet } Mr. Fredericks

Picard (Waiter at the Cafe Anglais) Mr. Clifford
Joseph (Waiter at the Cheval Blanc) Mr. H. S. Bayley (from the Royal Strand Theatre; his first appearance at the Lyceum.)

Jailor } Mr. Bush
Grosjean and Goliah (Pages to Jolicœur and George)

Madlle. Champfleure (an actress assuming the following characters) Miss A. Smith and Miss Ella

Madame Celeste!!

Chonechon Jobin (a Brittany Farm Girl) Madame Celeste!!

Duchatlet (a Commissaire de Police) Madame Celeste!!!!

Madame de Bonceur (a Lady of Fashion) Madame Celeste!!!!!!

Marquis de Rioja (a Commission Agent) Madame Celeste!!!!!!

Monsieur Partout (a Gentleman of Town) Madame Celeste!!!!!!

Gabrielle Champi (a Brittany Peasant) Madame Celeste!!!!!!

Madeline } Miss Hudspeth, from
Champi } the Theatre Royal,
Brittany Peasants, } Birmingham; her
sisters of Gabriel, } first appearance.

Tronquette } Miss Julia St. George
Champi } Miss Kate Saville (from the
Mademoiselle Carmen } Theatre Royal, Princess's; her first appearance at the
Lyceum.)

Julie } Miss Neville
(From the Theatre Royal Brighton.)

Marletto } Miss Agnes Burdett
Julietto } Miss Fitzclarence

Berthe } Miss Turner
Lisette (Femme de Chambre to Madlle. Carmen) Miss

Stuart (from the Theatre Royal, Glasgow; her first appearance in London.)

In the course of the evening the NATIONAL ANTHEM of "God Save the Queen" will be sung by the whole of the Company.

To conclude with the Comic Drama, entitled A PHE-NOMENON IN A SMOCK-FROCK. Mr. Sowerberry, Mr. James Johnstone; John Buttercup (a Milkman), Mr. House (from the Theatres Royal, Bath and Bristol, his first appearance in London.) Mr. Barker, Mr. Forrester; James (Sowerberry's Servant) Mr. H. Bayley; Mr. Barker, Miss Stuart; Betsy Chirup (Sowerberry's Housekeeper), Miss M. A. Hutton, (from the Theatres Royal, Bath and Bristol).

In Rehearsal, and will be produced immediately, a New Comedietta in One Act, entitled THE KEY UNDER THE DOOR-MAT.

NOTICE.—The Management has great pleasure in announcing that one of the earliest Novelties of the Season will be a New, Original, and HISTORICAL DRAMA, by Tom Taylor, Esq.

In Active Preparation.

A NEW GRAND CHRISTMAS EXTRAVANGANZA!

Founded upon a Popular Fairy Tale, and written expressly for this Theatre, by F. N. Talfourd, Esq., followed by a Comic Pantomime.

The public are respectfully informed that the Lessee has engaged those extraordinary and surprising artists, THE BROTHERS HANLON, from the Porte St. Martin, Paris. Duo notices will be given of their first appearance at this theatre, for which their performances are exclusively secured.

Acting Manager, Mr. G. Ellis. Assistant Stage-Manager, Mr. W. West. Treasurer, Mr. W. Bennett. Principal Scene Artist, Mr. W. Calcott. Composer and Musical Director, Mr. George Loder. Machinist, Mr. Baro. Decorator and Property Master, Mr. E. Bradwell.

Stalls (retainable the whole evening), 5s. Dress Circle, 4s. Upper Circle, 3s. Pit, 2s. Gallery, 1s. HALF-PRICE at 9 o'clock.—Dress Circle, 2s. Upper Circle, 1s. 6d. Pit, 1s. Gallery, 6d. Private Boxes, 21s., 21 11s. 6d., and 22s.

The Box-Office open every day from 11 until 6 o'clock, under the direction of Mr. Chatterton, where places may be secured on application. Private Boxes may be had of Mr. Sams, Librarian to the Queen, St. James's Street; Mr. Mitchell, Bond Street; Mr. Hookham, Bond Street; Mr. Andrews, Bond Street; Mr. Mober, Bond Street.

Doors to be opened at Half-past Six, performance to commence precisely at Seven.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Under the Management of Miss LOUISA PYNE and Mr. W. HARRISON.

Monday Nov. 28th, Saturday Dec. 3rd, THE ROSE OF CASTILLE. Miss Thirlwall, and Miss Louisa Pyne, Messrs. Santley, G. Honey, St. Albyn, and W. Harrison.

Tuesday, 29th, Thursday, Dec. 1st, DINORAH. Miss Pilling, and Miss Louisa Pyne, Messrs. Santley, and W. Harrison.

Wednesday, 30th, CROWN DIAMONDS. Miss Thirlwall, and Miss Louisa Pyne. Messrs. H. Corri, G. Honey, St. Albyn, and W. Harrison.

Friday, Dec. 2nd, SATANELLA. Miss F. Cruise, Pilling, and Miss Louisa Pyne, Messrs. Santley, and W. Harrison.

Conductor, Alfred Mellon.

Ballet—LA FIANCEE—every evening.

Stage Manager, Mr. Edward Stirling. Acting Manager, Mr. Edward Murray.

Prices of Admission.—Private Boxes, £4 4s.; £3 3s.; £2 12s. 6d.; £1 5s.; £1 1s.; Stalls, 7s.; Dress Circle, 5s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 3s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s.; No charge for Booking. Commence at 8.

In rehearsal a new Operetta, by Alfred Mellon, founded on, and entitled, VICTORINE.

A grand Christmas Pantomime in preparation.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD.

MONDAY—Open at Nine.

TUESDAY to FRIDAY—Open at Ten. Admission, One Shilling; Children under 12, Sixpence.

SATURDAY—Open at Ten. Promenade Concert. Admission, Half-a-Crown; Children under 12, One Shilling. Season tickets free.

Orchestral Band, Great Organ, and performances on the Calliope or Steam Orchestra daily. The Chrysanthemums arranged in the Centre Transept and Nave, form a beautiful show of these favourite flowers.

SUNDAY—Open at 1.30. to Shareholders gratuitously by tickets.

DRURY - LANE. — PROMENADE CONCERTS.

FOR FOURTEEN NIGHTS ONLY.

A Series of Promenade Concerts under the direction of Mr. MANNS, Conductor of the Crystal Palace Band, with an orchestra of Eighty Performers, carefully selected from the principal instrumentalists in London, will be given nightly, until Monday, December 12th.

The first part of the programme will consist of selections from the works of Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Mozart, Spohr, Weber, Haydn, &c., and the second part of favourite Overtures and Operatic Selections, Marches, Waltzes, Songs, and other Music of a light and cheerful character, including the "Riflemen's March," dedicated to the Volunteer Rifle Corps of England. A new Waltz and Galop by Jullien, &c.

The engagements of solo vocalists and instrumentalists already made, include Madame Lemmens Sherrington, Miss Laura Baxter, Miss Clara Fraser; the great Polish violinist, Herr Wieniawski, who will take his farewell of the British public at these Concerts, having delayed his departure from England for some days for that purpose.

Doors open at half-past Seven. Concerts to commence at Eight.

Admission:—Boxes, Amphitheatre, and Promenade, 1s. Dress Circle, 2s. 6d.; Private Boxes, 10s. 6d. and 21s.

Private Boxes and Dress Circle seats may be obtained of Mr. Nugent, at the Box-office of the Theatre, which will be open from 11 to 4 daily.

ROYAL ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

KING-STREET, ST. JAMES'S.

Lessee, Mr. F. B. CHATTERTON.

Nearest Theatre to Chelsea, Fimble and Westminster, the Park being open to carriages and foot-passengers all hours of the night.

On Monday and Tuesday, new Comedy, LONDON PRIDE.

After which THE SWAN AND EDGAR; OR, THE FAIRY LAKE.

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The Leader.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 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 PIPE OF PEACE.

AN absurd theory has got possession of many minds, that the Emperor of the French is less a man than a collection of fixed unyielding plans, which he is presumed to brood over and follow with the pertinacity of an instinct, such as that which directs the swallow to winter in Africa or conducts the lemming in its periodical migrations. A successful speculator was never made upon these principles, and the amount of good fortune which has attended the imperial career of Napoleon III. shows that he has studied events as they arose, and been ready to turn everything to account. His fixity of principle is like the consistency of the Vicar of Bray, and come what will, he is determined if possible to die as the acknowledged sovereign of France. His activity, his restlessness, his energy, are no doubt qualities quite natural to him, but as a sagacious thinker he must be aware that they are necessary elements, without which a centralised government could not long be exercised over an excitable and imaginative people. When he sketched his Italian programme he had to conciliate the pretensions of the Pope and the Romish clergy with designs that were really hostile to their power. He had to gratify nationality and oppose revolution: to urge Sardinia into a collision with Austria and place obstacles in the way of an Italy that would be independent of France. As events arose in unexpected sequence he modified his plans, and the sudden peace of Villafranca was clearly the act of a man ready at a moment's notice to bring himself to a sharp pull up if his interest appeared to require such a course. In like manner a combination of reasons and motives led to his opposing the Carignan Regency, and permitting, if not actually instigating, a series of intemperate and unreasonable attacks upon England, whose minister at Turin was offering to Victor Emmanuel advice in opposition to the avowed desires of France. While this was going on we ventured to predict that if the Italians would stand firm the opposition would disappear, and now, simultaneously with an order to the French press not to excite ill will against England, comes a notification that the Buoncompagni Regency is not, after all, such an objectionable affair.

The fact is that the English alliance is of great value to the Empire, and if it can be maintained, without sacrificing the fundamental pretensions of the heir of the first Napoleon, its preservation must be an object of solicitude to the present ruler of France. Napoleonism requires that either England should be friendly or that England should be politically destroyed; and with anything like rational government in this country the former alternative is easy and the last out of the question. There are politicians among us who would drive the Empire to desperation, and leave no other outlet for its disturbing energies than an English war; but happily public opinion is determined to give these quarrelmongers a checkmate, and look upon our rifle-clubs and steam navy not as instruments of aggression but as guarantees of peace. Some time ago, with a Grahamised Admini-

ralty, we no doubt had room for alarm; but the most recent statistics of the naval force of the two countries, as collected by Mr. Thomas Page, are well calculated to remove our fears. From these it appears that the fighting navy of England now comprises 63 sailing ships, carrying 2,466 guns, and 384 steamers, carrying 9,553 guns, with 89,814 horse power. On the other hand, the French sailing navy contains 118 vessels, with 3,846 guns, and its steam navy, 132 vessels, with 4,941 guns and 53,105 horse power. In this statement 99 English sailing vessels, with 3,909 guns, are omitted, although many of them could be made serviceable in action or for local defence. When we look at the great superiority of our steam navy, and consider the efforts still making to render it more perfect, we can afford to ridicule the efforts of those who, in spite of any amount of preparation, are still determined to manufacture panics for breakfast, panics for dinner, tea, and supper, until the public stomach is thoroughly nauseated with such unpleasant food. Without any bullying from us, the French Government is perfectly able to appreciate these naval facts, as well as the steady, though rather slow process of abolishing flogging and other causes of popular dislike to what is called "Her Majesty's Service." Every day that we become more powerful, our friendship is better worth making, and our enmity less an object of desire to the boldest potentate; and as we count on our increasing strength with proof of pacific intentions, our preparations ought neither to excite jealousy nor alarm, so long as popular intelligence prevents their falling into reactionary hands. If proposals for mutual disarmament are made in good faith, they will recognize England's claim to naval superiority; but no diminution of forces can really be carried out until the moral elements of discord are effectually removed.

It would, of course, be more congenial with British ideas of right, if the French Government would leave the press alone, and suffer it to develop and reflect the public opinion of the country, but if it must move by Imperial orders, we are glad that the horrible gesticulations of the war dance, with its flourish of scalping knives and tomahawks, is to be superseded by more graceful movements to the pipe of peace. The recent policy of the French in Italy has nearly compromised the position of Sardinia, and necessitated the uplifting of the Republican banner, and Louis Napoleon must see that he must either allow Italian aspirations for national existence to be gratified through Victor Emmanuel and monarchy, or be prepared to encounter that spectre of revolution which is the object of his greatest dread. Garibaldi has wisely retired from intrigues which he was not permitted to cut through with his sword, and he waits the time when, with Victor Emmanuel, if possible, but without him, if necessary, the struggle for freedom will enter another stage. By far the wisest and safest plan for Louis Napoleon will be to join England in aiding Sardinia to develop herself into a powerful State. If his soldiers want more fighting, there is still an Austrian army. Italy is not free from the Alps to the Adriatic, and, entrenched in great fortresses, the enemy still threatens the Lombard plains.

WHO PAYS THE TAXES?

THE publication, about a month ago, of Mr. Bright's letter on taxation has done an immense deal of good. It has provoked many interesting inquiries and produced, in defence of the upper classes, many startling assertions. Their chief journals have taken the matter up warmly, and, as is their wont, have abused Mr. Bright and abused his doctrines. To defend him is no concern of ours—he is well able to defend himself; but we are all deeply interested in knowing who pays the taxes. He says, "the greater portion of our taxes is collected on articles the bulk of which is consumed by that portion of the population which has no property but its labour, and no income but its wages." "There is something essentially mean and singularly cruel," he affirms, "in the manner in which the taxation of this country has been and still is levied." These statements are characterised by his opponents as impudent fallacies, addressed to a necessitous and ignorant population. It is, however, admitted, that if his accusations be true, the government of England, by such corrupt bodies as he de-

scribes, would be, and ought to be, impossible. Let us look, therefore, at what has been, and what is.

Just before the beginning of the great war the amount of revenue paid into the Exchequer, the produce of taxation in 1792, was £19,845,705; in 1815, the amount was £72,210,512. Of this increase £52,374,807, the only part which fell exclusively on property was the Income and Property Tax, the amount of which, in 1814, was £14,485,000. In the interval, the interest on the National Debt was increased from £9,311,630 to £32,015,941. The bulk of this increase of annual charge for debt was a transfer of property from one class to another, and mainly a transfer from the labouring classes who had no income, as Mr. Bright says, but wages, to classes who had other property. In the interval, when the taxes were thus enormously increased, and there was this continual transfer of property year after year, the wealth of the upper classes—of the land and tithe owners for rent rose prodigiously; of the great capitalists and contractors; of admirals and generals; of Ministers and the chief servants of the Government; of the master manufacturers and of the great farmers—continually increased. They all grew richer and richer, and all the labouring multitude became poorer and poorer, till the bulk of them were actually reduced to a frightful condition of pauperism. In consequence of this distress several great riots took place. By themselves, and others, their sufferings and their acknowledged degradation were referred to the introduction and use of machinery, which we are now well convinced was the very thing which saved them and saved the country from irretrievable ruin. The noblest works of man were made the scapegoats of politicians. What really caused the poverty and degradation of the labouring multitude was the "mean and singularly cruel system of taxation," which levied the whole expense of the war, and much more than its needful expense, on them exclusively; and of it transferred a very large proportion to the classes enriched. After this course had been continued from 1793 to 1816, the first step the chivalrous gentlemen of England took was to repeal the Income and Property Tax, relieve the upper classes to the extent of £14,000,000, and increase to a considerable amount, £2,915,888, indirect taxation. They, however, had passed, the year before, the celebrated Corn Law, to levy a direct tax on the labourer's bread, for the behoof of the land and tithe owners, in order, as one of themselves afterwards stated, to keep up their dignity and enable them to endow their children.

This is a brief history of what the gentlemen of England did in Parliament, in respect to taxation, from 1793 to 1816; and what they have done since, and are now doing, we proceed to describe.

Naturally, after that expensive war there took place a great and continued reduction of taxes, but all Mr. Hume's exertions were insufficient to restrain the extravagance of the Government, and taxation was not reduced as it ought to have been. The reduction, as the rule, fell on indirect taxation; but there was also a considerable reduction in direct taxation. There were also changes; and every increase of taxation till 1842, with one trifling exception, was in indirect taxes. In 1842 Sir Robert Peel began his fiscal and commercial reforms; and now it is boasted for the gentlemen of England, that, they then consented to a property and income tax in order to relieve the suffering industrious classes. But why did they do this? We beg to inform the writers in the *Times*, the *Saturday Review*, the *Economist*, and other sycophantic journals, who seem to have utterly forgotten, or never to have known, the history of that period—that it was done because the multitude was in deep distress and fearfully discontented—because the revenue did not equal the expenditure, and it had been found from experience that additional indirect taxation did not give additional revenue. Mr. Baring, the Whig Chancellor of the Exchequer, tried it and failed. He imposed a Customs and Excise Tax of 5 per cent., which he calculated would produce an additional revenue of £1,895,575, but which actually produced, according to the documents submitted to the House of Commons by Sir Robert Peel, £206,715. The nominal tax was 5 per cent.—the yield was little more than 1 per cent. Admitting that the course adopted in 1842 was the reverse

of the erroneous course steered between 1793 and 1816, the change was dictated by sheer necessity—not generosity. The ship of the State was running on the rocks, and the pilot was prudent enough to tack about. The gentlemen of England, having him at their head, could not then be induced to give up their tax on the labourers' bread, and were only at last persuaded into allowing the just course to be taken, while they ostracised their great champion and favourite for taking it, by the terrible famine which destroyed more than one-tenth of the whole Irish people. If for such legislation in 1842 and subsequent years, the gentlemen of England deserve the flattery of our contemporaries it will not secure them either honour from the historian or veneration from the bulk of mankind.

From 1842 till the war of 1854 there was again, as the rule, a reduction of taxation. The Government, and all the parties which had influence with the Government, tried hard to expend the whole revenue, but could not succeed, and so they reduced taxation. From 1842 to 1853 the only taxes imposed were a trifling sum on auctioneers' licences, and the inhabited house duty. The reduced or repealed taxes were numerous, but surely the abolition of the duties on glass and on bricks, on exported coals and marine insurances, on fine furniture woods, and on windows—from which small houses were exempt—were not boons exclusively for those who have no income but wages. We cheerfully admit that they did share with the rest of the community in the advantages of the reduction or abolition of duties on the raw materials of clothing, on tea, butter, cheese, sugar, coffee, &c., but those who reproach them with not being thankful for this reduction, admit the injustice it only partially remedied. Their general well-being since these reductions were commenced, and the increased national prosperity which has accompanied every reduction or abolition of duties, and every removal of restrictions, seem to have given no satisfaction to the gentlemen of England and their class writers. They continually represent these changes as losses to them. They actually claim a property in taxation, and find no consolation, when they are compelled to give it up, in the well-being of the people and the prosperity of the nation which ensue.

Now, coming to the existing taxation, as the several reforms boasted of have left it, we grant that it is not so scandalously unjust as the taxation imposed between 1793 and 1816. A much larger proportion of it is now borne, in the first instance, by the other classes than those who have no other income than wages. But, of all the indirect taxation, amounting to more than £42,000,000, they pay a large share. The excise duties on malt, hops, paper, and spirits: the Customs duties on sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, &c., fall heavily on them. So does the 1s. duty on a quarter of corn, and the duties on butter and cheese, which also have the effect of increasing the price of all the corn, butter, and cheese grown or made at home; and these relics of corn laws still transfer a largesum annually, from those who have no incomes but wages, into the pockets of the landowners. Moreover, the indirect taxes on articles, none of which are grown in England, have the effect of increasing the difficulty of obtaining them, and forcing the population to use home-grown substitutes or commodities of a similar character. The tax on raisins and currants keep up the price of similar fruits grown at home. It is virtually like many similar taxes, a bounty on home-grown produce. With these little explanations we adopt the statement of the Board of Inland Revenue—published by our contemporaries—that the consumption is of

	Tea, per Cwt.	Sugar, per Cwt.
By the Upper Classes	17½	22½
" Middle Classes	35	35
" Wages Class	44½	30½

Let us, however, remind the Board, and those who deem its wisdom incomparable, that the duties levied on these articles are twice collected, first by the Custom House, before they can be taken from the king's warehouses, and secondly, by the tradesmen who sell them to the multitude. The cost of the first collection is said to be 10 per cent. on the price, and the cost of this second collection 134 per cent. On this statement, for collecting the £42,000,000 the middle and upper classes—for the merchant gets something in collecting the tax from the shopkeepers—share amongst them annually £56,000,000,

which they collect chiefly from those who live on wages. They recover from the lower classes far more than double the sum which they actually contribute to the state by indirect taxation. Accordingly, it is notorious that the middle and shop-keeping classes—as long as taxation is not so inordinate as, in 1841, to stop consumption—get rich by the taxation they are by the Board of Inland Revenue asserted to pay. It is equally notorious that the makers of excise articles profit by the tax, and great hop growers, great distillers, and great paper makers object to the removal of excise duties. In fact, such duties make it necessary to possess a large capital, in order to advance them to the Government which confines the business to few hands, effectually keeps out of it all those who have no incomes but wages, and establishes against them a grievous monopoly. Now, as indirect taxation adds to profit, raises prices, restricts competition, and enriches the middle and upper classes, it is clear, that as a whole—whatever may be the case with individuals—they pay no portion of these taxes, whatever per centage of the articles taxed they may consume. The elaborate calculations of the Board, therefore, may be put aside as irrelevant to the subject.

We are now in a condition to answer the great question—Who pays the taxes? All wealth, say the political economists, is created by labour. Labour pays all price. The land may be monopolised, it is not wealth, and there is no wealth in the world which is not created by labour. By labour, too, all wealth is annually produced, for all wealth is annually consumed. There is for ever renewed production. All repairs of instruments and implements are tantamount to new production. Labour, then, including skilled labour of all kinds, pays all the taxes. The labourers pay all the taxes. The productive labourers not only pay all the taxes, they sustain all the unproductive classes. Of course all the recipients of taxes—and under this term all state enforced contributions of every kind ought to be included—pay none of them. They are all paid by labour. The landlord's rent, the capitalist's profit, the tithe-owner's compensation, are all paid by those who labour, and especially by the class who are contradistinguished from capitalists, landowners, and tithe owners, as having no means but wages. We now understand why the labourers should be always poor; they are compelled by the State—and for this purpose the State seems to exist to provide ample subsistence, comforts, and luxuries for all the rest of society. This is unjust, and the upper classes begin to see that it is unjust.

The condition of those who have no incomes but wages—males and females—is seriously affecting the other classes. They are by circumstances compelled to take it into consideration. The gentlemen of England begin to see that they are made the victims of a false political system; and a consciousness of doing injustice, with its accompanying sense of shame, is fast growing up in their minds. To stop its growth seems the great object of the snobism of the press, but no flattery can prevail against facts; and now that the conscience of the upper classes is awakened, they, we are sure, will be prompt to do justice to those by whose labour they live. They will not continue to prefer political mire to social purity.

Who receives the taxes? is a branch of the subject adverted to by our contemporaries, which we may hereafter consider.

ITALY AND THE CONGRESS.

We are unwilling to share in the desponding views expressed by many at the turn which Italian affairs, regarded in some lights, may appear to have taken. The retirement of Garibaldi is only consistent with the professed plan of action of the chief leaders in the temporary and provisional measures taken in the Peninsula. From the first, it has been decided to wait and see the result of diplomacy before doing anything to excite or warrant one of those great revolutionary outbursts which, on every principle of humanity and prudence, are to be avoided as long as possible, and, when inevitable, curtailed and limited within the narrowest bounds compatible with their nature, origin and object. It appears that the presence of Garibaldi in Central Italy was a cause of the greatest embarrassment to the Governments of the Duchies, particularly that of Tuscany. His own ardour and patriotism were so infectious, that the rulers were in constant fear lest the enthusiasm

he aroused among his followers should overstep the bounds which he himself would wish to prescribe for it, and prove utterly beyond his control. It is of course a matter variously judged according to special political leanings, and decided in accordance with the prospect obtained from the peculiar stand-point of each reasoner, whether the Italians have done, and are doing well in thus waiting and depending upon others to accomplish for them what they might, no doubt, have secured for themselves, though, with as little doubt, only at the cost of immense sacrifice of life. Having, however, so decided, we repeat that it is perfectly consistent with that decision, and so far, therefore, worthy of respect, that they should seek to repress the military ardour of their excitable youth and lower grades within the limits demanded by this general line of policy. To many who looked upon the presence of Garibaldi and his troops in Central Italy as the best guarantee for the future of the Peninsula, it is necessarily a great disappointment that he should have resigned his charge. But in deference to the convictions of those who have adopted the waiting policy he could do no less. Among these, we know from personal acquaintance, are some of the most fiery spirit, who impatiently long to be up and doing, and whose acquiescence in the present state of things is a proof of higher self-control and abnegation of every personal sentiment than was ever given by monk or nun in the retirement of the hermitage or cloister, or by martyr at the stake. Garibaldi's very name is associated with movement and brilliant action. How, then, ask him to stand still surrounded by troops impatient to be led by him to glory? How feel secure, when a single spark might kindle an inextinguishable flame in those ranks which the rulers have their reasons for yet longer retaining in idleness? Under such circumstances it was almost inevitable that he should resign his command. It is gratifying that he has acted throughout in perfect accord with the soldier King of Piedmont. From the 17th of March, when Victor Emmanuel appointed him general of the Italian army, and confided to his command the Chassours des Alpes, to the present moment, his conduct has been marked by the utmost disinterestedness and forgetfulness of self; and the brilliant successes of himself and his brave followers during the Franco-Sardinian campaign were such as amply to maintain the high reputation and romantic interests attached to the name of the heroic guerilla chieftain and republican soldier of 1848. He retires to his farm in the island of Maddalena with the promise of returning to Italy whenever his services may be claimed by his Sovereign. The manly and characteristic proclamation addressed by him to the Italians, and inserted in the Nice journals, proves that he may still be depended upon when the right moment for action is considered to have arrived. It may be hoped that his departure will not have depressed the military ardour of his countrymen beyond the prudent and safe standard to which it is sought to limit it, since the second regiment of the Bolognese brigade has taken the oath to the King of Sardinia, received its colours amid the applause of the populace, and adopted the uniform of the Sardinian army.

Again, it has been feared by the alarmists that the remarkable and admirable union which has so long prevailed among the several States was giving way, because objection was made at Florence to the proposed regency. But the opposition emanated from a single member of the Government, supported by but a very small party, and has been entirely withdrawn. We will, therefore, hope that the great end and object of the presidency will be obtained; that the friendly ties existing between the States of Central Italy and the Lombardo-Sardinian kingdom will be still further strengthened; and that the new Italian kingdom may present so united and imposing a front to the European Congress, that it must be acknowledged and recognised as an already consolidated power. The direction of the present political movement in Italy has been almost exclusively confined to the aristocratic and middle classes. Similar political agitations are generally carried on by demagogues and sectaries belonging to the lowest ranks of society, who have nothing to lose, so may fairly hope to gain by any change, whatever the real loss involved in their plans to the country at large.

In the present case, however, men of standing and property have given themselves to the work of change and reformation, and hence, no doubt, may be discovered the reason for the unanimous desire manifested for union under a constitutional monarch. The position and personal characteristics of Victor Emmanuel are every way calculated to forward the wish for union. The heir of a long ancestral line of sovereigns, his kingdom stands ready to accept and appropriate, without engulfing, the territory which is offered to him; while his own character is such as to attach those to him who are urged by policy to place themselves beneath his rule. The manner in which the wishes and feelings of Lombardy have been studied in the administrative measures taken with reference to this new province of the Sardinian kingdom may well encourage the other States to persevere in their efforts for annexation. It is earnestly to be desired that the approaching Congress should sanction the unanimous and openly manifested desires of the people of Central Italy. It is argued with much appearance of justice that if the great European Powers oppose their wishes, Piedmont will, in all probability, refuse to adhere to their decision. But then will come a terrible time of reaction following upon the unnatural repression in which the Italians are now kept. And this is the least unfavourable result that could be looked for; if on the other hand Piedmont should accept and acquiesce in their adverse decision, her prestige would be lost, and with it all faith in the monarchial principle. The cause of order would suffer irreparable loss; the Republican party would again rise stronger than ever; the Peninsula would be in flames, and Europe would be convulsed from one end to the other with a repetition of the scenes of 1848. We feel fully warranted in asserting that, under present circumstances, the sole hope of averting the most dire political catastrophe lies in the substitution of a powerful, enlightened, trusted, and national government in Upper and Central Italy for the stern, despotic rule of Austria and its viceregents, and the tyrannic and intolerant oppression of the Pope. It is well that the great Powers should be convinced, that though Italians have hitherto so admirably restrained their impatience, it would at once burst forth if they found their just rights despised, and their wrongs unredressed, after the period to which they have been taught to look at as the moment when their fate is to be decided. The present, therefore, is undoubtedly a most important crisis in the affairs of the Peninsula. The treaties of 1815 have been so completely set at defiance of late that it will be sheer folly if any attempt should be made to employ them against Italy in the approaching Congress. Austria and France have both unhesitatingly violated them whenever it has served their purpose to do so. It would, then, be hard if their provisions were to be renewed or enforced for the special oppression of Italy. By those treaties the Bonaparte family was proscribed and debarred from sovereign power in any European State; yet England, Russia, Prussia, and Austria recognised the French empire and Napoleon III. as Emperor. While himself reigning in defiance of resolutions made in a European congress, it is somewhat ludicrous that the French Emperor should so strongly inculcate upon the Italians the duty of referring their very political existence to a congress of the great Powers, and deferring implicitly to its decisions.

But in the midst of all the uncertainty and agitation accompanying the present provisional state of things, real progress is going forward in certain directions likely to have a permanent influence upon the condition of the Peninsula, and which must, whether sooner or later, effect those important changes which are the grand want of Italy. The people are beginning to enjoy the benefits of freedom of thought and speech. In Florence, Pisa, and various other cities, meetings for religious worship, in which doctrines opposed to Romanism are advanced, are permitted to be held openly. Several very modest places of worship—not magnificent temples, as described by the correspondent of a daily contemporary, avowedly Protestant—have been built, or are in process of erection. All appearances, in short, indicate that the Italians have determined to be no longer puppets in the hands of despots and bigots, and the day will surely soon dawn when they will exercise the right of free men, and no longer be passed

from the hand of one master to another, like unthinking cattle and beasts of burden.

THE WRONGS OF WOMEN.

There are some subjects which recur in cycles. The authorship of Junius, the sources of the Nile, and the advantages of compulsory education, are all subjects which belong to this periodic class. One can predict with certainty that they will attract public attention towards November, and disappear below the social horizon with the meeting of Parliament. They never are settled—they never can be settled—they are never even meant to be settled. Periodical literature fosters and protects them, as a rat-catcher watches over some tough old rat who has brought him many a job, and will bring him many another yet. The great female question is the most favoured specimen of the class. More nonsense has been written, more twaddle has been talked about it, than about any other unfortunate subject we are acquainted with. We observe that, as usual, the discussion between the advocates and opponents of "women's rights" has been resumed at this season of the year, and for the next few weeks the old battledore and shuttlecock controversy is likely to rage with its wonted activity.

It requires a more sanguine temperament than we possess to hope that the controversy will lead to any practical result. Women have a grievance—a very real grievance—to complain of. But that grievance is a social, not a legal one. The laws, of which women complain, are the symptoms, not the causes, of their peculiar position. A state of social feeling is one of those ills "which neither laws nor kings can cause or cure," and it is a state of social feeling which keeps women in their present condition. There are two great parties to the controversy—one who ignore the existence of our present social arrangements, and assume that the difference between men and women is purely an artificial one; and another who look upon our social state, which entails peculiar disabilities on women, as unchangeable and final. For our own part we disagree almost equally with either view, and think we may be doing some little good by stating, shortly, what the plain facts of the case are, and what each party really means by their arguments.

We suspect that amongst the aristocratic and the working classes, women, as women, have not much to complain of. In the former class, the daughters of a family almost always can marry, if they wish, and if they do not, there is sure, as a rule, to be sufficient provision made to enable them to live in comparative comfort. In the latter, women have a great chance of marrying, as the men of their own class marry almost universally; and if they are unfortunate enough to miss the chance, they are obliged to work for their own livelihood, and are not probably worse off than working men. The real hardship of the grievance falls entirely upon the middle classes, on that vast and daily increasing body, who support themselves and their families by labour which is not manual. In an ordinary middle-class family, the sons are brought up to some trade or profession or pursuit, the daughters are brought up to marry. It is simple nonsense to say that any father of a family ought to make provision for his daughters. You might every bit as well say, that every man ought to have £10,000 in the Threeper Cents. Life Assurance does not solve the problem, as people seem to think. There is no royal road to wealth, and insurance is only rather an expensive, and speculative way of investing your savings. If you have no savings to invest, you cannot insure, and that large fluctuating class which forms the link between the wealthy and the poor, have no savings to invest. The necessities of existence eat up their increase, and capital they have none. This may be a very bad state of society—we do not say that it is not; but while things remain as they are, there will always be an enormous class, who, by the exigencies of their position, bring up their children as gentlemen and ladies—according to the common saying—and yet can make no provision for them after death.

The indirect working of this system is the real grievance that women have to complain of. Sons have not, as a rule, much fault to find with it. They are given education enough to support themselves as their fathers have done before them, and if they out live, or are unfortunate, they sink into a lower class, and are not worse off than their

neighbours; the daughters, as we said, are brought up to marry. If they do marry, well and good, but if they do not, there is nothing for them. Marriage, we all know, is a lottery, and the proportion of blanks to prizes is daily increasing. In this particular class the men get to marry later and later, and the number of bachelors is, we suspect, increasing. An unmarried woman, with us, is a social anomaly. Like the steward in the parable, she cannot work, and she is ashamed to beg. She is fit for nothing. She loses caste if she becomes a servant or a shopwoman; and she becomes a governess, for the same cause, and in the same way, that a hopelessly ruined man always turns into a coal merchant.

The whole question is, in fact, a material one. Whatever the state of society may be, women will marry as fast as they can, and the more prosperous society is, the more marriages there will be inevitably. The only way to improve the position of woman is to make marriage more easy and more universal; at present the middle-class female population, in a political economical point of view, is entirely unproductive. In consequence, men have to do a vast amount of work which might equally well be performed by women, and therefore this male labour is lost to the State, and the production of the country is as much the smaller. If every woman, not of independent fortune, were not only taught a trade, but actually pursued the trade in practice till she married, women would be independent of marriage, and yet, at the same time, would afford to marry much more safely and readily.

This solution of the "women question" we believe to be the only possible one, but yet it is one to which both of the controversialists on the question would give an indignant denial. The defenders of "the rights of women" despise it, because it ignores all the high views about the mental quality of the sexes and woman's mission. On the other hand, the advocates of our present system dread any innovation of this kind from one simple cause. If women are brought up to support themselves, our whole rule of female education must be thrown overboard. No woman could learn; or pursue, a trade, without getting to know a good deal of life and the working of the world; and in England the contraction of a woman's mind is made as great an object as the contraction of her foot in China. This is the real difficulty which all English social reformers are afraid to face. Till they do so, their efforts will lead to nothing.

STRIKES AND THE WAGES FUND.

It is an unfortunate thing that there is much more complaint against strikes than against the evils of which they are at once the symptom and the expression. The capitalist class complain of them because they are productive of loss, and they rate the working class severely for not understanding or practically believing in the laws of political economy. They tell them about the limitation of the wages fund, and its ratio to population, and offer a rough sum in arithmetic as a consolation for grievances which, not suffering themselves, they represent as inevitable. If it be true—which we believe—that the existing wages fund is not large enough to provide decent human methods of living for the vast swarms of our population, we have no right to expect the sufferers will preserve a contented equanimity and bless the gross inequalities of fortune which leaves them in hovels, and laps "their betters" in palatial luxury. In some shape or another, the sufferings of the less favoured classes will make themselves known, and as the rich acquire daily more means of self-indulgence, the poor will be less disposed to submit to privations, the degradation of which becomes all the more galling and conspicuous by force of contrast with the pomp and splendour that oppresses their hearts and dazzles their eyes. If the wages fund be not sufficient to satisfy the demands of the employed, let us make it more, and instead of abusing the working class for a discontent which is natural, although not always wisely expressed, let the capitalists use their power to remove obstacles which impede, and to obtain facilities which would promote, a better state of things. Some writers attempt to prove that the taxation of the country does not bear unfairly upon industry; but, in spite of all mystification, there can be no doubt that our system of taxation is in more flagrant contradiction to the laws of political

economy, about which we hear so much, than any demands made by striking bricklayers not quite up in their social science or the mechanism of trade.

The builders' strike, as it is commonly called, although it is more properly a "lock-out," has already cost the men more than £25,000 in direct expenditure, and it has placed more than a hundred employers, who foolishly put themselves under the tyranny of a committee, in a position which will make their balance-sheets more instructive than agreeable. The total loss must be something enormous, and has been brought upon the community primarily because there were two hungry oral apertures to one mouthful of cheese. If blame rests upon the men for commencing the strife, still more rests upon the employers for prolonging and embittering it by absurd pretensions of dignity that was too grand for courteous discussion, and by attacks upon the legal rights of the operatives which admit of no defence. But if we look beyond the proximate causes of the struggle, we come to the old story, that the population was in excess of the capital ready to employ them.

If this be a natural state of things resulting from laws or principles beyond human control, we must wait until starvation or some other "check" has checkmated the supernumeraries, and left only the number able to obtain seats at the social feast. Fortunately, we are not called upon to believe anything of the kind. We are the wealthiest people that ever lived, not only absolutely but relatively to our numbers; we raise larger revenues for public purposes than any other country ever had the ability to furnish, and we waste, in mal-administration and extravagance, as many millions a year as would constitute a splendid income for a third-rate power. We have capital that goes begging to be employed by foreign despotisms, and countless stores of undug wealth in a larger colonial empire than ever owned allegiance to a single crown. With these advantages, that suffering which gives rise to strikes ought not to exist amongst us; and instead of talking nonsense about rescuing the working classes from the tyranny of their own associations—a matter which they can settle for themselves—let us endeavour to get rid of the really oppressive tyranny of a fiscal system, which is one of the principal causes of discontent.

The working classes are very united in the belief that their associations are beneficial; and, as an example of their determination to sustain them, we may mention that the Amalgamated Society of Engineers has contributed £2,100 to the builders' strike, the sum being raised by a special levy of half-a-crown on each of their members. Other societies have, in proportion to their numbers, made similar sacrifices, and it is hopeless to expect the men will give up the idea that combinations are necessary for their protection until a much greater demand for labour proves to every one that he is able to take care of himself. It is not too much to expect from a reformed Parliament that it should reduce the national expenditure by at least £10,000,000 a year, and that it should shift the burden of a similar amount from industrial life. Such conduct would offer a good beginning for a practical argument against strikes, which will not cease until employers find it necessary to raise the social condition of the operatives, and give them some interest in the success of the establishments in which they are engaged.

Legal repression will break down, from its manifest injustice. If applied on both sides, the lock-out masters must be convicted for conspiracy to intimidate the men, and threaten them with starvation unless they sign a document—a proceeding quite as objectionable as the threat of the men not to work with those who refuse their shibboleth.

Should this side of the question come before our magistrates and judges, it will be no bad test of their honour and fairness in interpreting the law, which has far too much the character of license for the rich and oppression for the poor.

FRENCH ANIMOSITY.—OUR WINE DUTIES.

We are glad to announce that the alarm to which we referred under this head last week has blown over. The *Times* has virtually confessed itself to have been most grievously misled, though it attempted, very foolishly, to get out of the scrape

by claiming for its exaggerations, addressed only to English prejudices and passions, an influence over the mind of the French Emperor. The failure of this discreditable *ruse* has been clearly demonstrated by the fact that the emanation from the Imperial mind—properly cautioning the French press to be moderate in its expressions against the English people—took an efficient shape before the articles appeared in the *Times*. Our contemporary was successful in exciting momentary alarm and even dismay, to be followed by permanent mistrust in his statements.

As our contemporary has laid aside his simulated terror, he has assumed his right senses, and has begun to advocate, we announce with pleasure, the reduction of duties on the produce of French industry.

THE PRIVATE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

THERE seems to be a growing disposition to drag all kinds of affairs before the public, and to make that heterogeneous body the final judge on the most partial statements of all kind of proceedings. The value of publicity we are fully aware of, and have always maintained it in its extreme permissible extent; but still there is a limit even to liberty itself, and there are bounds to the rights of inquiry, even to newspapers. No business, profession, or calling of any kind, could be successfully carried on if every question were to be taken to the decision of the public. It will be said that this line of argument would tend to repress a necessary publicity; but that is by no means so. Let all public matters be made, to the uttermost, public; but the private conducting of a business, whether of a company or individual, must have its confidential aspect. It could not but be inconvenient to have any discussion of two partners as to the prices they shall give, or the persons they will deal with, published to the world. And what applies to a private partnership applies also to the internal arrangements of a company.

We are led into these remarks by the tone which a mighty contemporary has taken with regard to a highly respectable joint-stock company—"The Liverpool and London Insurance Association." This company was originally established at Liverpool, and virtually belongs to that great commercial city; but, in order to facilitate its metropolitan business, it had a sub-board of directors in London; but it is quite evident that it could not have two governing bodies, and that the London, in this instance, must be subsidiary to the original Liverpool board. Such an arrangement was naturally fraught with inconvenience, and it was extremely likely that any ambitious and litigious director on the London Board could greatly hamper and impede the proceedings of the Parent Directory.

Such a contingency has arisen, and a Mr. Forster, a member of the London Board, has published a pamphlet appealing to the public on a matter strictly official, and, therefore, as we contend, not public. This is just exactly one of those matters with which the public has nothing to do, for it relates to the private administration of the affairs of a trading company. Mr. Forster does not agree with his fellow directors, and troubles them; and they therefore desire to be rid of a companion whom they find is usurping more than his rightful share of power and government. Mr. Forster is voted out of the London Directory, which, after all, even he cannot consider as any great wrong, for he himself says he was preparing to resign immediately.

We have really no interest in the case whatever. We never were in any way connected with the office, and now merely refer to it to point out the very great inconvenience, and, in some instances, damage, that will ensue to important mercantile establishments if their strictly interior arrangements are to be made the subject of public arbitrament, and to be lugged head and shoulders into the columns of the press. Such matters, we repeat, except under very extraordinary and urgent circumstances, are not the fit subject of newspaper discussion. The freedom of the press is invaluable, but so is the freedom of speech; yet a man would be no welcome member of society who chose to set himself as an inquirer and judge of every man's private affairs. One of the great evils of such a system is its breeding endless and bitter discussions; for when once mooted the quarrel becomes general. It is neces-

sary for the ends of justice that both sides be heard. We have not seen either of the pamphlets, but we hear that they are in vehement circulation; and, should the dispute proceed, we shall not hesitate to thoroughly examine a matter which, arising in the great irregularity of making public interior, and consequently confidential, proceedings, has already reached the stage of being as improperly discussed in an *ex parte* manner by one of our most influential daily papers.

BARON DE BOURQUENEY.

M. DE BOURQUENEY, the French plenipotentiary at the recent conferences at Zurich, is a member of a family belonging to the neighbourhood of Zurich, and would, therefore, find himself at home and in the midst of relatives and friends during the protracted term of his diplomatic duties in the Swiss city. He is a most polished, amiable, and agreeable man, and was well fitted for the trying position in which he was placed at Zurich. Over and over again must the balance have fallen from the hands of a less skilful and conciliatory agent than M. de Bourqueney, who never relaxed in his efforts to hold it, even between the Powers of France and Austria, either or both of which long seemed little disposed to terminate diplomatic differences and difficulties by any amicable arrangement. More fortunate, or physically stronger, than the Austrian plenipotentiary, Count Colerado, M. de Bourqueney has survived all the wearisome and embarrassing delays, contradictions, orders, counter-orders, prevarications, subterfuges, and perplexities of every kind to which his Austrian comrade's life may be said to have fallen a sacrifice. Future court chroniclers and important historical tomes will transmit to distant generations details of the mighty deliberations which have so long kept Europe in suspense respecting the Italian question. Ages to come will, doubtless, learn with intense edification that journey after journey was performed between Zurich and Paris, and the former city and Vienna, either by the plenipotentiaries in person or by their deputies, to settle points previously settled on the battle-field, according to all the ordinary rules of right and common sense. For instance, after being driven out of Lombardy at the sword's point, Austria contended for the retention of the most important fortresses of that country, and won her point, too, although the concession was equivalent to annulling the advantage professedly gained for Italy by France. Then the Lombardian debt was another gulf to be bridged over only after an infinitude of delay and discussion. Piedmont hesitated to grant the exorbitant demands made upon her, and rightly, because she well knew that with the famous quadrilateral still in the hands of Austria she should have need enough of her millions to maintain the army required to watch the movement of her neighbour. The denomination of the future kingdom gave rise to no slight contention and suspense; Upper Italy, as desired by Sardinia, was found too comprehensive, while Venice remained to Austria. The iron crown of Monza, which by every law of justice and as a matter of sentiment should have gone with the territory of which it is the symbol, was lost in the war of words; and when all seemed on the eve of final settlement, a new difficulty occurred which threatened to undo what had been done, and condemn the unfortunate plenipotentiaries to the fate of Sisyphus. The Austrian Emperor was difficult as to the precise coin in which he would receive payment for the territory which he had lost and Piedmont won. But at last the day came when matters were declared to be so far arranged that they might be finally settled at a European Congress, though this Congress is still in abeyance, and the latest reports say that Austria refuses to be a party to it, if Mantua and Peschiera are to be treated as federal fortresses. At all events the Zurich Conferences are broken up, and M. de Bourqueney survives the trial of patience to which he has been subjected; but it would seem that his taste for diplomacy is satiated, for it is declared that he has offered his resignation to the French Emperor.

M. de Bourqueney commenced his diplomatic career as secretary to the embassy at Rome, where Chateaubriand was ambassador. After the revolution of 1830 he returned to Paris, and passed through the various grades of diplomatic

routine in the direction of foreign affairs, by which he acquired a thorough knowledge of the details of diplomatic business. In 1834 he came to London with General Sebastiani, as second secretary, and subsequently succeeded M. de Bacourt as first secretary, when that gentleman was appointed minister at Washington. Having a good knowledge of our language and being familiar with our habits, he was quite at his ease among our countrymen, whom he charmed by his amiable and social qualities. It is stated that he was present one evening at a party at Apsley House when music, vocal and instrumental, formed a portion of the entertainment. As usual, however, under such circumstances, it was listened to with indifference amidst the excitement of conversation, card-playing, and the incessant bustle of arrival and departure. Though celebrated as a musical *dilettante* and the intimate associate of such men as Rossini and Meyerbeer, on this occasion M. de Bourqueney scarcely remarked the performance. It was quite by chance that his eye fell upon the concluding *morceau* of the programme he held in his hand, and which was no other than the "Hymn to Waterloo." M. de Bourqueney knit his brows and very naturally felt his sensibility wounded both as a Frenchman and as an official agent of the French Government. General Sebastiani, who was indifferent to music, was playing at whist in an adjoining apartment. To inform him of what was passing was the secretary's first impulse, and he immediately sought the Ambassador, and pointed out to him the unfortunate piece in the programme. The Marshal looked at it and read it mechanically; but suddenly rising, he exclaimed in loud and excited tones: "The Hymn of Waterloo! This is no place for us gentlemen, let us be going! gentlemen, let us go!" and immediately quitted Apsley House leaning on the arm of his secretary and followed by all his *attachés*. It is scarcely necessary to add that the incident was purely accidental. The Duke of Wellington had no more idea than his guests of the contents of the programme, and the following day an explanation was offered and an apology made, which was, of course, accepted.

M. de Bourqueney remained first secretary in London, under the embassies of M. Guizot and M. de St. Aulaire; but when M. Guizot became minister for foreign affairs, he quitted London for Constantinople, where he filled the functions of Ambassador, until the revolution of February. Personally attached to Louis Philippe from whom he had ever received the most marked favour, he was unwilling to serve under the republic. He therefore offered his resignation and retired into private life. As a proof of the amicable relations which existed between the King and M. de Bourqueney, Louis Philippe took care that his ambassador's somewhat epicurean taste should be gratified when he dined at the royal table. Many of those who were guests with him at the Tuileries still remember the deferential air with which he would bow to his Majesty after having gravely tasted some delicate novelty and answer, "Sire, it is perfect."

During the period of his liberation from public affairs he married into the family of Juigné, and thus obtained a standing in the Parisian circles which he did not before possess. Throughout the presidency of Louis Napoleon he remained aloof from public affairs, though he began to weary of this inactivity. Still comparatively young, and capable of rendering useful service to his country, notwithstanding his well known Orleanist predilections, he suffered himself to be persuaded by his friends to accept office. At first, Minister at Vienna, he was afterwards appointed French ambassador at that court by Napoleon III.; and from March, 1854, to the present time has retained the appointment. He has here displayed much tact and ability especially in conducting the difficult and tedious negotiations which resulted in the treaty of December, 1854. It was greatly due to him that the Emperor of Austria was enabled to preserve his neutrality during the Crimean war, and confirm his alliance with the Emperor Napoleon against the Emperor of Russia, his former patron. He was rewarded for these services by receiving the grand cordon of the Legion d'Honneur. In the spring of 1855 it became necessary to empower the French Ambassador at Vienna to meet Messieurs Gortschakoff and Titoff, the Russian envoys. M. de Bourqueney was at first entrusted with the

sole conduct of the negotiations on the part of France while every other power was represented in the Congress by two plenipotentiaries. When the French Government saw reason to revise its decision, and appoint a colleague to act with him, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, Foreign Minister of the Emperor, was dispatched to his assistance.

M. de Bourqueney is now approaching his sixtieth year. Few men have had the opportunity of seeing and studying more of public life than he, and no one is better acquainted with European diplomacy and diplomatists. His long experience and practice, enable him at a glance to seize the contents of a dispatch, and he is thoroughly versed in the history of treaties. In the early part of his career he was much connected with the French press. During General Subastiani's ministry he wrote the leading articles on foreign politics in the *Journal des Debats*, and no doubt the support of that journal has materially aided in his political advancement.

Original Correspondence.

GERMANY.

HANOVER, Nov. 23rd, 1859.

THE *Times*, which is considered by the whole Continent as the mouthpiece of Englishmen, and, at the same time, their oracle, has brought us into a somewhat greater degree of favour with the German press. The alliance with France is regarded as dissolved, and that the two countries are upon the eve of war. It is evident from the articles in the journals and general gossip that this is a consummation most devoutly wished for. Aristocrats and democrats are quite unanimous upon this point, though what they anticipate to gain by it is hard to be conceived. The aristocrats, perhaps, imagine that if England be victorious, the Grace of God principle and police coercion will obtain another fifty years' lease of rule. The democrats hope merely for a general conflagration, be the victory on which ever side it may. The mercantile world are almost in a state of panic at the articles translated from the *Times*, and all commercial transactions are confined to the wants of the moment. It is true, the only apparent foundation for the alarm spread by the *Times* is a statement made by exiles abroad of the vain jabber of a Zouave with a "madam" of his own class. Parisian mud-larks in uniform, Dames de la Halle, and nymphs of the Quartier Latin have become political exponents of the sentiments and desires of the great French nation! Suppose I were to give your readers, in the present dearth of news, the comments which I daily and hourly hear made upon the state of England, the qualities of her people, the conduct of her statesmen, why, I should leave the impression upon the reader's mind that the Germans were the most malicious and bitter enemies of the whole English, or, to chime in with the ignorant folly of the day, Anglo-Saxon race. It signifies, in truth, little what individuals in England may say upon the conduct of foreign affairs, or what their feelings may be towards other nations, but on the Continent the opinion of individuals is not worth a thought, for I know of no country on the Continent where such a thing as public opinion exists. If your correspondent does not follow the example of certain French correspondents of the English press, it is simply because he respects too much the understanding of your readers.

This war alarm is the sole question of interest before the public. We have, indeed, long dispatches upon the affairs of Hussia, from Prussia, Austria, and the Hessian Government, but nobody reads them, and they consequently pass without comment. In Hussia itself the excitement upon the question of a little bit of constitution or no constitution appears to be increasing. The Government, it would seem, has managed to get up a counter-demonstration in favour of despotism. Prussia and the Hanse Towns will vote in the Diet for the restoration of the Constitution of 1831, under condition, of course, that all opposition to the Federal Compact be erased.

It was rumoured, but the rumour appeared of doubtful origin, and therefore I did not take notice of it in my last, that at the laying of the foundation of the Schiller statue, at Berlin, a very ugly disturbance occurred. It is asserted by the liberals that it was a got-up affair—some charge it to the *Kreuz Zeitung's* party; others are so bold as to assert, that if not encouraged, it was at least winked at by the Government.

Some sensation was produced, a few days after the Schiller celebration, by the gratuitous exhibition, in the *Gens d'armes Place*—where the statue is to be erected—of a bronze coloured group of plaster figures, which attracted a vast crowd. Surrounded with costly flowers and rare hot-house plants,

was a dog of middling size; behind it a figure of Frederick the Great, about three feet high, crowned with a fresh laurel wreath; behind this was the figure of Louis Napoleon, with a nightcap on his head, and, resting against the figure was the bust of Robert Blum (the democratic leader, shot at Vienna, 10th November, 1848).

The Berlin public have been puzzling their heads for a solution of this supposed allegory, but it would seem without success. The police thinking, possibly, that it was merely a freak to attract a crowd, impounded the whole group.

The police have also prohibited the performance of a very popular farce entitled "Casar Bock,"—Casar the Billy-goat, in consequence of the complaint of the French Embassy, the farce being founded upon scenes in the life of the Emperor of the French.

It was reported last week that Prussia would propose in the Diet the fortification of the coasts of the North Sea, but up to the present nothing positive has transpired. It is said, however, that the Prussian minister at Frankfurt is in possession of instructions upon the subject, and most probably, the proposal will be made at the next meeting.

The Austrian papers rather nonchalantly inform the world that the Emperor has commanded the deficit in the treasury to be covered by next year, nor do they appear to doubt the facility of the compliance. To do so would be to doubt the superiority of the despotic over the representative system of government. The papers are silent, though not remarkably so, upon the restless state of the Slavonic nations. The clue to the silence of the journals is found in the almost daily polite recommendations of the new police minister, who by no means desires to interfere with the legitimate freedom of the press, as he observed on his acceptance of office, but of course the discussion of affairs of government might cause the authorities some embarrassment, and therefore he must recommend the journals to abstain. To so polite a recommendation it would be rude not to acquiesce. The journals have therefore refrained from noticing the trial of a priest charged with a certain carnal crime, but instead of suppressing curiosity this secrecy only increases it, and the stories in circulation are probably much worse than the reality.

The address of the Hungarian Protestants, as was anticipated, has been rejected. Among the mass of festival reports which have filled the German journals during the last two weeks I select the following description of the scene at the Working Men's Educational Association of Hamburg. After some preliminary amusements and ceremonies the audience were requested to arise from their seats, whereupon a Mr. Ulex addressing the bust of Schiller, said:—

"To thee, more than to any other mortal, was lent the power of song; thou, more than any poet before thee, knewest to combine mildness with strength; thou taughtest the profoundest wisdom and the purest virtue, and courageously, as no other before thee, wast thou the herald of the rights of man and of liberty."

"Behold here 1,000 working men who fondly love thee, and who desire to consecrate to thee some visible sign of their grateful acknowledgements. It possesses no value beyond what the sentiment with which it is given imparts to it. They have chosen this laurel wreath, with which they now, through me, decorate thy brow (placing the wreath upon the head of the image)."

"But with such outward show, which thou thyself valuest so little, it does not end. We would wish to afford thee, in the future, proofs of our earnest endeavours to imitate thee. I request, therefore, the members of the Association to raise their right hands. In thy spirit, oh! Schiller, to live; morally to perfect ourselves; to cultivate the good and beautiful; to fight for right, truth, and freedom—all this we promise!"

"Let us confirm this promise with a thousand times repeated loud-toned 'Ja!'"

"In all times of trial, in all times of temptation, when the monitor—conscience—knocks at our breasts, then we will think on this hour, and the spirit of Schiller will guide us in the right way, and save us from future repentance. We will strengthen our courage when we shall be called upon to stake our all for the land of our fathers."

"And now to keep this celebration alive in our memory, the following proposal shall be made at our next grand meeting:—1. That a memorial with the image of Schiller and the promise just made, shall ornament the hall of the Association. 2. That annually, on the second Sunday in November, the Association shall hold a festival in remembrance, and the above promise called to mind."

"Strengthened by the consciousness of this good intention we will now with heartfelt thankfulness give a threefold thundering '*Lebe hoch*.'"

"And now with united voices let us sing the incomparable song '*An die Freude*.' The singing

of this song terminated, as the reports state, this glorious festival, and the guests separated at four in the morning, in "weihervoll geregter Stimmung," which cannot be better translated than by the chorus of "Willie brewed a peck o' maut" :—

"We're no that fou, we're no that fou,
But just a drapple in our e'e," &c.

Your readers perceive by the above specimen that the admiration of Schiller is but little short of adoration. Such being the state of the public mind, imagine the effect of the following cruel cut on the part of the French *Univers*:—"Cynical in his 'Robbers,' heathen in his 'Gods of Greece,' democratic in certain hymns to liberty, pantheistic everywhere, a fanatical Protestant in his 'Revolt of the Low Countries' and in his 'Thirty Years' War,' playing the Catholic in his 'Mary Stuart' and 'Maid of Orleans'—such is Schiller, and such the age which celebrates him. It is true that while Schiller the democrat gained the applause of the men of blood, and the enemies of his country, Schiller the Conservative, lived from the benevolence of the Duke of Weimar. If with all this Schiller was a genius, he was the genius of confusion or of equivocation," &c., &c.

It was reported that a new law relating to the Jews in Austria would be issued. This is now contradicted, but an official statement has gone forth that the Israelites will be relieved from all the restrictions laid upon them since 1851.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

ITALIAN OPERA, DRURY-LANE. — On Monday there was no performance. On Tuesday a very crowded house applauded to the echo Middle. Titiens, who, with the demoiselles, Vaneri and Borchardt, and Signori Giuglini, Aldighieri, and Vialletti, gave an admirable performance of the "Huguenots," and thus brought Mr. Smith's season, or series of seasons, to a triumphant, and, we believe we may this time speak with certainty a definitive close.

THE PROMENADE CONCERTS.—While Mr. E. L. Blanchard puts the finishing touch to the libretto and Mr. Beverley to the scenery of the Grand Christmas Pantomime, the lessee has prudently availed himself of an offer of a fortnight's rent, and this *salle* opens this evening, for a series of fourteen promenade concerts *a la Jullien*. The scheme is under the direction of an efficient committee, who have engaged Mr. Manns, of the Crystal Palace, as Director, Madame Lemmens Sherrington as *prima donna*, and Herr Wieniawski as first violin extraordinary. The prices are, of course, as of old.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—On Wednesday was presented, under the short title of "Gossip," a fairly successful adaptation, by Messrs. T. Williams and A. Harris, of a French vaudeville, called "Les Femmes Terribles." The moral of the tale, which it takes a couple of acts to enforce, is, "Avoid Gossip;" and Mrs. Charles Young and Mr. Ryder, with Messrs. Bland, Meadows, and Shore, succeeded fully in impressing the value of silence upon the more critical portion of their hearers. The idea of creating an imbroglio by giving scandalous colour to a husband's attentions to his wife, is a smart one, and would have fully furnished forth a farce of thirty-five minutes; but to prolong, or as the mathematicians say, to "produce" it into a comedy of two hours' long, is giving one almost too much of a good thing. Mrs. Young as *Mrs. Chatterton*, the gossiping, social nuisance so familiar to playgoers, and others, both at home and abroad, is fairly amusing. Messrs. Ryder and Bland are out of their element; and Messrs. Meadows and Shore—more especially the latter—are particularly at home in the parts allotted to them. Mr. Shore's performance of *Horace Cleveland* deserves to be singled out from the rest as an artistic *morceau*. The piece was very favourably received by "the general," and will no doubt hold the stage for a longer period than some of the more ambitious productions and revivals of the season. The talents of Miss Keeley continue to be the theme of conversation, both in and outside of the theatrical world. Her *Nelly*, in "Nursery Chickweed," and *Puss*, in the little piece of that name, have stamped her as an actress of mark, and fit to succeed, should time ever demand so regrettable an abdication, to the laurels of her mother.

NEW MUSIC.

With the chrysanthemums and the other heralds of Christmas-tide comes the annual flood of new music. Messrs. Chappell take the lead, among the classical publishers, with their *Monday Popular Concert Library*, of which the first number contains Dussek's

brilliant sonata in B flat, as performed at the St. James's Hall, by Miss Goddard and Herr Joachim. Their *Bijoux Perdus*—the buried treasures are supposed to have been exhumed from the old composers, and are fitted with judicious variations by Miss Arabella Goddard—is again a most interesting publication. Among pieces of the fashionable class, those published by Messrs. Cramer and Co. are prominent in number and quality. From them we have received several pieces by the facile Rene Favarger. The drawing-room studies of this favourite composer, neither over elaborate nor insolently common-place, have already gained a high place in the esteem of accomplished amateurs and conscientious teachers which it is hardly in our power to enhance. His "Fantasia on Flotow's Martha," and that on "Guillaume Tell," deal brilliantly with the most popular *morceaux* of those operas. The variations in the former of them upon the "M'Appari," and the spinning-wheel quartette, are most ingenious and melodic. From the same firm we have also a sparkling Bolero, "Perle d'Espagne" in C minor; a graceful, melodious, and truly dreamy *Réverie* in B flat, entitled "Blumen und Thranen;" and a brilliant "Fantasie Caprice" on Macfarren's "Mayday;" all by Polydore de Vos.

Messrs. Cramer's contribution of vocal music also demands notice. To begin badly; their "Dinah," a ballad from "Adam Bede," may be dismissed as a miserable production. "The Open Window" (words by Longfellow), set to music by Walter Maynard, is an easy and agreeable melody of the banjo school, captivating to the young singer, though not to the adept. Of the "Twas but a Word," by the same composer, who, gifted though he be, must sometimes be allowed to nap, we have little good to say. The words of "Oh tell me, shall my Love be Mine," written by John Ellison, are imbued with a sweet old feeling, and the composer, Mr. Henry Smart, has aptly wedded a charming strain of the classic German school to the poet's lay. A "Cradle Song," by the same accomplished hand, is pleasing and musically meritorious. We have not scrupled to condemn one solitary production of Mr. Linley; we ought in fairness to allude to his "Hetty," a romantic ballad, also from "Adam Bede;" the study of which, with proper regard to accent, will repay any professional or amateur of taste. Mr. Linley's "Little Sophy," from "What will he do with it?" is, again, a charming *morceau de salon* for voices of the sympathetic order. The "Muriel" (from John Halifax) of the same *maestro*, is a plaintive melody of the same cast as the preceding, and in no respect falls short of his latest style.

The title of Messrs. Cramer and Co.'s "Old English Ditties," speaks for itself. We shall, in future numbers, endeavour to convey to such of our readers as may at present be unacquainted with it, some idea of the fragments whereof this glorious collection is constructed. At present we can only draw their attention to it generally. The Irish melodies have so long ruled the roast that justice demands some attention to those of dear old merry England—as it was. We have in Mr. Oxenford, the poet and word adapter, an infinitely less awkward and reckless operator than was, in many instances, the late Mr. Thomas Moore, whose adaptations to some of the Irish melodies will cease—"when credit's done where credit's due"—to be highly thought of by his gentle and simple panegyrists. For the time being, we content ourselves with commending this charming collection, in the confection of which Messrs. G. A. Macfarren and Oxenford have wrought with proper and successful love for the mediæval melodists, to the notice of all appreciative amateurs.

LONDON SINGERS IN DUNDEE.—A concert more fraught with interest and instruction could not be produced than that of the past Saturday evening. Madame Rudersdorff's rendering of "She Wore a Wreath of Roses," was one of the finest specimens of expressive singing we ever listened to. Nor was Miss Palmer's singing of "The Three Fishers" less exquisite. The style in which she gives the lines

"For men must work, and women must weep,
For there's little to earn, and many to keep,"

is most eloquent—grandly simple. These two artistes in the songs above mentioned moved many hearts, and tears to the latter were shed by not a few. Mr. Thomas was successful in all he did; he has a splendid voice, and sings with style and finish. Mr. Ferron, who had quite recovered his illness, proved himself a first-rate tenor, second to none who has yet visited Dundee. He has a very fine voice, and sings most gracefully, and with much expression. Herr Molique's violin playing was, as before, pure in tone, and strictly classical in execution; and Signor Randegger's accompaniments were unexceptionable.—*Dundee Telegraph*, Nov. 19.

Miss WYNDHAM has left the Olympic Theatre.

One would imagine that this lady would have been loath to quit a house in which, rather late in her career, she had gained all her histrionic reputation—although it must be owned Miss Wyndham is more celebrated for her personal appearance than her abilities as an actress. It transpires, however, that having failed to induce the management to cast her for a part in a piece to be performed at Court—a part in which she originally appeared, but one which she subsequently relinquished to another—she threw up her engagement, and her "resignation" was accepted. It was represented to Miss Wyndham that a third party was named for the part, and not by the management; but the lady *couldn't* believe that, and accordingly insisted upon going. We wonder what her reflections are now that she is *gone*! That, however, is her business, and mere speculation for the green-room. Managers are often sorely tried in this manner, because favourite actors and actresses will over-estimate their own value and importance.—*Entracte*.

THE ALHAMBRA, LEICESTER-SQUARE.—The equestrian entertainments here have been varied by the introduction of a real live trained bull, answering to the name of "Juan," who jumps over hurdles and through hoops, and performs all manner of antics in a way that speaks volumes for the ability of his trainers.

MANNING THE NAVY.—The mode of manning the navy dates from the days of the Tudors. As the Great Harry was manned in the fifteenth, so is the Royal Albert manned in the nineteenth century; with this difference, the former obtained her men more rapidly and more systematically. The crews during the war succeeding the French revolution, not to go farther back, were composed of volunteers (bounty attracted men eager to desert) and impressed seamen, with a sprinkling of adventurers, to whom the alternative of a prison or a ship of war was offered, and of sturdy vagrants obnoxious to parish authorities. At sea they were ironed, started, and flogged arbitrarily. Spiked collars were fastened round the necks of the lazy, and pump bolts were tied, bit fashion, in the mouths of the fractious. Complaints were answered by abuse, remonstrances by the lash. The test of the Roman legionaries' discipline was obtained. The men feared their officers more than the enemy. In harbour the scene was changed. The ship's lower decks became then stews filled with the refuse of the sex; and each seaport contained congeries of grog shops, dancing houses and brothels, where publican, Jew and courtizan conspired to relieve the sailor of his money and his self-respect. Divisions on the upper decks, and Divine service on Sundays, were the weekly tribute paid to order and decorum. The medal had two sides. The face of it represented a half naked sailor tied to a grating, with a surgeon near him to note how many lashes his constitution could bear. On one side of him were the officers in full uniform, and the marines drawn up with loaded pieces and fixed bayonets. On the other side his shipmates were confusedly grouped, cowed and quivering. The reverse of the medal represented the sailor, arrayed in nautical finery, reeling along a street, supported on either side by a prostitute and preceded by a fiddler. Loyalty and Dibdin's songs saved the sailor in those days from utter degradation. Christian England, with national existence at stake, tolerated this state of things, but with that ensured she deplored and denounced it. The sailor had been a thinking animal: he must become a reflecting being. He must be weaned from habits of debauchery and recklessness, and become a virtuous economical individual. Progressively, from decade to decade, his condition became improved. Regular pay, warm clothing, wholesome food, and prospective advantages, seemed calculated to induce love for the service. But the calculation proved erroneous. The monastic monotony of life in a line-of-battle ship remained the same; and indications were not wanting to show that the articles of war were only in abeyance. The feeling in regard of the navy underwent no perceptible change, judging by the entry barometer. In 1819 ships required from sixty to eighty days to man. Forty years later, in 1859, on the eve of a European strife, when no real grievance could be adduced by the seamen, the First Lord of the Admiralty informed the House of Commons that several ships commissioned since the preceding autumn had required severally from eighty to 100 days to man. During forty years the navy had known and deplored the capricious uncertainty of manning ships, but the fact had never before been officially announced to the country. The statement amounted to a recognition of the want of organisation to man a fleet on an emergency, while, as it was made, trained men were known to be forthcoming at a week's notice on the other side of the Channel, not only for ships afloat, but for ships on the stocks, with men in reserve for the casualties of a general action.—*Slade*.

COMMERCIAL.

BANKRUPTCY.

THE deputation which waited on Lord Palmerston informs us that commercial men do not mean to rest contented with the present condition of the bankruptcy law. They are right. They ought not to suffer their property to be appropriated by the lawyers on pretence of doing justice. Circumstances are continually arising which demonstrate their increasing importance in the social scale. At this moment the preservation of the peace of Europe depends more on them than on the diplomatists. They are continually extending and cementing the friendly relations between different and distant nations, and establishing a community of good. They may be justified, therefore, in holding up their heads, and in informing lawyers and politicians very plainly that they will not permit their interests to be sacrificed to the theories of the latter or the selfishness of the former. At the same time they must not call on the rest of the community to bear the burden of any want of discretion on their parts. For any unavoidable misfortunes which first reach them the community, on the principle of assurances, may be expected to take its share; but it cannot be expected to establish and pay courts to collect bad debts for them which should never have been contracted. A bankruptcy code and a bankruptcy court to secure creditors from loss, is a temptation to indiscretion and an encouragement of fraud.

All the expenses of bankruptcy, and of collecting and distributing the bankrupts' property, *pro rata*, amongst his creditors, should fall on the property. The great difficulty is to find men with sufficient skill to manage the estate to the best advantage, and such consummate impartiality as to deal fairly with all the creditors. A merchant or dealer—generally a creditor—is capable of collecting the property, and making the best use of it, but he cannot be relied on to make a fair distribution. He will be partial to himself or his friends. A lawyer necessarily wants the mercantile skill to manage the property. Were the matter left pretty much to the course of trade, without any regulation by law and in the hands of the parties chiefly interested, we fancy that a class of men, something like accountants or provisional assignees, would naturally come into existence, who would unite both skill and impartiality, and who, subject to public control, and especially the control of all the parties connected with the bankrupt property, would be best adapted to discharge these complicated duties. We are quite sure that no court merely of law and lawyers will ever satisfy the mercantile classes; and equally certain that no mere merchant, dealer or creditor will ever satisfy conflicting creditors. We hope that Sir R. Bethell, to whose care the matter is committed, will give this principle his consideration, and direct his exertions towards facilitating the mercantile classes in forming amongst themselves a separate profession, which, somewhat analogous to accountants, shall make it their business to collect and distribute, sanctioned by the authority of law, the estates of bankrupts.

"PLAN FOR A SECURE PAPER CURRENCY."—(MR. WILSON.)

THIS is the title of the last of a series of papers which appeared in the *Economist*, on the subject of the currency, in 1847, and are now published in a book with the name of the Right Hon. James Wilson. The volume will be found very useful to inquirers into the abstruse subjects of capital, currency, and banking, but it does not fall within the scope of this part of our journal to criticise *in extenso* any class of publication. We must say, however, that we fully share Mr. Wilson's views as to the best species of paper currency, though we dissent from his opinion that a "plan" is necessary to establish a secure paper currency. Many plans have given us insecure and fraudulent paper currencies—paper currencies which are said to be actual payments, and are only promises to pay; but no plan is needed to allow bankers to carry on their business—like any other tradesmen—in their own way, and supply all their customers, if they choose to accept them, with

any kind of credit-notes they find convenient. That "banks, openly and freely competing with each other, without any legal restriction whatever," would naturally supply such a credit currency—which would, as naturally, with free competition, always be of equal value to the money it promised to pay, because for that it could always be exchanged—is very clearly demonstrated by Mr. Wilson, both by theory and experience. But Mr. Wilson, after demonstrating this, goes no further than the barren demonstration.

"We have considered it needful," he says, "thus to express our conviction of the unfounded character of the alarm which exists with reference to free trade, as applied to banking, even by those who advocate the principle as applicable to all other branches of trade. With the present views entertained by the public in England, however, and the general state of our banking business, we would not advocate the introduction of this system, however unobjectionable it may be in principle."

There is the mind of the well-informed politician laid open. He sees the right, but he will by no means insist on its being done. He defers to the "present views," which he writes down as erroneous. He, therefore, in fact—and this is a general description of all politicians who have given themselves the trouble, or been, from any circumstances, forced to investigate principles—patronises error. He and they are far worse than the ignorant mob they often revile, for these are honest and sincere, and believe in the truth and goodness and efficiency of the principles they stand up for; but the expounding politicians know principles to be wrong, and yet, in practice, with all their might, with all their power, daily exercised in office, they give effect to the wrong. We are content generally to permit politicians to pursue this objectionable and immoral course. It is a part of their lives—it is the soul of their art; but when we find it avowed in a book, we must suspect that the whole of its contents may be wanting in honesty and sincerity, and put it aside, fearing lest we may be deceived into the wrong, rather than encouraged to persevere in the right. Like Mr. Wilson, we are thoroughly satisfied that the principle of free trade is as applicable to banking as every other business—that this principle, if politicians would permit its operation, would be sure to give every community and every locality secure credit currency; but, unlike him, we cannot put this conviction aside, and lend our power and our presence to support an opposite principle. All men may do wrong unknowingly, but all honest men decline to do wrong knowingly.

MONEY MARKET & STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday Evening.

THE Money Market is very quiet. There is no alteration in the terms, and no activity in business. Money is in good demand, but the supply is equally good. Uncertainty continues in the political world, and enterprise continues slack. In the Stock-Exchange the market in the week has had a tendency upwards, but it was very slight. To-day Consols were done at 96½, but large sales were made for money, and before the close of the market they declined to 96¼ sellers. No political rumours affected the market; they went rather in favour of confidence, but the large sales of one house had more influence than politics. From Paris the report of the Bourse was favourable, bringing the Three per Cents. at 70f. 25c., an advance of ¼ per cent.

The railways all look well. The traffic returns are favourable, and great hopes are entertained that they must improve. One of the features of the week, indeed, is a large extension of railway work. Numerous bills are announced for the formation of new lines and the extension of old ones. The time is favourable; iron is cheap; labour is comparatively plentiful; the rate of interest is low; capital is seeking means of profit; trade is flourishing; and other circumstances—if the projectors and directors be only prudent and careful—are favourable to their success.

A curious illustration of the probable effects of war is to be found in a "Letter to the members of the Equitable Society," just published by C. and E. Layton, Fleet-street, referring to the bonuses distributed by this company. C. J. Bunyon, Esq., the author, complains of the reduction in the bonus, and points out this—it is partly the consequence of a comparatively low price of the funds. The company has £3,000,000 in Consols, and a fall of 20 per cent. in them would be sufficient to swallow up the whole of its surplus. In consequence of the present warlike preparations, he says, "to retain such an in-

vestment is an infatuation." The pamphlet will, no doubt, receive the attention of the members of the Equitable; and is even worthy of extensive circulation.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, the 23rd day of November, 1859:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued.....	£30,803,080	Government Debt £11,015,100
		Other Securities... 3,459,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion 16,330,080
		Silver Bullion
	£30,803,080	£30,803,080

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital.....	£14,553,000	Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....	£10,925,15
Reserve.....	3,185,572	Other Securities.....	19,058,50
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	8,062,071	Notes.....	9,640,12
Other Deposits.....	15,662,550	Gold and Silver Coin.....	655,58
Seven Day and other Bills.....	815,776		
	£40,279,369		£40,279,369

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated November 24, 1859.

PRICES OF THE
PRINCIPAL STOCKS AND SHARES
AT THE CLOSE OF THE MARKET.

	Last Week	This Week
STOCKS.		
3 per cent. Consols—Money	96½	94½
Ditto Reduced	95	94½
Ditto New	227	94½
Bank Stock	224	94½
India	31	27
Exchequer Bills	114	115½
Canada Government 6 per cent.	113½	112½
New Brunswick Government 5 per cent.	102	102
New South Wales Government 6 per cent.	113	113
South Australia Government 6 per cent.	107	108
Victoria Bonds, 5 per cent.	101½	102½
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent.	69-65	69-65
French Rentes, 3 per cent.	22½	22½
Mexican Bonds, 4½ per cent.	44½	44½
Spanish Bonds, 3 per cent.	78½	78½
Turkish Scrip, 6 per cent.	78½	78½
RAILWAYS.		
Bristol and Exeter	101	101
Caledonian	90½	91½
Eastern Counties	55	55
East Lancashire	101½	102½
Great Northern	94½	95½
Western	96½	97
Lancashire and Yorkshire	65½	65
London and Blackwall	113	113½
London, Brighton, and South Coast	95½	95½
London and North-Western	95	95
London and South-Western	105½	106
Midland	44½	44½
North British	13½	13½
North Staffordshire	35	34½
Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton	77½	78½
South-Eastern	71	73
South Wales	96	96
Bombay, Baroda and Central India	par	par
Calcutta and South Eastern	34½	34½
Eastern Bengal	100½	101½
East Indian	98	98
Great Indian Peninsula	80	80
Madras	104	104
Scinde	44	44
Buffalo and Lake Huron	38	37
Grand Trunk of Canada	13½	13½
Great Western of Canada	47	46
Antwerp and Rotterdam	44½	44½
Dutch Rhenish	25½	25½
Eastern of France	6	7
Great Luxembourg	11½	11½
Lombardo-Venetian	37½	37½
North of France	35½	35½
Paris, Lyons, and Mediterranean	55	55
Paris and Orleans	20	20
Southern of France	21½	21½
Western and North-Western of France ..	22½	22½

GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

TRADE continues, in the main, steady and extensive. The changes to report are unimportant. To-day, in Mark-lane, the corn-market was steady, with a tendency to firmness rather than otherwise. The rise in the price of wheat, which took place last week, sufficed to encourage the farmers to become diligent in thrashing and sending a large quantity of wheat to market. In consequence, the rise in price which we have noticed for two weeks, was not continued, and at Wolverhampton, Newark, and other places, the price fell. With firmer markets in the United States, with flour dearer in Spain and wheat dearer in France than in England, and markets rising in almost all the places of supply, we must still hold to our warning—in spite of the large stocks of grain said to be in England—that the price of corn will for some time have an upward tendency.

Sugar has been rather active in the week, and prices have advanced 6d. per cwt. Other articles have been generally steady, with a good demand for consumption.

The cotton market, in spite of the very loose crop in the United States, continues firm.

The wool market is in the same condition. At the public sales of foreign and colonial wool, in the week, the attendance of both home and foreign buyers was large, and the biddings for the finer descriptions improved. Sydney and Port Phillip qualities were sought after, and prices were better. Cape wools had also been in greater request. For the materials of clothing, then, the demand continues good, notwithstanding very large supplies. The multitude, in fact, needs clothing, and the increased demand is an evidence that civilisation is increasing and extending. We may be quite sure, in consequence, that our manufacturers are well employed.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

MEDICAL, INVALID, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

THE 18th annual meeting was held at two o'clock on Thursday, at the Head Office, Pall Mall, Sir Thomas Phillips in the chair. Mr. C. D. SINGER (the Secretary) read the usual voluminous reports on the Home and Indian business, the auditors' report, and the financial statements. The various documents read received the unequivocal approbation and approval of the meeting. It appeared by the directors' report that during the twelvemonths ending 30th June, 1859, the number of proposals received was 1,133 for assurances amounting to £659,526 10s., of which 920 were accepted for sums amounting to £539,126 10s., and 784 have resulted in policies assuring £417,328 2s. 2d., producing in annual premiums from new business £17,983 1s. 1d. The total amount assured during the last five years was £2,482,798 16s. 11d., being nearly half a million sterling per annum. The mortality in respect of European assurances has occasioned, during the year, eighty-three claims on sixty-seven lives assured for £26,241 5s. 11d. The total number of policies now in force is 6,110, assuring £2,601,925, and the present amount of annual premiums is £112,627 17s. The total income being £121,263 7s. 7d. The total accumulated funds on the 30th June last, as shown by the auditors' report, amounts to £251,835 5s. 9d. The two directors who retired, by rotation were Thomas Stevenson, Esq., F.S.A. and Robert Bentley Todd, M.D., F.R.S., and the two auditors retiring were John Stirling Taylor, Esq., and Joseph Whitehouse, Esq., who being eligible were re-elected.

Mr. C. GRENVILLE MANSEL sought some explanation from Mr. Tait, the Secretary of the Indian Branch, with regard to the business transacted in India in the year ending the 30th of June, 1857, previous to the mutiny, and that for the year which closed with the 30th of June in the current year. As one of the directors of the "Agra Bank," and from having spent nearly all his life in India, he knew well the difficulties that the society had had to encounter, and therefore he imagined it would be exceedingly satisfactory to the Shareholders, and to their friends in India, to learn, from the figures appertaining to those two periods, how far the society had rallied from the financial effects of the mutiny.

Mr. TAIT afforded the requisite information, saying that during the period of the mutiny, as the Delhi and other banks ceased to transact business, and from these channels they procured the great mass of their business, the number of policies issued fell, as they might imagine, to a small number; but, the business transacted during the year ending June, 1859, when public confidence had been greatly restored, was only 10 per cent. less than that of 1857, testifying, unmistakably, that the resources of the company were nearly the same as before the mutiny (cheers); in fact he was confident that they would transact a larger business than at any former period, as, since the close of the financial year, there had been a great augmentation of business.

Mr. MANSEL said it afforded him much pleasure to inform the shareholders, from the best sources of information, that the prospects of the Company in India were never brighter. The pacification of the country, the construction of railways, and the consequent augmentation of commerce, combined with the universal good conferred by the large sums disbursed by the company in the payment of claims, must all alike materially tend to benefit the society. (Hear, hear.) The Indian branch was managed by gentlemen of the very highest standing and influence, and their administration of its affairs was most excellent. Doubtless, Mr. Wilson would succeed in restoring the finances of India to something like a rational equilibrium, and the time could not be far distant when India would present a far better field for

British enterprise than during any former period of her history. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing a cordial vote of thanks to the Indian directors for the great zeal and ability with which they had conducted the affairs of the company, remarked that the occurrence of such a disaster as that which had befallen this and other assurance companies, had never entered into the calculation of their originators, for such a circumstance was almost without precedent in historical annals. Taking a review of the general business of the company at home and abroad during the last three years, it appeared that the assets of the company had been augmented instead of deteriorated, to the extent of £20,000, as compared with the amount at which they stood in the years 1857. This statement was gratifying, and taken also in connexion with the fact that a large sum of money disbursed must have been of the greatest advantage to the recipients. (Cheers.) Their thanks were most especially due to the Calcutta and Madras branches, and their secretary, Mr. Tait.

Mr. STREETER seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. TAIT briefly returned thanks. The Indian directors were gentlemen of eminent social position and of large experience, and after the difficulties they had had to encounter they would be pleased to learn that their labours were fully appreciated at home. It would be gratifying no doubt to the shareholders to learn that their society transacted the largest life assurance business in the eastern hemisphere (Cheers). The business in India was rapidly increasing, and the funds likewise.

The CHAIRMAN adverted to the claim which this and other companies had upon the Government for compensation for the losses which they sustained through the mutiny. The Government had appropriated £1,000,000 to compensate such as had been thereby damaged; and surely, seeing that the losses had been sustained through the paid servants and soldiers of the Government, the claim they were about to support by a memorial was both on moral and legal grounds unanswerable. A disaster so horrible as a general massacre had never entered into their business calculations, and he confessed he saw no difference between the Government compensating their own servants and assurance offices. Such risks were entirely out of the category of life assurance risks.

Mr. MACPHERSON intimated that the Government intended to replenish the funds of societies established in India, for the benefit of civil and military servants and their widows, though at a former period they had repudiated all claim for succour, even if their condition became insolvent. This augured well for the success of the application of the directors. He considered that the life assurance offices possessed a strong claim for compensation.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, the directors, and the Secretary terminated the proceedings.

THE PHOENIX LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY have announced a further issue of shares for the purpose of extending the marine insurance department. Already in active operation, this branch of the establishment is making steady progress, but with the view of strengthening the position of the capital it is proposed to offer the remaining portion of the unallotted shares, so as to bring the total up to £200,000. The shares are £5 each; applications to be accompanied with a deposit of £1, and a further payment of £1 per share is to be made on allotment, it being anticipated that no additional call will be required.

The extraordinary profits realised by the Hon. Col. Douglas Pennant, from the celebrated Penrhyn Quarries, amounting, it has been stated, to between £100,000 and £200,000 per annum; and by the present owners from those of the late Mr. Assheton Smith, at Llanberis, have invested the Bangor Slate Quarries with an interest unequalled by any others in the known world. The remarkable series of slate veins in these quarries produce slates for all purposes superior to those of any other group, in the principality—hence the extraordinary demand for Bangor slates, which demand is still annually increasing, and which defies the most strenuous efforts of capital and labour adequately to supply. In our advertising columns will be found a prospectus of the Talysarn Slate Company, which has been established for the purpose of extending the working of the freehold slate quarries, long known as the Talysarn Quarries, for many years the property of, and worked by, the late eminent and wealthy goldsmiths of Ladgate-hill—Rundell, Bridge and Co. These quarries, which are on the identical veins of slate traversing the Penrhyn and Llanberis Quarries, were partially developed by their late owners, and are now to be worked on a scale commensurate with their real importance, by which in a few years they are likely to rival the largest quarries in the county. The whole estate, which is upwards of 70 acres in

extent, is slate rock, and the transit of slates from the quarries to the shipping port of Carnarvon is effected by means of the Nantlle Railway, which runs through the quarries, the present cost being 2s. 8½d. per ton for carriage from the quarries to the ship. Another railway, however, of only one-half the distance, has been projected from the quarries to the sea, which will ultimately lead to diminished cost of transit, and facilitate the removal of all the waste rock to the sea. In the detailed prospectus will be found reports from the managers of the Bangor, Penyrorsedd, and Halvotly Quarries, and an admirable and most convincing statistical statement, showing a profit, within two years, of at least £10,000 per annum, or 20 per cent. on the capital, which will be gradually augmented year by year as the workings are extended, the supply of slate rock being literally inexhaustible. Mr. William Jones, of the firm of Jones Brothers, of Wharf-road, City-road, and Pimlico, slate merchants, has also added his testimony to the foregoing, and by his opinion has stamped a high value on the property of the company. The directors are all well-known City men of high standing, and the appointments of the company appear unexceptionable; and, in all respects, the manner in which this undertaking has been placed before the public reflects the highest credit on all concerned; the most scrupulous exactitude seems to have been observed in all its details.—*Mining Journal.*

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

THE CENTRAL OUDE RAILWAY COMPANY, on the 1st Sept., called up 2s. 6d. per share, on the strength of a contemplated amalgamation with the Oude Railway Company. According to the report recently issued by the latter, this cannot be done, and some of the shareholders urge that the call ought therefore at least to be returned.

The BRIGHTON RAILWAY traffic return shows this week an increase of £1,085.

Parliamentary notices have been given with reference to a new railway through the northern part of the City, to connect the Great Northern line with a large and convenient terminus close to the Bank of England. It will pass by the side of Gray's-inn-road to a station at Gray's-inn, thence by a viaduct across Holborn-valley to Smithfield, thence near Barbican, with a goods station at Fore-street, and so across London-wall to a large available area at the back of Tokenhouse-yard, within 340 feet of the Bank. The route, which is brought forward with the concurrence of the Great Northern Board, will be above ground through the whole distance.

The ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY COMPANY took place on Wednesday. From the report which was adopted it appeared that the works were proceeding with all the rapidity possible, but some difficulty had been experienced in obtaining possession of the land. It had been determined not for the present to attempt the construction of the bridge across the Ganges, on account of the great expense. In consequence of a slip of land having been granted by the Government, the company's station would be extended to the River Hooghly, and near to Calcutta. Owing to the large amount paid in advance, there would be no call during the present year. The directors had appointed Mr. Hawkshaw, C.E., in the place of the lamented Mr. Brunel, as consulting engineer.

At the special meeting of the GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF CANADA COMPANY a resolution was brought forward for allowing the directors to exchange the mortgages held by them for a loan of £250,000 to the Detroit and Milwaukee Railway Company for a like amount of preference shares to be issued by the latter company, who would also grant a fresh mortgage of their property. The subject led to some discussion, but the resolution was carried by a large majority.

IMPROVED PASSENGER ACCOMMODATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.—The announcement of a proposal to establish an English Steamship Company in the Mediterranean has been favourably received, as it will supply a want long felt, and which French traders and travellers are the first to recognise. The Messageries Impériales have virtually the whole Mediterranean coasting trade in their hands, with the exception of the Marseilles, Malta, and Alexandria line, and, as is generally the case where there is no competition, the accommodation is of the worst description, and the charges are most exorbitant. If to these disagreeables be added the fact, that the officers and crews are rarely civil, and often impertinent to English and American ladies, it will be readily understood how all who have occasion to travel in the Mediterranean are disposed to welcome an English company, which will ensure moderate charges, punctuality, civility, and cleanliness. The following correspondence has also appeared in the

Times on this subject:—"The London and Mediterranean Steam Navigation Company (Limited), 16, Bishopsgate-street-within, Nov. 22.—Sir: The attention of the directors of the company has been called to a notice in the Money Article of the *Times* of to-day that a correspondent interested in the General Iron Screw Collier Company desired to protest against any inference being drawn from the prospectus of this company that the vessels employed by the Screw Collier Company have been inefficient or inadequate to the service. In reply, the directors have simply to state that in framing the prospectus of this company they have been most anxious that nothing should appear in it incapable of proof or unsupported by actual facts; but if any justification of their views were necessary they would simply point to the letter of the *Times* Paris correspondent, which appears this morning, in which he expresses a most favourable and decided opinion as to the great need of such a line as is now proposed, and of the favour and support which, if efficiently and ably worked, it would undoubtedly receive. The directors would further repeat that they have in their possession requisitions strongly recommending the objects of the company from many of the most influential merchants and shippers engaged in the Mediterranean trade, not only in this country but also in the various ports in France and Italy.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, GEO. GRANT, Secretary."

THE MEDICAL AND INVALID LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY had its annual meeting on Thursday, and their report showed the vital strength of their association, having withstood the year before last one of the most unexpected and, indeed, it may be said, unparalleled disasters that ever befell any corporate company. That the almost universal mutiny of an old established army should cause the sudden and violent deaths of innumerable civilians was an event that no prescience could foresee, and which no actuary would dream of introducing into his calculations when he settled the amount of premium necessary to produce a certain sum at death. It seems that this office has, with other like establishments, preferred a claim for compensation from Government, on the well-grounded plea that they, standing in the place of the various civilians whose assurances they have thus prematurely been called to pay, have the same claim as the representatives' wives and families would have had had they not assured. This seems to be good logic, and, moreover, there is the old principle that the public must make good what public riot destroys; as is the case still of the hundred and the county being liable for damage thus done.

It must be gratifying to the shareholders and assurers in such offices as the Medical and Invalid to see how extraordinary demands of large amount can be met without at all interfering with the prosperous progress of the office. In a social point of view, also, it cannot but be gratifying to the philanthropic mind that such a large amount of prompt and timely assistance was rendered to the survivors, principally women and children, in their dark hour of peril and misery. Altogether this is a very creditable and satisfactory report, and from the unusual circumstances with which it is connected is worthy of earnest attention.

THE PORT OF LONDON.—The business of the past week has been moderately active, the number of vessels announced inwards at the Custom House as having arrived from foreign ports representing 183. There were 4 from Ireland and 374 colliers. The entries outwards amounted to 98, and the clearances to 87, besides 18 in ballast. The departures for the Australian colonies have been 7 vessels, viz.:—2 to Port Phillip, of 2,002 tons; 3 to Sydney, of 1,858 tons; 1 to Adelaide, of 675 tons; and 1 to New Zealand, of 622 tons. The total amounting to 5,157 tons.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, November 22.

John Godfrey and John Daniel Delany, Savoy-street, Strand, printers.

James Shaw and David Shaw, John-street, Cambridge-heath, boiler makers.

Charles Harris, Pangbourne, Berkshire, and Cricklade, Wiltshire, draper.

Meldrum Shepherd Christie, Grove-place, Lisson-grove, baker.

Charles Moody, Portsea, Hampshire, edge tool manufacturer.

Abraham Bernal, Whitechapel-road, china dealer.

John Barlow, Cobridge, Staffordshire, earthenware dealer.

John Reynolds, Manchester, yarn agent.

Friday, November 25.

John Allen, Deptford, bootmaker.

Thomas Charles, Piccadilly, Italian warehouseman.

Antonio Calvocoressi, Manchester, merchant.

Joshua Newton and Edward Wood, Bradford, commission agents.

Thomas Hancorn, Hereford, timber merchant.

Samuel Cottam, Westbromwich, Staffordshire, inn-keeper.

Charles Bartels, Elmina, Africa, merchant.

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